Module Specification

Masters Project

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Contents

Part 1: Information

Module title: Masters Project

Module code: UBGMRK-60-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 60

ECTS credit rating: 30

College: Faculty of Environment & Technology

School: FET Dept of Geography & Envrnmental Mgmt

Partner institutions: None

Field: Geography and Environmental Management

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: Dissertation 2023-24

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 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.

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: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Evaluation and Planning - Demonstrate an ability to critically evaluate current literature, to contextualise and define a complex problem, and to set research objectives and planning deadlines in a proposed further investigation of that problem.

MO2 Ethics - Defend a Masters level research project proposal, clearly demonstrating how ethical issues have been fully considered and what processes are to be used to minimise risk.

MO3 Investigation - Critically select appropriate quantitative and/or qualitative research methods and conduct a valid investigation, applying synthesised theoretical research frameworks as required and ensuring the University's ethical values are maintained throughout.

MO4 Impact - Justify the validity of your research findings in terms of objectivity and quality of analysis, discuss the extent to which your findings met your objectives, clearly present the impact of your findings on the wider research context and identify areas of possible further investigation.

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 via the following link https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ubgmrk-60-m.html

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: There are two tasks to the assessment, which aim to reflect the stages often encountered in managing research projects in the workplace.

Written Assignment (3000 words) - Proposal Stage Pass/Fail Gateway.
Students complete a Project Proposal Gateway that comprises of a written project proposal, an in-person project viva, and successful completion of the formal research ethics process.
The proposal 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.

Report (12,000 words) - 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 - this 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 Written Assignment (3000 words) - Project Proposal Pass/Fail Gateway. The resit opportunity of this task will be offered a short time after the first attempt. A

student who fails the resit, will usually fail the module. The brief will be similar to that outlined above.

Resit Report (12,000 words) - a similar brief to that described above.

Assessment tasks:

Written Assignment (First Sit)
Description: Proposal Stage Gateway (3000 words).
This is a Pass/Fail assessment.
Weighting:
Final assessment: No
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

Dissertation (First Sit)
Description: Project Report (12000 words).
Weighting: 100 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4

Written Assignment (Resit)
Description: Proposal Stage Gateway (3000 words).
This is a Pass/Fail assessment.
Weighting:
Final assessment: No
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

Dissertation (Resit)
Description: Project Report (12000 words).
Weighting: 100 %
Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Civil Engineering [Frenchay] MSc 2023-24

Transport [Frenchay] MSc 2023-24

Transport Engineering and Planning [Frenchay] MSc 2023-24

Sustainable Development in Practice [Frenchay] MSc 2023-24

Sustainable Development in Practice [Frenchay] MSc 2023-24

Environmental Management [Frenchay] MSc 2023-24

Environmental Consultancy [Frenchay] MSc 2023-24

Civil Engineering [Frenchay] MSc 2023-24

Civil Engineering [Frenchay] MSc 2022-23

Environmental Consultancy [Frenchay] MSc 2022-23

Environmental Management [Frenchay] MSc 2022-23

Transport Engineering and Planning [Frenchay] MSc 2022-23

Project Management [Frenchay] MSc 2022-23