

## Module specification

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Module code	BUS7B78
Module title	Dissertation
Level	7
Credit value	60
Faculty	Wrexham University: Faculty of Social and Life Sciences Bloomsbury Institute: School of Accounting and Finance
Module Leader	Dr Nnamdi Obiosa
HECoS Code	100104
Cost Code	GAMG

## Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Is the module core or option for this programme
MSc Accounting and Finance	Core
MSc Finance and Wealth Management	Core

## Pre-requisites

None

## Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	33 hrs
Placement tutor support	0 hrs
Supervised learning e.g. practical classes, workshops	0 hrs
Project supervision (level 6 projects and dissertation modules only)	7 hrs
<b>Total active learning and teaching hours</b>	<b>40 hrs</b>
Placement / work based learning	0 hrs
Guided independent study	560 hrs
<b>Module duration (total hours)</b>	<b>600 hrs</b>

<b>For office use only</b>	
Initial approval date	21 July 2023
With effect from date	October 2023
Date and details of revision	
Version number	

## Module aims

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The MSc dissertation is an independent piece of research focusing on the identification and selection of a topic relevant to the programme, the design of the research, its execution and presentation as a dissertation. It serves as the core integrative element of the MSc Accounting and Finance, and MSc Finance and Wealth Management programmes. It is the final stage of the master's degree and provides the student with the opportunity to demonstrate that they have gained the necessary knowledge, understanding, conceptual awareness and skills in order to organise and conduct a dissertation in relevant area of their choice.

The aim of this module is to support students as they apply knowledge and skills gained during the course of their studies to investigate a complex issue within the field of accounting, finance or its related disciplines. The module will enhance students' ability to develop research plans, select and apply appropriate research design, collect and analyse data, and present findings and recommendations. Students will demonstrate their ability to discuss the findings generated through research, and to demonstrate the robustness and rigour of such through critical awareness and evaluation. The module also aims to develop a high-level case of topic understanding that demonstrates the impact of an enquiry and that illustrates the student's ability to bring together various aspects of research project and analysis leading to an overall conclusion that is aligned with the dissertation/project research question. This module gives students the opportunity to apply their prior, and on-going, knowledge and experience to produce and complete a substantial piece of academic research.

## Module Learning Outcomes - at the end of this module, students will be able to:

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1	Systematically identify a complex issue within the field of business studies or practice, and formulate a sound research question, aim and objectives for a dissertation or a project of strategic benefit to an organisation.
2	Synthesise and critically evaluate current research and advanced scholarship within the chosen subject area.
3	Systematically select, justify, and apply an appropriate research design and associated methods.
4	Design and write a logical and operationally sound research proposal as a basis for undertaking a researchable project independently.
5	Process, clearly present and critically analyse and interpret data obtained through the application of outlined methodology.
6	Critically examine the contribution and limitations of the undertaken study and propose recommendations in theoretical and applied terms.

## Assessment

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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 number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)
1	4	Research Proposal	20%
2	1, 2, 3, 5 & 6	Dissertation	80%

### Indicative Assessment 1:

A formal research proposal of 3,000 words including the initial introduction of the dissertation, evidence of initial literature review and an expression of the research methodology. A time-bound dissertation plan is also incorporated into the proposal.

### Indicative Assessment 2:

Final dissertation report of 12,000 words incorporating the introduction/problem, literature review, research methodology, data analysis/findings, discussion, and conclusion/recommendations chapters.

Where the need arises a student may be asked to make a presentation on aspects of the dissertation where further clarity is needed which will include questions and answers.

## Derogations

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None

## Learning and Teaching Strategies

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The module will be completed over one term.

However, in the term prior to the module starting, students will attend 33 hours of lectures and learning sets after which they will be required to submit their research proposal.

**Lectures:** Provide a broad outline structure for each topic to be covered. Lectures offer a good way of covering a lot of information and, more importantly, of conveying ideas to many people at once.

**Learning sets:** Provide students with the opportunity to develop their own research ideas (initiated through the lecture) in a group environment, thereby allowing peer input and review.

Throughout the project proposal and dissertation/project report completion stage, students are entitled to 6 hours of individual supervision.

**Individual supervision:** Provides students with the opportunity to work on a one-to-one basis with their allocated academic supervisor.

**Student digital literacies** are developed on this module through the use of:

- Online libraries and databases for gaining access to full-text journal articles and eBooks.
- Communication channels provided through the VLE and learning technology applications.
- Online group-work, for planning, developing, improving, submitting and reflecting on collaborative work completed as part of the module.
- Assessment and feedback tools such as Multiple-Choice Tests/Quizzes, Turnitin and the VLE's Gradebook – enabling timely and detailed feedback on student work.
- Web-based Office 365.

## **Indicative Syllabus Outline**

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- Research process: aims, tools and techniques
- Ethics in research
- Conducting a Literature Review
- Methodology
- Data collection and analysis
- Presentation and discussion of results
- Proposing and justifying recommendations
- Research limitations and contributions
- Structure of the dissertation/project report and writing up
- Presenting the dissertation/project report

## **Indicative Bibliography:**

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

### **Essential reading**

- Gray, D (2019) *Doing Research in the Business World*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Sage Publications, London

### **Other indicative reading**

- Paterson, A., Leung, D., Jackson, W., MacIntosh, R., & O'Gorman, K. D. (2016). *Research methods for accounting and finance*. (The Global Management Series). Goodfellow Publishers Ltd.
- Denscombe, M. (2021) *The Good Research Guide: For Small-Scale Social Research Projects*. 7th Edition. Open University Press. McGraw-Hill Education.

- Saunders, M., Lewis, P. and Thornhill, A. (2019). Research Methods for Business Students, 8th Edition, Pearson Education, London

## **Employability skills – the Wrexham Graduate**

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Each module and programme is designed to cover core Wrexham Graduate Attributes with the aim that each Graduate will leave Wrexham having achieved key employability skills as part of their study. The following attributes will be covered within this module either through the content or as part of the assessment. The programme is designed to cover all attributes and each module may cover different areas.

### **Core Attributes**

Engaged  
Enterprising  
Creative  
Ethical

### **Key Attitudes**

Commitment  
Curiosity  
Resilience  
Confidence  
Adaptability

### **Practical Skillsets**

Digital Fluency  
Organisation  
Leadership and Team working  
Critical Thinking  
Emotional Intelligence  
Communication