



MODULE SPECIFICATION

Code: UMAC48-50-M **Title:** Dissertation - Financial Management **Version:** 4

Level: M **UWE credit rating:** 50 **ECTS credit rating:** 25

Module type: Dissertation

Owning Faculty: FBL **Field:** Accounting and Finance

Valid from: 1 September 2004 **Discontinued from:**
(revised 1 September 2008)

Contributes towards: MSc Financial Management; MSc Accounting and Financial Management

Pre-requisites: none

Co-requisites: none

Excluded combinations: none

Aim of module

- The aim of the module is to provide students with the opportunity to produce a substantial piece of individual research which is relevant to practitioners and/or researchers in the field of financial management
- The module enables students to pursue an independent research project which they originate, plan and execute with the guidance of a supervisor
- The module provides the student with the opportunity to synthesise many of the concepts from across the core programme modules

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of this module students will be able to

- Plan and execute a significant piece of independent research in the financial management field
- Undertake a critical literature review, identify a conceptual model to underpin the work, develop a research design and select appropriate data collection method(s).
- Defend choices of research methods on the basis of reliability, validity, generalisability, applicability of findings and resource requirements;
- Apply the knowledge, critical thinking, and problem solving skills and techniques that have been acquired during the preceding studies to an area of personal interest; or organisational relevance;
- Carry out a competent and rigorous quantitative and/or qualitative analysis of data to synthesise new knowledge and insights in the research context
- Evaluate the analytical and practical significance of research findings
- Produce a written document that demonstrates clarity of thinking and logical argument in making practical conclusions and recommendations
- Manage the research process over a prolonged period of time (i.e. demonstrate practical project management and organisational skills).

Syllabus outline

It is the student's responsibility to identify the topic for their research. The topic should be within the scope of the discipline of Financial Management, broadly defined; that is the dissertation should have some connection with one of the multiple forms of the theory or practice of Financial Management. Students will receive guidance in refining their area of interest into an appropriate underlying research question to be answered, or hypothesis to be tested.

Teaching and learning methods

The module will provide students with the opportunity to produce a substantial piece of individual research which is relevant to practitioners and/or researchers in the field of financial management.

This might involve the testing of hypotheses, developing theory, or the provision of logically supported practitioner recommendations. Students will be encouraged to use the full range of data sources and analysis tools provided for Accounting and Finance postgraduate students.

The research skills necessary to undertake the dissertation will be provided in the *Research Methods* module.

The student will determine his or her own learning pattern. Each student will be guided by a suitably qualified supervisor. Once a student has been allocated a supervisor, he/she will agree upon a dissertation type and topic with their supervisor. There will then be periodic contact with that supervisor, during which time the student will report on the development of the research proposal into a formal plan of research, the review of existing literature and other information sources, data acquisition and analysis, and the development of discussions and a conclusion (or recommendations).

Students will be actively encouraged to make themselves familiar with the study skills web pages and in particular to read widely around the subject matter. Active use will be made of the Blackboard facilities.

Reading Strategy

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 will be presented with opportunities within the curriculum to develop their information retrieval and evaluation skills in order to identify such resources effectively.

Students will be provided with access to various data sources and encouraged to make full use of them.

There is no core text though, if students wish to purchase a generic research methods text, an indicative list is detailed below. This list will change over time so students should refer to their current-year module handbook.

Students will be expected to utilise a range of reading and other materials to undertake further independent research to extend their familiarity and appreciation of the subject. To this end, extensive use will be made of Blackboard, additionally, students will also be encouraged to utilise the study skills web pages

Indicative sources:

Bryman, A and Bell, E, (2007), *Business Research Methods*, (2nd Edition), Oxford University Press.
Collis, J. and Hussey, R. (2003) *Business Research*, Palgrave MacMillan

Ryan, R, Scapens, R and Theobald, M, (2002), *Research Method and Methodology in Finance and Accounting*, (2nd Edition), Thomson Learning.

Saunders, Lewis and Thornhill, (2003), *Research Methods for Business Students*, London: Pitman Publishing

White, G I, Sondhi, A C and Fried, D, (2003), *The Analysis and Use of Financial Statements*, (3rd Edition), Wiley.

Assessment

The student is assessed in a summative manner on their performance in the dissertation submitted. However, the supervisor will assess a draft in a formative manner at various stages in the dissertation process. Students will produce a dissertation proposal as part of their assessment in the Research Methods module – they will therefore be assessed at an early stage in the research process with regard to their research planning skills, though this will not be assessed explicitly again in the dissertation module.

Percentage split
Weighting between components A and B n/a

ATTEMPT 1

First Assessment Opportunity
Component A

Description of each element	Element weighting
1 12,000 – 15,000 word individual Project	100%

Second Assessment Opportunity (further attendance at taught classes is not required)

Component A

Description of each element	Element weighting
1 12,000 – 15,000 word individual Project	100%

ATTEMPT 2 (OR SUBSEQUENT): Further attendance at taught classes is required