Module Specification

Masters Project

Version: 2026-27, v1.0, Approved

Contents

Part 1: Information

Module title: Masters Project

Module code: UBLL8C-60-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2026-27

UWE credit rating: 60

ECTS credit rating: 30

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: Dissertation 2025-26, Dissertation 2026-27

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: This module provides an opportunity for students to undertake an independent research project that will enable them to put into practice the learning from previous modules. Through this module students will develop an understanding of key aspects of research methods (e.g. quantitative and qualitative, etc.) and then use some or all of them to develop their project.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: The educational aims of this module are:
To enable students to research a subject of their choice within their field of study.
To enable students to investigate and appraise current theory, policy or practice in an analytical and critical way.
To give students the opportunity to integrate material covered in specialist modules.
To give students the opportunity to contribute to the sum of knowledge in the field of study.

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 operationalisation of the project; use of library databases and the internet; attribution of sources, use of relevant software packages where appropriate.

Research project:

Project proposal: Students develop a project proposal that sets out the research problem in the context of academic literature, a detailed methodology and indicative analysis, with a time plan for implementation.

Dissertation: Students carry out an investigation which tackles the selected research problem and produce a structured dissertation.

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, alongside supervision by an academic. Students work through training materials to develop their understanding of contemporary research methods and practice.

Scheduled Learning
Students are taught research methods on an intensive basis front-loaded into the start of the module, as a series of video tutorials and interactive resources. Learning requires active engagement with these resources by the student with the emphasis being placed on problem-solving and applying knowledge gained elsewhere in the programme.

Whilst students are studying research methods they will be expected to identify an area of research for investigation, and will be allocated a supervisor to guide them in the creation of an outline proposal of the work to be undertaken. Project topics may be proposed by students, members of the programme team or external partners. Students proceed to scope a project idea in collaboration with their assigned academic supervisor and must have a well worked proposal approved by the supervisor in order to progress.

Throughout their project, students can expect to work closely with their supervisor

and must keep them regularly informed of their progress. Supervisory 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 synchronously or asynchronously via, email, telephone or video call.

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 and by extending their knowledge as appropriate to complete their research aims and objectives. 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. Students are expected to use a learning journal throughout the module to support their reflective academic development.

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

MO1 Contextualisation and Defining - Demonstrate an ability to critically evaluate current literature, to contextualise and define a complex problem.

MO2 Evaluation and Planning - Set research objectives and planning deadlines in a proposed further investigation of the chosen research problem.

MO3 Investigation - Critically select appropriate research methods and conduct a valid investigation, applying synthesised theoretical research frameworks as required and ensuring that contemporary research governance principles and requirements (e.g. health and safety, research ethics, etc.) are maintained throughout.

MO4 Impact - Critically reflect on the quality and impact of your project and identify areas of possible further investigation.

Hours to be allocated: 600

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 558 hours

E-learning/online learning = 42 hours

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/ubll8c-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 that comprises a written project proposal (including completion of the research ethics and risk assessment checklists) and an in-person project viva (approx. 15-20 minutes).
The Project 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.

Project 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 by email, telephone or video call; 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 Project Report (12,000 words) - a similar brief to that described above.

Assessment tasks:

Project (First Sit)
Description: Project Report (12000 words).
Weighting: 100 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO2, MO3, MO4

Written Assignment (First Sit)
Description: Proposal Stage Gateway (3000 words).
This is a Pass/Fail assessment.
Weighting: 0 %
Final assessment: No
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

Project (Resit)
Description: Project Report (12000 words).
Weighting: 100 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO2, MO3, MO4

Written Assignment (Resit)
Description: Proposal Stage Gateway (3000 words).
This is a Pass/Fail assessment.
Weighting: 0 %
Final assessment: No
Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Sustainability and Environmental Management [UWE Online] MSc 2025-26