

Module code: MOD005490	Version: 1 Date Amended: 22/Jun/2016
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1. Module Title
Dissertation

2a. Module Leader	2b. Department	2c. Faculty
Null	Department of Leadership and Management	Lord Ashcroft International Business School

3a. Level	3b. Module Type
7	Project or dissertation (fine graded)

4a. Credits	4b. Study Hours
60	600

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	MBA (International)		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description
<p>This Module supports students in the preparation and submission of a Master's level research project. The project will address a real-life business related question (probably from the student's own work place) and also enable students to demonstrate the features associated with academic mastery.</p> <p>Throughout this module students are expected to demonstrate significant capacity in areas including individual research, application of academic understanding and thought to real-life business issues and problems, the application of logical argument and the ability to communicate through the written word.</p> <p>The final written thesis will not exceed 15,000 words in length.</p> <p>A key focus of the dissertation is to ensure that students have an international focus to their research work. This would include discussion and consideration of the cultural aspects of any recommendations made. Similarly, every student will also be required to directly consider the sustainability of their findings and recommendations in both a global and business-specific context.</p> <p>Every student will be allocated a supervisor who will assist them in formulating their research questions, research methodology and methods. Every student will also be required to attend research methodology classes prior to their completion and submission of a Research Proposal, which will detail the research question(s), outline literature review and chosen methodological approach.</p> <p>In the course of your studies with us you may generate intellectual property which is defined as an idea, invention or creation which can be protected by law from being copied by someone else. By registering with us on your course you automatically assign any such intellectual property to us unless we agree with you or the organisation covering the cost of your course that this is retained by them. In consideration of you making this dissertation you will be entitled to benefit from a share in any income generated in accordance with our Revenue Sharing Policy in operation at that time. Details of our Intellectual Property Policy and Guidelines are available from the university's website.</p>

6b. Outline Content

The ability to identify and formulate meaningful research questions in relation to a business problem.

The ability to design an appropriate research methodology and methods in order to address the research questions identified.

A depth of knowledge that may involve working at the current limits of understanding.

The ability to research from a wide variety of sources and the ability to combine, refine, redefine or expand upon existing knowledge.

The ability to undertake such research independently, but with supervision from an ARU academic.

The ability to develop workable, but academically rigorous, solutions to the business problem, taking fully into account throughout the project the ethical and sustainability issues and dilemmas present.

The ability to communicate in writing in a clear and cogent manner, upholding the requirements of academic writing.

Research Methodology seminars will be provided to all students prior to the commencement of their dissertation. This will culminate in the submission of a research proposal for approval prior to the commencement of detailed fieldwork.

Individual content will be agreed with the assigned Supervisor.

6c. Key Texts/Literature

Key Text (recommended to purchase):

Zikmund W.G. and Quinlan C (2015) Business Research Methods Cengage

Other:

Bell J (2010) Doing your research project: a guide for first time researchers in education, health and social science (McGraw-Hill)

Berg B.L. and Lune H (2004) Quantitative Research Methods for Social Sciences (Allyn and Bacon)

Hennink M, Hutter I & Bailey A (2010) Qualitative research methods Sage

Wilson J (2010) Essentials of Business Research: A Guide to Doing your Research Project London, Sage Publications

Fisher C.M.(2010) Researching and writing a dissertation. A step by step handbook.2nd edition London OUP

Lomas R (2011) Mastering your Business Dissertation: How to conceive, research and write a good business dissertation Hoboken: Taylor & Francis

Bryman A (2012) Social Research Methods Oxford University Press

Recommended Texts

Quinlan, C. et al. (2016). Business Research Methods. CENGAGE Learning.

Last Updated:

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

As appropriate to the individual research project e.g. SPSS, NVIVO.

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Establish a method for investigation / exploration of a significant and complex business problem in an international context.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate detailed knowledge and understanding of the chosen field of research.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Critically evaluate complex issues from a variety of standpoints.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Justify and rigorously apply appropriate methodologies and methods for the exploration / investigation of the chosen research problem
5	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Develop and convey effective arguments to generate relevant and academically rigorous solutions to the agreed research questions.
6	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Formulate solutions to real life business problems, taking into consideration wider international, ethical, environmental and sustainability issues.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2016/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	0	None	None
Other teacher managed learning	12	1 - 6	Each student will receive a minimum of 12 hours individual support from their supervisor. Additional group support on research methodology and methods will be provided in addition to these hours. Not all of this time will be face-to-face, but may include e-mail and other electronic support.
Student managed learning	588	1 - 6	Proposal formulation, research, ethics considerations, draft preparation, finalisation of the written project.
TOTAL:	600		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-6	100 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Details:	DISSERTATION (15000 WORDS)				
Dissertation (max. 15,000 words)					

**In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40%.
In addition, students are required to:**
(a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment of as specified above
(b) pass any pass/fail elements