Module Specification

Ways of Knowing: Research Methodologies

Version: 2025-26, v2.0, Approved

Contents

Part 1: Information

Module title: Ways of Knowing: Research Methodologies

Module code: UMCC64-30-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2025-26

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

College: College of Business and Law

School: CBL Bristol Business School

Partner institutions: None

Field: Business and Management Cross-Disciplinary

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: The module aims to enable students to understand the significance of the alternative epistemological positions that provides the context for theory construction, research design and the selection of appropriate analytical techniques.

Outline syllabus: Syllabus outline:

The module is divided into a number of elements.

Contextual material. This includes:

An introduction to the module and the intellectual territory explored therein

An introduction to paradigm thinking

Debating the intellectual structure of management and organisation studies

An overview of and introduction to various paradigms, drawing in particular on the evolution and development within and between the research paradigms:

Positivism and its variants, antecedents and developments (e.g. materialism, realism, structuralism)

Constructivism, interpretivism and their variants, antecedents and developments (e.g. idealism, methodological relativism, phenomenology, hermeneutics)

Critical approaches and their variants

The Posts- post-modernism, post-structuralism and post-feminism.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The module takes a flexible approach to delivery methods.

Depending on cohort requirements, delivery can be fully online, fully face to face, or a blended mix of the two. The module will be delivered via a series of study units; each study unit relating to a substantive area of the syllabus. Activities, plenary

sessions and workshops will provide an opportunity for critical analysis, discussion and peer/tutor feedback.

These sessions may take place in the classroom, face to face; or in an online environment.
Online sessions may be:

synchronous (e.g. using live webinars) or
asynchronous (e.g. using text/video discussion tools).

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

MO1 Articulate the significance of alternative epistemological positions in the context of theory construction, research design and the selection of appropriate analytical techniques.

MO2 Apply a critical analysis to a range of theoretical and research paradigms

MO3 Assess the contextual relevance of such theories and paradigms in research design and the selection of appropriate analytical techniques

MO4 Justify a choice of methodological position

MO5 Analyse critically the methodological contribution of research papers within a specific field of knowledge

MO6 Evaluate the limitations of a research paper

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 265 hours

Face-to-face learning = 35 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/umcc64-30-m.html

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: There is one assessment for this module:

Formative assessment:

Students will participate in group discussions or workshops. These may take place in a face-to-face or online environment. These will usually involve peer evaluation and tutor feedback - for example critical examination/analysis of a specific research text. Further opportunities for formative feedback will be provided during the duration of the module through feedback from DoS, guided online activities and peer feedback during the scheduled workshops.

Summative assessment:

There is one assessment task for this module:

Portfolio (100%) consisting of:

i. Written precis (2000 words)

The assessed written precis is the final outcome in an iterative formative assessment process.

The student will identify two published research papers relating to their topic and present a review, evaluation and critique of the papers, both individually and in relation to each other. The two papers must have contrasting methodological (etc) approaches to the topic and should broadly correspond to two of the discussed in the taught sessions. The student will receive formative feedback on the non-assessed presentation. A written precis of the presentation content, responding to the formative feedback, is then submitted for assessment.

ii. Theoretical Review (6000 words)

In this review, students should provide an extensive statement and informed justification of their own methodological position towards their chosen topic (guideline, 2000 words). This should be underpinned by a review, evaluation and

critique of existing methodological approaches to the topic (guideline, 4000 words). The topic will normally be the one the students have selected to investigate for their PhD/DPhil/DBA dissertation/thesis.

Other methods of assessment may be employed to demonstrate the learning requirements where reasonable adjustments are required by a student.

Not assessed as part of this module: DBA students, as part of the Doctoral Development plan, should write a critical reflection on learning (1,500 words). Students need to critically evaluate key personal learning outcomes from this module and how they will utilise these to inform their DBA studies.

The resit will match the first sit.

Assessment tasks:

Portfolio (First Sit)
Description: The portfolio will consist of:
Written precis (2000 words)
Theoretical review (6000 words)
Weighting: 100 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6

Portfolio (Resit)
Description: The Portfolio will consist of:
Written precis (2000 words)
Theoretical review (6000 words)
Weighting: 100 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study: