

<b>Module Code:</b>	CONL718
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<b>Module Title:</b>	Dissertation
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<b>Level:</b>	7	<b>Credit Value:</b>	30
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<b>Cost Centre(s):</b>	GACP	<b>JACS3 code:</b>	I000
		<b>HECoS code:</b>	100366

<b>Faculty:</b>	FAST	<b>Module Leader:</b>	Denise Oram
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Scheduled learning and teaching hours	30 hrs
Guided independent study	270 hrs
Placement	0 hrs
<b>Module duration (total hours)</b>	<b>300 hrs</b>

<b>Programme(s) in which to be offered (not including exit awards)</b>	Core	Option
MSc Computer Science (online)	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
MSc Computer Science with Big Data Analytics	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
MSc Computer Science with Cyber Security	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
MSc Computer Science with Networking	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
MSc Computer Science with Software Engineering	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Pre-requisites</b>
Completed and approved research proposal from CONL717 Applied Research Methods.

**Office use only**

Initial approval: 04/09/2019

Version no:1

With effect from: 01/01/2020

Date and details of revision:

Version no:2

01/09/2023: removal of pre-requisite of completed and approved research proposal from CONL717 Applied Research Methods

**Module Aims**

This module will support and aid students in carrying out an independent project allocated or chosen through consultation with programme team staff in a topic directly related to their degree programme specialism. The aims of the Dissertations are to:

- Allow the student to demonstrate a mastery of a specific area of the subject
- Undertake a concentrated review of literature in a chosen subject area
- Apply knowledge and expertise gained during the taught element of the programme
- Facilitate the exhibition of deep research and technical skills.

**Intended Learning Outcomes**

Key skills for employability

- KS1 Written, oral and media communication skills
- KS2 Leadership, team working and networking skills
- KS3 Opportunity, creativity and problem solving skills
- KS4 Information technology skills and digital literacy
- KS5 Information management skills
- KS6 Research skills
- KS7 Intercultural and sustainability skills
- KS8 Career management skills
- KS9 Learning to learn (managing personal and professional development, self-management)
- KS10 Numeracy

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

**Key Skills**

1	Analyse empirical data in a critical manner, presenting emergent conclusions as a structured dissertation that produces findings and proposes recommendations of relevance to practitioners and academics.	KS1	KS3
		KS4	KS5
		KS6	KS9
		KS10	

**Transferable skills and other attributes**

Display and presentation of data, communication skills, analysis, interpretation, problem solving, drawing conclusions.

**Derogations**

None

**Assessment:**

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

The dissertation covers the analysis and interpretation of the empirical data which has been collected independently, a discussion to illustrate the extent to which the objectives have been met, followed by conclusions, recommendations and areas for further research.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)	Duration or Word count (or equivalent if appropriate)
1	1	Dissertation	100%	6,000

**Learning and Teaching Strategies:**

The overall learning and teaching strategy is one of guided independent study requiring ongoing student engagement. Online material will provide the foundation of the learning resources, requiring the students to login and engage on a regular basis throughout the eight-week period of the module. There will be a mix of suggested readings, discussions and interactive content containing embedded digital media and self-checks for students to complete as they work through the material and undertake the assessment tasks. The use of a range digital tools via the virtual learning environment together with additional sources of reading will also be utilised to accommodate learning styles. There is access to a helpline for additional support and chat facilities through Canvas for messaging and responding.

Students will be supported in the development of their dissertation by an assigned supervisor, with whom they are expected to maintain 1-to-1 contact to develop their ideas. Individual support may be delivered by email, phone calls, Skype or other digital technologies as agreed by the student and supervisor.

**Syllabus outline:**

The dissertation will follow the proposal produced by the student during module xxxx17. Individual direction of study will be undertaken in collaboration with the assigned supervisor within the chosen topic of research.

**Indicative Bibliography:**

**Essential reading**

*Students' essential texts will be self-prescribed and in the area of their chosen topic of research. More general reading regarding research methods and the dissertation process is detailed below.*

**Other indicative reading**

Bolton, G. (2018) *Reflective Practice: Writing and Professional Development*. 5th ed. Los Angeles: Sage.

Cottrell, S. (2017) *Critical Thinking Skills: Developing Effective Analysis and Argument*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Craswell, G. and Poore, M. (2011) *Writing for Academic Success*. 2nd ed. London: SAGE.

Hart, C. (2004) *Doing Your Masters Dissertation*. London: SAGE.

Madsen, D.L. (2005) *Researching Information Systems and Computing*. SAGE Publications Ltd.

Moon, J.A., (2006) *Learning Journals: A Handbook for Academics, Students and Professional Development*. 2nd ed. London: Routledge.

Oates, B.J. (2005) *Researching Information Systems and Computing*. London: SAGE.

Wisker, G. (2008) *The Postgraduate Research Handbook*. 2nd ed. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Journals:

Computer Networks and Computer Communications (journals available electronically via Science Direct through the Library)

IEEE Xplore Digital Library (available through the University Library)

Professional Body Websites:

The British Computer Society (BCS) <http://www.bcs.org/>

The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) <http://www.theiet.org/>

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) <http://www.ieee.org/>

The Association of Computing Machinery (ACM) <http://www.acm.org/>