

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School:	Business and Economics
Programme:	Master of Business Administration
FHEQ Level:	7
Course Title:	Dissertation
Course Code:	MGT 7500
Course Leader:	Dr. Carola Hieker
Student Engagement Hours:	300
Lectures:	
Seminar / Tutorials:	10
Independent / Guided Learning:	290
Semester:	Summer
Credits:	30 UK CATS credits 15 ECTS credits 6 US credits

Course Description:

This course will provide students with the learning opportunity of performing multidisciplinary research in business and management. Students will initiate, plan and execute an individually constructed piece of research and are expected to report on their findings. Students will identify issues within their programme, and specifically within their pathway, to investigate with the use of appropriate research methods, either theoretical or applied, and participate in research activities which will include a literature search, the collection and analysis of data, (either primary or secondary data) and the preparation of a dissertation.

Prerequisites: ECN 7100, MGT 7110, FNN 7102, MGT 7130, MKT 7100, MGT 7150

Aims and Objectives:

- For the supervisor to guide the student, as a junior research colleague through the research, writing and production of a Master's level dissertation of 10,000 words.
- For the student to undertake independent/autonomous research on a topic which makes a valuable contribution to the field.
- To develop skills and experience which can be applied in work placements or further graduate work.

Programme Outcomes:

A1, A2, A3, A4, A5
B1, B2, B3, B4
C1, C2, C3, C4
D1, D2, D3, D4

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by the Academic Registry and found at:
<http://www.richmond.ac.uk/content/academic-schools/academic-registry/program-and-course-specifications.aspx>

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, a successful student should be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding (A)

- Demonstrate a high level of theoretical and applied knowledge of business research
- Critically discuss, select and justify research approaches and research methods in relation to an appropriately formed research proposal which addresses a relevant business issue
- Apply the steps required to create a literature review
- Apply appropriate research designs for quantitative and qualitative research
- Demonstrate an understanding of proper structure and citation in all academic work

Cognitive Skills (B)

- Evaluate independently critical approaches and techniques relevant to business
- Evaluate outcomes and accurately assess/report on own/others work with justification and relate them to existing knowledge structures and methodologies
- Synthesize information to arrive at a coherent conclusion
- Critically evaluate the implications for the recommendations presented
- Critically reflect on the development of knowledge, skills and techniques used during the preparation of the dissertation

Subject specific, practical and professional skills (C)

- Identify modifications to existing knowledge structures and theoretical frameworks
- Develop and utilise theory and methodology appropriate to inquiry of an empirical subject area related to business
- Propose new areas for investigation, new problems, new or alternative applications or methodological approaches
- Select, define and focus upon an issue at an appropriate level; develop and apply relevant and sound methodologies; analyze the issue; develop recommendations and logical conclusions; and be aware of the limitations of the research work
- Gather, organise and effectively communicate complex and abstract ideas and diverse information with regard to a complex and specialised thesis topic

General/transferable skills (D)

- Demonstrate analytical skills, computing skills, critical reasoning, organisation and planning, report and essay writing skills, and research skills
- Evaluate the ethical dilemmas likely to arise in research and professional practice and formulate solutions in dialogue with peers, clients, and others
- Exercise initiative in organising and pursuing a supervised project, while accepting full accountability for outcomes
- Demonstrate the ability for innovative and autonomous learning, normative and ethical reflection, self-evaluation and engagement with disciplinary benchmarks

Indicative Content:

There is no precise indicative content for individual dissertations other than the general requirement that, in consultation with the supervisor, they should address an issue, or issues, related to business and management practice. A dissertation should contain general criteria such as an introduction, aims and objectives, a literature review, methodological justification, analytical context, conclusions and recommendations.

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Dissertation Assessment Norms approved at Learning and Teaching Policy Committee and found at:

<http://www.richmond.ac.uk/content/academic-affairs/academic-standing.aspx>.

Teaching Methodology:

The student's independent research will be overseen by the dissertation supervisor. Tutorial opportunities will be provided .

Bibliography:

See syllabus for complete reading list

Indicative Text(s):

Gray, D. (2017). *Doing Research in the Real World*. London: Sage Publications.

Thomas, G. (2017). *How to do your research project*. London: Sage Publishing

Recommended additional literature

Bryman, A. and Bell, E. (2011). *Business research methods*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Ghauri, P. and Grønhaug, K. (2010). *Research methods in business studies*. Harlow: Financial Times/Prentice Hall.

Glatthorn, A and Joyner, R (2nd ed) (2005) *Writing the Winning Thesis or Dissertation - a step-by-step guide*. Sage Publications. London

Levin, P (2005) *Excellent Dissertations!* Open University. Maidenhead

Saunders, M., P. Lewis and A. Thornhill (2012) *Research Methods for Business Students*, Pearson Education

Journals

Web Sites

- http://onlineqda.hud.ac.uk/Intro_QDA/how_what_to_code.php
- (NB: the site is a comprehensive and accessible resource on qualitative data analysis)
- www.psy.dmu.ac.uk/michael/gual_collect.htm
- Research Methods Knowledge Base:
www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/index.php

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus

Change Log for this CSD:

Major or Minor Change?	Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Minor	Adapting existing CSD to latest template	LTPC approved 30/05/2014	
Minor	Change of word count of research proposal to 500-700 words	School Board 10/11/2017	
Minor	Change of word count of Dissertation to 10.000 +/- 10%	School Board 10/11/2018	
Minor	Update of bibliography	School Board 10/11/2017	
Major	Reduced to 6 credits from 8, 2 credits go to Research Method MGT 7150, Teaching Methodology	School Approval by email Feb/March 18	