University of the
West of England
BRISTOL

ACADEMIC SERVICES

MODULE SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Basic Data						
Module Title	Executive Dissertation					
Module Code	UMSDFN-45-M		Level	M	Version	1
UWE Credit Rating	45	ECTS Credit Rating	23	WBL module?	*No*	
Owning Faculty	FBL		Field	Strategy and International Business		
Department	BBS (B and M)		Module Type	Project		
Contributes towards	Master of Business Administration					
Pre-requisites	none		Co- requisites	Integrated Management Research and Professional Development		
Excluded Combinations	MBA Executive Consultancy Dissertation		Module Entry requirements	Must have passed 60 credits of MBA modules and have submitted a research proposal for the Integrated Management Research and Professional Development module		
First CAP Approval Date	13 February 2014		Valid from	September 2014		
Revision CAP Approval Date			Revised with effect from			

Review Date	September 2020

Part 2: Learning and Teaching	
Learning Outcomes	This module will enable students to practice and demonstrate skills and knowledge that they have acquired during their studies. The module provides the opportunity for students to further develop their evaluative and critical enquiry skills through analysis and synthesis of complex material. It also enables students to develop skills in planning and managing a substantial independent analytical investigation in a topic area of their choice. In designing and undertaking their own study students are encouraged to conduct conceptual and empirical research that advances the understanding about the role, dynamics, and impact of organisations in the creation of sustainable social, environmental and economic value. On successful completion of this module students will be able to: • conduct conceptual and empirical research that advances understanding of the role, dynamics, and/or impact of organisations in the creation of sustainable social, environmental and economic value.

	• apply knowledge, critical thinking and problem solving skills and techniques to an area of personal interest and/or organisational relevance.
	• demonstrate the ability to conduct research into complex business and management issues through research design, data collection, analysis, synthesis and reporting
	• demonstrate critical appreciation of research philosophies, strategies and methodologies in relation to investigation of their chosen topic
	• use information and knowledge effectively: scanning and organising data, synthesising and analysing in order to abstract meaning from information and to create and share knowledge.
	• evidence critical thinking and creativity: organise thoughts, analyse, synthesise and critically appraise. This includes the capability to identify assumptions, evaluate statements in terms of evidence, detect false logic or reasoning, identify implicit values, define terms adequately and generalise appropriately.
	• demonstrate the ability to recognise and address ethical dilemmas and apply ethical and organisational values to situations and choices.
	• make use of academic perspectives, as well as primary research findings, to make recommendations that should have practical application in a workplace where relevant
	• communicate complex ideas, information and arguments in a clear, organised, and professionally presented dissertation
	All of the above will be assessed. In addition, the educational experience may explore, develop, and practise, but not formally discretely assess, the following:
	• Presentation, communication and negotiation skills through a supervision process; • Time management skills; • Effectiveness at working independently • Use of appropriate IT and electronic data resource to aid efficient searching, communication and presentation of information. •
Syllabus Outline	The module is a combination of sound academic underpinning and practical application. It enables students to further develop knowledge developed within the MBA programme applied within the context of their professional experience. Through independent study, in consultation with tutors, they will be able to reflect on and learn from that experience and thus be able to integrate new knowledge with past experience and apply it to new situations
Contact Hours	One scheduled workshop will be offered which will provide an introduction to the module. Based on the research proposals submitted for the Integrated Management Research and Professional Development module, students will be allocated dissertation supervisors. Students should consult their tutors on a regular basis throughout the design and execution of their study. These consultations may take place face to face or via email or other electronic media. Students will normally have at least four formal meetings with their tutor over the period of the dissertation, although individual arrangements may be made
Teaching and Learning	The emphasis in this module is on independent learning supported through access to online materials and one-to-one tutor support. In negotiation with allocated tutors,

Methods	students will design their own study on a topic of relevance in contemporary business/organisational contexts. Students are encouraged to link their studies to 'real world' problems and issues and, where feasible, to work with external organisations to develop their research.
	Support is given to the student via their dissertation tutor. This support takes the form of guidance and mentoring with the onus on the student to explore options and bring issues and potential solutions to the tutor for discussion.
Key Information Sets Information	Total assessment of the module: Written exam assessment percentage — 0% Coursework assessment percentage — 100% Practical exam assessment percentage — 0% 100%
Reading Strategy	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 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 MBA curriculum to develop their information retrieval and evaluation skills in order to identify such resources effectively. Students will be directed towards the FBL study skills website as appropriate. Students will be encouraged to use Blackboard resources referred to in the module handbook. Students are not expected to purchase a core text for this module.
Indicative Reading List	*The following list is offered to provide validation panels/accrediting bodies with an indication of the type and level of information students may be expected to consult. As such, its currency may wane during the life span of the module specification.* *However, as indicated above, CURRENT advice on readings will be available via other more frequently updated mechanisms.* • Bryman, A. and Bell, E. (2011) *Business Research Methods,* 3rd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press • Crowther, D. and Lancaster G. (2008) *Research Methods: a Concise Introduction to Research in Management and Business Consultancy*, Oxford: Butterworth-Heinemann • Denscombe, M. (2010) *The Good Research Guide: For Small-Scale Social Research Projects,* 4th ed. Maidenhead: Open University Press [electronic resource] • Easterby-Smith, M. (2011) ***Handbook of Organizational Learning and Knowledge Management*** John Wiley: London • Moon, J. A. (2007) *Critical Thinking: an Exploration of Theory and Practice*, Routledge, London • Saunders, M., Lewis, P. and Thornhill, A. (2009) *Research Methods for Business Students*. 5th ed. Harlow: Financial Times, Prentice Hall • Sekaran, U. and Bougie, R. (2009) *Research Methods for Business: a skill building approach*, Oxford: John Wiley & Sons

Part 3: Assessment

Assessment Strategy	Assessment will be by means of a single dissertation. This dissertation will involve researching an issue of relevance to business. Students will draw on and develop skills and knowledge developed through studying on the MBA, in particular from the Integrated Management Research and Professional Development module, and will apply appropriate methodologies and enquiry methods.

Identify final assessment component and element	Component A	
	A:	**B**:
% weighting between components A and B (Standard modules only)	**100%**	

First Sit	
Component A (controlled conditions) **Description of each element**	**Element weighting** **(as % of component)**
1. Dissertation (12,000 words)	100%
Component B **Description of each element**	**Element weighting** **(as % of component)**
1. n/a	

Resit (further attendance at taught classes is not required)	
Component A (controlled conditions) **Description of each element**	**Element weighting** **(as % of component)**
2. Dissertation (12,000 words)	100%
Component B **Description of each element**	**Element weighting** **(as % of component)**
2. n/a	
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.	