Module specification

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Refer to the module guidance notes for completion of each section of the specification.

Module code	BUS7B44
Module title	Dissertation
Level	7
Credit value	45
Faculty	FSLS
Module Leader	Delyth Wyndham
HECoS Code	100079
Cost Code	GABP

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Is the module core or option for this programme
MBA (campus based delivery)	Core
MBA Human Resource Management (campus based delivery)	Core
MBA Marketing (campus based delivery)	Core

Pre-requisites

A first degree and appropriate work experience.

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	15 hrs
Placement tutor support	0 hrs
Supervised learning e.g. practical classes, workshops	0 hrs
Project supervision (level 6 projects and dissertation modules only)	30 hrs
Total active learning and teaching hours	**45** hrs
Placement / work based learning	0 hrs
Guided independent study	405 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	450 hrs

For office use only	
Initial approval date	08/09/2021
With effect from date	08/09/2021
Date and details of revision	
Version number	1

Module aims

This module will support students in carrying out an independent research project on a topic directly related to their working context and programme specialism. The aims of the dissertation 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 (using an extensive range of academically recognised sources). 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 empirical data in a critical manner appropriate to the methodology outlined (i.e. in line with the type(s) of data, sampling strategy and research philosophy) and present the results/findings in an appropriate format.
5	Synthesise the research findings, present emergent conclusions and propose strategic recommendations of relevance to 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 (15,000 words) produce a dissertation 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. The dissertation will outline a coherent literature review, research methodology and present findings/results drawn from the analysis and interpretation of the empirical data which has been collected independently. The discussion of the research findings/results will be followed by conclusions, strategic recommendations, and areas for further research.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)
1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Dissertation/Project	100

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.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- Structure and content of the dissertation
- 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.

Employability skills – the Glyndŵr Graduate

Each module and programme is designed to cover core Glyndŵr Graduate Attributes with the aim that each Graduate will leave Glyndŵr 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. Click here to read more about the Glyndwr Graduate attributes

Core Attributes
Engaged
Enterprising
Creative
Ethical

Key Attitudes
Commitment
Curiosity
Resilience
Confidence
Adaptability

Practical Skillsets
Digital Fluency
Organisation
Critical Thinking
Communication