



Module Specification

Masters Project

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Masters Project

Module code: UBGMRK-60-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2021-22

UWE credit rating: 60

ECTS credit rating: 30

Faculty: Faculty of Environment & Technology

Department: FET Dept of Geography & Environmental Mgmt

Partner institutions: None

Delivery locations: Frenchay Campus

Field: Geography and Environmental Management

Module type: Project

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: Dissertation 2021-22

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Not applicable

Features: Not applicable

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 the validation 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.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

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.

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.

Module Learning outcomes:

MO1 Analyse and critically appraise current theory, policy or practice

MO2 Set, negotiate and meet own objectives and deadlines

MO3 Synthesise and apply theoretical understanding and, if relevant practical experience to complex problems

MO4 Justify and reflect critically on the use of a range of research and/or evaluation strategies appropriate to exploring complex problems

MO5 Design and carry out reliable and valid methods for gathering data and information

MO6 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

MO7 Reflect critically and objectively on methods, processes and outcomes, demonstrating awareness of financial and organisational constraints where appropriate

MO8 Develop proposals or recommendations for new areas of investigation, new problems, creative strategies or methodologies that arise from their project

MO9 Explore, understand and apply appropriate techniques to the issues of risk assessment, ethics, validity and reliability in the project undertaken

Hours to be allocated: 600

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 558 hours

Face-to-face learning = 42 hours

Total = 600

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ubgmrk-60-m.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ubgmrk-60-m.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: There are two 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 3000 word document and sets out the aims and objectives of the project, a brief critical review of relevant literature, a detailed methodological approach, and programme, set within the context of the literature.

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.

Resit is the resubmission of the final project.

Assessment components:

Written Assignment - Component A (First Sit)

Description: Project Proposal (3000 words)

Weighting: 20 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO2, MO4, MO5, MO9

Report - Component A (First Sit)

Description: Project Report (max 12000 words).

Weighting: 80 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO3, MO4, MO6, MO7, MO8, MO9

Report - Component A (Resit)

Description: Project Report (max 14000 words).

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6, MO7, MO8, MO9

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Civil Engineering [Sep][FT][Frenchay][1yr] MSc 2021-22

Transport [Sep][FT][Frenchay][1yr] MSc 2021-22

Transport Engineering and Planning [Sep][FT][Frenchay][1yr] MSc 2021-22

Civil Engineering [Sep][PT][Frenchay][2yrs] MSc 2021-22

Project Management[Jan][PT][Frenchay][2yrs] MSc 2020-21

Environmental Management [Sep][PT][Frenchay][2Yrs] MSc 2020-21

Civil Engineering [Sep][PT][Frenchay][2yrs] MSc 2020-21

Transport Planning [Sep][FT][Frenchay][1yr] MSc 2021-22

Transport Engineering and Planning [Sep][PT][Frenchay][2yrs] MSc 2020-21

Transport Planning [Sep][PT][Frenchay][2yrs] MSc 2020-21