



## **Module Specification**

### **Project and Research Methods - Accounting and Finance**

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## Part 1: Information

**Module title:** Project and Research Methods - Accounting and Finance

**Module code:** UMADXB-60-M

**Level:** Level 7

**For implementation from:** 2023-24

**UWE credit rating:** 60

**ECTS credit rating:** 30

**Faculty:** Faculty of Business & Law

**Department:** FBL Dept of Accounting Economics & Finance

**Partner institutions:** None

**Field:** Accounting and Finance

**Module type:** Module

**Pre-requisites:** None

**Excluded combinations:** None

**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:** This module aims to provide students on the MSc in Accounting and Finance programme with the opportunity to undertake independent research on a topic that is related to Accounting and Finance and of personal interest to the student and supported by a research mentor.

**Outline syllabus:** The skills necessary to undertake the project will be scaffolded within the module throughout the year.

### **Part 3: Teaching and learning methods**

**Teaching and learning methods:** The module will provide students the opportunity to integrate and apply the learning and skills acquired through the programme by writing a substantial piece of individual research which is relevant to practitioners and/or researchers in the field of accounting and finance. 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 project module is a spine module that runs over the full academic year.

The module focuses on developing students' understanding of research, identifying relevant and feasible research topics, formulating research questions, identifying the relevant literature and developing a literature review to inform the hypotheses. The module will further focus on teaching research methods.

At the project stage, the student is supported by the research mentor to build a portfolio of evidence covering four areas: aims and objectives; a critical review of key literature; methodology and ethics; and data collection. The research mentor provides guidance and feedback on the portfolio submissions and acts as the immediate contact point when ideas need to be explored or problems addressed.

The student will determine his or her own learning pattern. Each student will be guided by a suitably qualified mentor. Once a student has been allocated a mentor, he/she will agree upon a project type and topic with their mentor. There will then be periodic contact with that mentor, 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).

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

**MO1** Demonstrate an ethical approach to project management to plan and execute a significant piece of independent research in the field of Accounting and Finance

**MO2** Communicate and defend conclusions using a variety of formats

**MO3** Critically discuss and appraise current and core issues in the relevant literature

**MO4** Identify, apply and defend meaningful choices in relations to methodology and data

**MO5** Evidence deep understanding of, and ability to reflect critically on, chosen research approach, process and feedback

**MO6** Critically analyse data and consider the significance of the research findings to produce practical conclusions and recommendations

**Hours to be allocated:** 600

**Contact hours:**

Independent study/self-guided study = 600 hours

Total = 600

**Reading list:** The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://readinglists.uwe.ac.uk) via the following link

<https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/umadmm-45-m.html>

## **Part 4: Assessment**

**Assessment strategy:** The assessment is designed to develop skills and allow the learning outcomes to be demonstrated. Students will work through the stages of the project and have the opportunity for formative feedback through discussion of their portfolio elements with their research mentor.

The project is assessed through two tasks.

Assessment Task 1 is a portfolio that is followed by a critical discussion of 20 minutes which will assess the quality of the portfolio elements such as the research proposal, their evaluation of the key literature in the research area, identification and collection of relevant data and the key research methodology as well as how the student is able to defend them. Assessment Task 2 is a 3,000 word report which will focus on the analysis of the data, presenting and discussing the key results and arriving at conclusions and recommendations for practice.

Task 1: Portfolio submission and critical discussion (20 minutes)

Task 2: Analysis, conclusion and recommendations for practice. Written submission (max 3000 words)

**Assessment tasks:**

**Project (First Sit)**

Description: Written submission

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO5, MO6

**Project (First Sit)**

Description: Portfolio submission and critical discussion

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

**Project (Resit)**

Description: Written submission

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO5, MO6

**Project (Resit)**

Description: Portfolio submission and critical discussion

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

**Part 5: Contributes towards**

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Accounting and Finance [Frenchay] MSc 2023-24