STUDENT AND ACADEMIC SERVICES

MODULE SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Information			
Module Title	Masters Project		
Module Code	UBGMRK-60-M	Level	Level 7
For implementation from	2018-19		
UWE Credit Rating	60	ECTS Credit Rating	30
Faculty	Faculty of Environment & Technology	Field	Geography and Environmental Management
Department	FET Dept of Geography & Envrnmental Mgmt		
Contributes towards	Environmental Consultancy [Sep][FT][Frenchay][1yr] MSc 2018-19 Civil Engineering [Sep][FT][Frenchay][1yr] MSc 2018-19 Sustainable Development in Practice [Sep][FT][Frenchay][1yr] MSc 2018-19 Civil Engineering [Sep][PT][Frenchay][2yrs] MSc 2018-19 Transport Planning [Sep][FT][Frenchay][1yr] MSc 2018-19 Transport Engineering and Planning [Sep][FT][Frenchay][1yr] MSc 2018-19 Transport [Sep][FT][Frenchay][1yr] MSc 2018-19		
Module type:	Project		
Pre-requisites	None		
Excluded Combinations	Dissertation 2018-19		
Co- requisites	None		
Module Entry requirements	None		

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Part 2: Description

Educational Aims: See Learning Outcomes.

Outline Syllabus: The syllabus includes:

Research methods:

Introduction to the research process: A review of the main philosophical perspectives associated with the production of knowledge and thevalidation of knowledge claims. Overview of tools and practical skills necessary for the design and execution of a research project. Consideration of ethics and risk assessment.

Research and evaluation strategies: Setting aims and objectives, design, conceptualisation, validity, reliability and replication, and quantitative and/or qualitative data analysis.

Methods of data derivation: An overview of a range of research methods that may include, for example, textual sources, content analysis, interviews; focus groups, observational research, laboratory work and field work data collection. Survey design; questionnaires; construction of scientific and natural experiments, evaluation and monitoring, statistical data analysis techniques; presentation of data.

Project planning and proposal writing: Including the anticipation of practical and financial constraints. Techniques for planning and managing the process, including programming.

Reviewing the literature: Role of literature in the formulation and operationalization of the project; use of library data-bases and the internet; attribution of sources, use of relevant software packages where appropriate.

Professional practice (each aspect is optional):

Students develop a project that focuses on the skills, tools and resource requirements needed to provide for effective professional practice, including for example, funding proposals or cost analyses and evaluation strategies.

Students carry out an investigation which tackles a practice-orientated problem and explores a range of solutions. The resultant output may include a research outcome or the development of a computer software package, design, evaluation, learning package, or communication materials (realworld or virtual). Additional outputs will still be accompanied by a report which details the process of investigation, and demonstrates the theoretical basis of its planning, its execution, and that evaluates the proposed solution in the light of the constraints identified.

Teaching and Learning Methods: This is a project module, requiring extensive self-management and motivation on the part of students. Students will be supervised by an academic.

There are 30 hours of scheduled contact time, the equivalent of a teaching week, divided as appropriate between lectures, seminars and workshop style sessions to cover the research methods element of the module.

Students also have 12 hours of contact with their project supervisor. These may be on a one to one or small group basis. Supervision may take place face to face, or it may be via phone, web based interaction or email depending on student circumstances and requirements.

Scheduled Learning
Students will be taught research methods on an intensive basis with the equivalent of a week of research methods training. The sessions will be divided between lectures, seminars and workshops. These sessions will be student centred and encourage active learning with the emphasis being placed on problem solving and applying knowledge.

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Whilst students are studying research methods they will be expected to identify an area of research, perhaps linked with professional practice for investigation, and will be allocated a supervisor to guide them in the creation of an outline proposal of the work to be undertaken.

Students can then expect to work closely with that supervisor. This time may be divided up in a range of ways. If appropriate there may be group sessions, where students can benefit from the experience of fellow students. There may also be some one-to-one sessions, and these could take place face to face or through some other medium such as telephone, email or the internet.

Independent learning
The project itself provides an opportunity for students to demonstrate their independent research, and creative and planning skills. Students learn by active application of their knowledge to the research, evaluation or creative task and by extending their knowledge as appropriate to complete their aims and objectives. Supervisors support student learning, offering guidance where requested. Students are expected to keep their supervisors informed about the progress of their work and to discuss results regularly. Students are expected to drive the project, with the supervisor providing guidance and direction where necessary to maintain progress.

Part 3: Assessment

There are three elements to the assessment, which aim to reflect as far as possible, stages that students may encounter in managing research or other types of project in the workplace.

Students first complete a Project Proposal once they have completed the research methods section of the module. This is a 1500 word document and sets out the aims and objectives of the project, anticipated methods, and programme, set within the context of the literature.

Second, students will give a Progress Seminar using an A1 portrait and involving a short presentation to a small group of staff and students which will identify research progress and remaining challenges. Students will be asked questions at the seminar and will be expected to take part in the ensuing discussion.

At the end of the process students will submit a Project Report which will provide a thorough description of the background and relevant literature, methods, data and analysis of the data, discussion and conclusion.

Formative feedback is an ongoing part of this module. This may take a variety of forms:
Feedback and guidance in small group sessions with students investigating similar topics.
Feedback and discussion in one to one sessions, either face to face or through some other medium such as email, telephone or the internet.
Supervisor feedback on the development of the final report.

First Sit Components	Final Assessment	Element weighting	Description
Written Assignment - Component A		10 %	Project Proposal (1500 words)
Report - Component A	✓	80 %	Project Report (max 14000 words).
Presentation - Component A		10 %	Progress Seminar (presentation and QandA in a seminar format)
Resit Components	Final Assessment	Element weighting	Description
Report - Component A	✓	100 %	Project Report (max 14000 words).

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Part 4: Teaching and Learning Methods	
Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this module students will be able to:

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<tr><th></th><th>Module Learning Outcomes</th></tr>
<tr><td>MO1</td><td>Analyse and critically appraise current theory, policy or practice</td></tr>
<tr><td>MO2</td><td>Set, negotiate and meet own objectives and deadlines</td></tr>
<tr><td>MO3</td><td>Synthesise and apply theoretical understanding and, if relevant practical experience to complex problems</td></tr>
<tr><td>MO4</td><td>Justify and reflect critically on the use of a range of research and/or evaluation strategies appropriate to exploring complex problems</td></tr>
<tr><td>MO5</td><td>Design and carry out reliable and valid methods for gathering data and information</td></tr>
<tr><td>MO6</td><td>Analyse data and information objectively using appropriate techniques from a range of sources and develop that knowledge to formulate solutions to a project's aims and objectives</td></tr>
<tr><td>MO7</td><td>Reflect critically and objectively on methods, processes and outcomes, demonstrating awareness of financial and organisational constraints where appropriate</td></tr>
<tr><td>MO8</td><td>Develop proposals or recommendations for new areas of investigation, new problems, creative strategies or methodologies that arise from their project</td></tr>
<tr><td>MO9</td><td>Explore, understand and apply appropriate techniques to the issues of risk assessment, ethics, validity and reliability in the project undertaken</td></tr>
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Contact Hours

Contact Hours	
Independent Study Hours:	
Independent study/self-guided study	558
Total Independent Study Hours:	558
Scheduled Learning and Teaching Hours:	
Face-to-face learning	42
Total Scheduled Learning and Teaching Hours:	42
Hours to be allocated	600
Allocated Hours	600

Reading List	*The reading list for this module can be accessed via the following link:* https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ubgmrk-60-m.html