

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: RESEARCH PROJECT
Status: Definitive
Code: **7051BUSIS** (108197)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2014

Owning School/Faculty: Liverpool Business School
Teaching School/Faculty: Liverpool Business School

Team	Leader
Susan Hill	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ7
Credit Value: 60.00
Total Delivered Hours: 6.00
Total Learning Hours: 600
Private Study: 594

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

Component	Contact Hours
Off Site	6.000

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Dissertation	AS1	An individual piece of coursework: 15,000-18,000 word-processed Masters project (2 copies supplemented with CD-R).	100.0	

Aims

To afford students the opportunity of undertaking a significant piece of independent research which applies appropriate business management and academic research concepts to investigate, explain, resolve or enhance understanding of a significant organisational issue or problem.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Present a structured and advanced level of academic work in the discipline of study, including the demonstration of students' skills in analysis, research design, writing and other research skills where appropriate.
- 2 Engage in autonomous study to solve research problems in a systematic and original manner, and demonstrate self-directed project management.
- 3 Critically review, interpret and evaluate research and other examples of advanced scholarship within the discipline of study.
- 4 Critically analyse methodologies, theories, hypotheses or models and, where appropriate, propose academically sound alternatives.
- 5 Synthesize information from disparate sources to arrive at informed and coherent conclusions and/or recommendations, noting their implications in professional practice.
- 6 Contribute to the knowledge and understanding of the discipline of study, whilst noting the limitations of the work undertaken.
- 7 Critically reflect on his/her development and understanding of the knowledge, skills, techniques and methodological techniques adopted throughout the study process and their relevance to professional practice.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

Research Project	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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Outline Syllabus

Structured research with supervisor guidance.

Research project topics will be identified by students in the LBSIBM006 Research Methods for Managers module and then refined with supervisor guidance.

Alternative research project topics can be selected with explicit approval of students' supervisor.

Learning Activities

The research project will develop students' previous learning from the LBSIBM006 Research Methods module and relevant subject specific modules within the programme.

Students will fulfill the assessment requirements of the module by undertaking one of three categories of research project:

1. 'Empirically based professional enquiry': This is a 'traditional' research project in which students are expected to design a research study to investigate or solve a specific research problem(s). Although the scope of such a project is wide and could

feasibly encompass several types of research, a project falling into this category would typically involve answering a specific research question or testing a hypothesis using appropriate quantitative and/or qualitative research instruments.

2. 'Desk based professional enquiry': This form of research project is more theoretical and is concerned with the structured, methodological and critical analysis of literature or data sets, with a view to critiquing existing assumptions or theories, improving understanding of complex areas of study, and proposing improved or alternative theories or hypotheses, analytical/conceptual models, recommendations, etc.

3. 'Applied research project': A research project falling into this category will typically entail the investigation of a relevant issue within a real-life practitioner environment. Students will be expected to deploy appropriate research tools within their investigation with a view to proposing solutions and recommendations. Projects within this category should aim to note the wider implications of project findings within the discipline of study. This project category would only apply to those students that are engaging in part-time work within a relevant organisation whilst simultaneously studying the programme.

These research project categories are not mutually exclusive. It is therefore possible for students to incorporate elements of more than one type of project type within their submission, providing suitable approval and guidance has been sought from supervisors.

Although appropriate academic support will be provided by supervisors, students are expected to engage in in-depth critical thinking and independent learning. The ability to engage in reflective learning is also an expectation and students will be expected to include a 1,000 word appendix (included in the word limit) documenting their reflections on the research project, its execution, methodological issues, planning, etc. and the learning gained therein.

Further details of the assessment expectations (particularly within each category of research project) will be documented in the module handbook.

References

Course Material	Book
Author	Bryman, A and Bell, E
Publishing Year	2007
Title	Business Research Methods
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Oxford University Press
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Creswell, J W
Publishing Year	2009
Title	Research Design
Subtitle	Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches

Edition	
Publisher	Sage
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Easterby-Smith, M, Thorpe, R and Jackson, P R
Publishing Year	2008
Title	Management Research
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Sage
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Paivi, E and Kovalainen, A
Publishing Year	2008
Title	Qualitative Methods in Business Research
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Sage
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Saunders, M, Lewis, P and Thornhill, A
Publishing Year	2009
Title	Research Methods for Business Students
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Prentice Hall
ISBN	

Notes

This module is primarily supported by independent student learning. Students will be assigned an appropriate member of academic staff who will act as a supervisor throughout the duration of the research project. Students will liaise with supervisors on a regular basis to ensure research projects maintain focus and direction. The nature, frequency and duration of student contact with supervisors will vary depending on the nature of the research project selected by students.