



Module Specification

Dissertation

Version: 2026-27, v2.0, Approved

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Dissertation

Module code: UBGMT6-30-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2026-27

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

College: College of Arts, Technology and Environment

School: CATE School of Architecture and Environment

Partner institutions: None

Field: Geography and Environmental Management

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: The dissertation is an individual piece of in-depth research carried out by the student. It allows them to pursue a specific issue of interest within the field of Planning. Students are supported in their research journey by an allocated supervisor to advise on research methods/strategy.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: The dissertation involves undertaking a significant piece of student-led individual research.

By employing research methods training, students will define an appropriate research question/hypothesis and design a research strategy to deliver it demonstrating understanding of methodological and ethical issues when collecting and analysing data.

It will provide the opportunity to apply advanced research and analytical skills, drawing on key theoretical perspectives leading to conclusions/recommendations in a clear and accessible manner whilst being able to critically reflect on the research process and identify limitations of the work.

This will enable students to demonstrate knowledge, advanced understanding and critical awareness of literature and theory relevant to a specific subject area of their choosing.

Outline syllabus: Research Methods (online content):

Introduction - describes the aims, content and structure of the module, as well as how it interfaces with the dissertation.

Research Philosophy and Principles – consolidation of knowledge from research methods and techniques used in other modules on the programme and providing a reference source concerning the nature of understanding, research and research problems; different methods, philosophies and assumptions; current issues and different research perspectives; and the important areas of values and objectivity.

Managing the Research Process - consolidation of knowledge from other modules in which the student is required to undertake information/data gathering and providing a reference source concerning the planning and management of a piece of research, from choosing a subject, through asking and answering a specific question, clarifying concepts and developing indicators, to evolving a methodology.

Research Practice - consolidation of knowledge provided by other modules and providing a reference source concerning different research practices, methods and information sources upon which to reflect in the context of their applicability to study.

Research Strategy - consolidation of knowledge from other modules and providing a reference source concerning the importance of 'scoping' a programme, carrying out a literature review and establishing a sound methodology. Concluding and reflecting on the work is also covered here.

Research Ethics - embedded within the programme providing a reference source concerning the position of the researcher and the 'researched' and sets down standards for honest, open and ethical behaviour.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The programme follows a Programmatic by Design approach in which research methods are embedded as a strand throughout the programme. The intention is that this builds on a research narrative throughout the course whereby students are encouraged to find their own sources of data and information.

Students will be provided with online reading materials to consolidate knowledge gained from the research methods used in other modules on the programme. They will be provided with reference materials that support their progress through the preparation of their dissertation.

Students will work closely with academic staff to formulate their research question, and /or hypothesis and identify key project objectives.

Students will be allocated a project supervisor and it is the responsibility of the student to make sure that they work closely with their supervisor and keep them informed of their progress.

Students will be supported by personal supervisors who will offer direct and remote support.

Independent learning:

The dissertation is essentially a piece of independent work, student will be able to take responsibility for their own time management and progress, so the majority of the study hours will be spent by students working independently, under the broad guidance of their supervisor.

Contact Hours:

Students can expect to have 5 hours of contact time with their tutor, however this time may be divided up in a range of ways and may be with members of staff other than their supervisor. However, this is a project module, and students are expected to work unsupervised for most of the study hours allocated for this module.

Students will have online content materials provided to support their studies, with their progress supported by personal supervisors who will offer direct and remote support.

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

MO1 Define an appropriate research question/hypothesis and design a research strategy to deliver it demonstrating understanding of methodological and ethical issues when collecting and analysing data.

MO2 Demonstrate knowledge, advanced understanding and critical awareness of literature and theory relevant to a specific subject area.

MO3 Apply advanced research and analytical skills, drawing on key theoretical perspectives leading to conclusions/recommendations in a clear and accessible manner whilst being able to critically reflect on the research process and identify limitations of the work.

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 295 hours

Face-to-face learning = 5 hours

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ubgmt6-30-m.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ubgmt6-30-m.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The assessment comprises one summative assessment, the final dissertation submission of 12,000 words.

Final Dissertation submission:

Students undertake a piece of independent research which explores in depth a topic that is relevant to their studies.

Under the supervision of a tutor, students are expected to select relevant research methods introduced in the earlier part of the module and develop these to enable them to produce a piece of work that contributes to existing research in their field of study.

The written dissertation should make clear how the primary research was designed and conducted and discussion of the outcomes of primary research should be clearly related to existing literature.

Formative feedback is an ongoing part of this module.

The resit is the same as the first sit.

Assessment tasks:

Dissertation (First Sit)

Description: Dissertation (Final Submission) 12,000 words

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Dissertation (Resit)

Description: Dissertation (Final Submission) 12,000 words

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Planning and Urban Leadership [Distance] MSc 2025-26

Urban Planning [Frenchay] MSc 2025-26

Urban Planning {Apprenticeship-UWE} [Frenchay] MSc 2025-26

Planning and Urban Leadership [Distance] MSc 2026-27

Urban Planning [Frenchay] MSc 2026-27

Urban Planning [Frenchay] MSc 2026-27

Planning and Urban Leadership [Distance] MSc 2026-27

Urban Planning [Frenchay] MSc 2025-26

Urban Planning [Frenchay] MSc 2025-26

Urban Planning [Frenchay] MSc 2025-26

Urban Planning {Apprenticeship-UWE} [Frenchay] MSc 2025-26

Planning and Urban Leadership [Distance] MSc 2025-26