

Module specification

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Module Code	BUS7B63
Module Title	Dissertation
Level	7
Credit value	60
Faculty	FSLS
HECoS Code	100079
Cost Code	GABP
Pre-requisite module	N/A

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Core/Optional/Standalone
MBA	Core
MBA Marketing	Core
MBA Human Resource Management	Core
MBA Finance	Core
MBA Project Management	Core
MBA Health Management	Core
MBA Entrepreneurship	Core

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	20 hrs
Placement tutor support hours	0 hrs
Supervised learning hours e.g. practical classes, workshops	0 hrs
Project supervision hours	12 hrs
Active learning and teaching hours total	32 hrs
Placement hours	0 hrs
Guided independent study hours	568 hrs
Module duration (Total hours)	600 hrs

Module aims

This module will support students in carrying out an independent research dissertation or business project on a topic directly related to their working context and programme specialism. The aims of the dissertation/business project are to support students in

identifying a contemporary managerial problem that is sufficiently complex to warrant investigation as a means of identifying possible solutions. Enable students to apply knowledge and expertise gained during the taught element of the programme; demonstrate mastery of a specific area of the subject; and facilitate the development of applied research skills. To provide an insight into the nature and make up of academic research and to enable students to undertake a focussed dissertation research project.

Module Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module, students will be able to:

1	Develop a viable research question with a supporting aim and objectives that demonstrates rigour and is ethically sound.
2	Search literature relating to the proposed research topic in a systematic manner and synthesise and critically evaluate the literature to produce a narrative collating the review findings in support of a specific research question.
3	Develop, outline and work within a comprehensive research framework which integrates relevant research methodologies; research design; research quality measures and any ethical issues related to the research.
4	Analyse data in a critical manner appropriate to the methodology outlined and present and review the results/findings in an appropriate format.
5	Synthesise the research findings, and propose strategic recommendations of relevance to both practitioners and academics.

Assessment

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

This section outlines the type of assessment task the student will be expected to complete as part of the module. More details will be made available in the relevant academic year module handbook.

Assessment 1 (8,500 words) produce a dissertation or business research project with a clear structure that demonstrates academic writing competence and the use of accurate referencing. The extended writing piece will be framed by research questions, derived from reviewing academic literature/business data and subsequently creating the appropriate research methodology, completing data collection & analysis which leads to further discussion and conclusions. This will aid future application of strategic recommendations or areas for future research.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Duration/Word Count	Weighting (%)	Alternative assessment, if applicable
1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Dissertation/Project	8,500 words	100%	N/A

Derogations

None

Learning and Teaching Strategies

The learning and teaching strategy will consist of formal lectures to present theory, principles and practices which will form the foundation of the learning outcomes. Students will be encouraged to interact and contribute as a means of developing critical skills. Tutorials will be activity based using real world case studies and live examples to apply the theory into practice and develop their decision making and evaluating skills. In addition, students will be encouraged to undertake self-directed study and further research on selected topics to acquire additional perspectives which will provide them with a deeper understanding of the topics covered.

Welsh Elements

Students are entitled to submit assessments in the medium of Welsh.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- Structure and content of the dissertation/project
- The research plan
- The nature and purpose of a literature review
- Sources of information
- Reading techniques
- The role of the supervisor
- Academic rigor

Indicative Bibliography

Please note the essential reads and other indicative reading are subject to annual review and update.

Essential Reads:

Ridley, D. (2012), *The Literature Review: A Step-By-Step Guide for Students*. 2nd ed. London: Sage.

Gray, D. (2019), *Doing Research in the Business World*. 2nd ed. London: Sage.

Other indicative reading:

Saunders, M.N.K., Lewis, P., and Thornhill, A. (2019), *Research Methods for Business Students*. 8th ed. Harlow: Pearson Education.

Easterby-Smith, M., Thorpe, R., Jackson, P.R. and Jaspersen, L.J. (2021), *Management and Business Research*. 7th ed. London: Sage.

Lomas, R. (2011), *Mastering Your Business Dissertation*. Oxford: Routledge.

O’Leary, Z. (2017). *The Essential Guide to Doing Your Research Project*. 3rd ed. London: Sage.

There is a wide range of additional texts available which cover specific bodies of knowledge, methodologies and analytical techniques in more depth which can be selected, based on the research topic selected by the student. Allocated supervisors will provide additional guidance.

Journals:

Journal of Business Research Methods

Specific subject journals should be consulted.

Administrative Information

For office use only	
Initial approval date	23/03/2022
With effect from date	01/09/2022
Date and details of revision	March 2023 – Title changed from Dissertation, updated hours, minor wording change to Aims and LO4, updated assessment narrative, added MSc International Business Management suite. June 2023 – AM2 correction - revert back to title Dissertation August 2025 – AM0 updated word count for Sept 2025
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