



**ACADEMIC SERVICES**

**MODULE SPECIFICATION**

Part 1: Basic Data					
Module Title	Research Methods – Accounting and Financial Management				
Module Code	UMAC3Y-10-M	Level	M	Version	4
UWE Credit Rating	10	ECTS Credit Rating	5	WBL module?	No
Owning Faculty	FBL	Field	Accounting and Finance		
Department	Accounting, Economics and Finance	Module Type	Project		
Contributes towards	MSc Accounting and Financial Management				
Pre-requisites	None		Co- requisites	None	
Excluded Combinations	None		Module Entry requirements		
First CAP Approval Date	26 March 2015		Valid from	September 2015	
Revision CAP Approval Date			Revised with effect from		

<b>Review Date</b>	September 2021
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Part 2: Learning and Teaching	
Learning Outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this module students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Understand, evaluate and, in a research proposal, apply the relationship between theory, research approach and method;</li> <li>▪ Demonstrate, in the format of a research proposal, a critical understanding of the principal traditions, methodologies and approaches of research the social sciences in a financial management or an accounting education context;</li> <li>▪ appreciate the ethical issues which need to be addressed in social scientific and business research, including those arising in relation to the negotiation of research access, dissemination and implementation of research findings.</li> <li>• conduct systematically a literature search, which identifies key sources for a selected research project, making appropriate use of available resources;</li> <li>• design appropriate research strategies having due regard to time constraints, methodological approaches, practical matters and ethical issues</li> <li>• reflect on their learning and personal development with a view to developing strategies for further development of both skills and knowledge.</li> </ul> <p>All of the specified learning outcomes will be assessed in the single element of submitted work.</p>
Syllabus Outline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to research in social science especially as applied in a financial management or accounting education context; definitions of research; types of research; the research process; characteristics of a good research project</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research planning; generating a research topic and conceptualising the research problem; selecting an appropriate methodological approach; research design and project management; negotiating access; ethical issues;</li> <li>• Research paradigms and methodologies;</li> <li>• Literature search and review</li> <li>• Research design</li> <li>• Data collection</li> <li>• Analysis of quantitative data</li> <li>• Analysis of qualitative data</li> <li>• The final research report</li> </ul>																									
Contact Hours	24 Hours: 2 hours x 12 weeks																									
Teaching and Learning Methods	<p>There will be two modes of delivery of this module. The first (for students based on the UWE campus) will be principally face-to-face delivery with taught elements, directed reading, seminar discussions, and individual and group exercises. Face-to-face interaction will be supplemented by use of Blackboard for communication with and between students.</p> <p>The second mode relates to students who do not attend classes at UWE. This distance learning mode has no face-to-face contact. Learning activities including communication with and between students, as well as course management will be facilitated via Blackboard. Emphasis will be placed on creating and sustaining an active and vibrant learning community. E-learning tools such as discussion boards, podcasts and blogs will be integral to the module structure.</p> <p>Both modes will encourage students to reflect on their own learning and on their development as a professional. Students will be encouraged to refer, as appropriate, to the study skills web pages</p>																									
Key Information Sets Information	<table border="1" data-bbox="467 1151 1362 1554"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="5"><b>Key Information Set - Module data</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="5"><i>Number of credits for this module</i></td> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="4"></td> <td style="border: 2px solid black; text-align: center;">10</td> </tr> <tr> <th>Hours to be allocated</th> <th>Scheduled learning and teaching study hours</th> <th>Independent study hours</th> <th>Placement study hours</th> <th>Allocated Hours</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">100</td> <td style="text-align: center;">24</td> <td style="text-align: center;">76</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">100</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The table below indicates as a percentage the total assessment of the module which constitutes a -</p> <p><b>Written Exam:</b> Unseen written exam, open book written exam, In-class test  <b>Coursework:</b> Written assignment or essay, report, dissertation, portfolio, project  <b>Practical Exam:</b> Oral Assessment and/or presentation, practical skills assessment, practical exam</p> <p>Please note that this is the total of various types of assessment and will not necessarily reflect the component and module weightings in the Assessment section of this module description:</p>	<b>Key Information Set - Module data</b>					<i>Number of credits for this module</i>									10	Hours to be allocated	Scheduled learning and teaching study hours	Independent study hours	Placement study hours	Allocated Hours	100	24	76	0	100
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Reading Strategy	<p>All students will be encouraged to make full use of the print and electronic resources available to them through membership of the University. These include a range of electronic journals and a wide variety of resources available through web sites and information gateways. The University Library's web pages provide access to subject relevant resources and services, and to the library catalogue. Many resources can be accessed remotely. Students in both modes will be presented with opportunities within the curriculum to develop their information retrieval and evaluation skills in order to identify such resources effectively.</p> <p><b>Essential reading</b></p> <p>Students will be required to purchase a core text book, such as Saunders M.N.K., Lewis , P, and Thornhill, A. (2012) <i>Research Methods for Business Students</i> . 6<sup>th</sup> Edn. Pearson.</p> <p>It is likely that the textbook will change from year to year so students should check with the module leader or current year module handbook before buying.</p> <p>Further reading will be required to supplement the text book. Suggested reading by topic will be indicated in the module outline provided at the start of the module, or via Blackboard. This will come from sources highlighted in the indicative reading list.</p>																				
Indicative Reading List	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hoque, Z. (2006) <i>Methodological issues in Accounting Research: Theories and Methods</i>, Spiramus</li> <li>○ Ryan,B., Scapens, R.W. and Theobald, M. (2002) <i>Research Method and Methodology in Finance and Accounting</i> 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Thomson Learning</li> <li>○ Silverman, D. (2012), <i>Interpreting Qualitative Data</i>, London:Sage.</li> <li>○ Swift, L. (2010), <i>Quantitative Methods for Business, Management and Finance</i>, London:Palgrave Macmillan</li> <li>○ Cohen, L., Manion, L., and Morrison, K. (2011), <i>Research Methods in Education</i>, London:Routledge</li> </ul>																				

### Part 3: Assessment

Assessment Strategy	<p>The assessment of the module is via the submission of a full scale research proposal which will include a short reflective statement on the student's learning experience in developing the proposal. This mode of assessment addresses all of the specified learning outcomes.</p> <p>Prior to the submission of the written research proposal, formative feedback is provided to students when they each make a formal presentation based on their research proposal to an informed audience. The presentation comprises Powerpoint slides and either face-to-face delivery (in the case of campus-based students) or an accompanying podcast (in the case of distance learning students). Other formative feedback is also provided in the context of class discussions and via the module's online discussion board.</p>
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Identify final assessment component and element	<b>Component A (This is a project module.)</b>	
% weighting between components A and B (Standard modules only)	<b>A:</b>	<b>B:</b>
	100%	
<b>First Sit</b>		
<b>Component A</b> (controlled conditions) <b>Description of each element</b>	<b>Element weighting</b> (as % of component)	
1. Individual written project (2,000 words)	100%	
<b>Component B</b> <b>Description of each element</b>	<b>Element weighting</b> (as % of component)	
1. N/A		

<b>Resit (further attendance at taught classes is not required)</b>		
<b>Component A</b> (controlled conditions) <b>Description of each element</b>	<b>Element weighting</b> (as % of component)	
1. Individual written project (2,000 words)	100%	
<b>Component B</b> <b>Description of each element</b>	<b>Element weighting</b> (as % of component)	
1. N/A		
<p>If a student is permitted a retake of the module under the University Regulations and Procedures, the assessment will be that indicated by the Module Description at the time that retake commences.</p>		