



Module Specification

Research in Banking and Finance

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Research in Banking and Finance

Module code: UMETH5-30-3

Level: Level 6

For implementation from: 2027-28

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

College: College of Business and Law

School: CBL Bristol Business School

Partner institutions: None

Field: Economics

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: This module provides students with an opportunity to conduct independent research on a banking or finance theme of their choice. Through a structured approach, students will explore relevant literature, formulate research questions, collect and analyse data, and draw conclusions. Emphasis will be placed on critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills. Topics may include financial markets, banking regulations, investment strategies, risk management, or fintech innovations. Students will present their findings through written reports and

oral presentations, fostering academic rigor and professional development. Research and analysis skills will be developed through workshops that build upon and extend the technical competences that the students have acquired at Levels 4 and 5. This capstone module provides the opportunity for the student to bring together the many skills and competences that they have acquired on their programme to form their capstone experience.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: The aim of the module is to develop independent research skills that enable students to design, execute, and critically evaluate a research project in banking and finance. We foster analytical thinking that encourages students to apply theoretical frameworks and empirical methods to address real-world banking and finance challenges. We will enhance communication abilities such that you can communicate in written and oral media such that you can present research findings and engage in academic discourse. We promote interdisciplinary understanding by getting you to integrate knowledge from various disciplines such as economics, finance, and mathematics to analyse complex industry phenomena. Finally this module encourages professional development such that you are prepared for future academic pursuits or careers in banking, finance, or related fields.

Outline syllabus: As the capstone module, the dissertation module builds on a set of research skills that students have developed in their first two years of study. In this module we will typically support students with the following aspects:

- (a) Project Management Skills to deliver a small research project
- (b) Introduction to the analytical methods for a financial analyst including (for example) the analysis of big data, simulation, back testing, the technique of scoping reviews, and the use of qualitative analysis for banking and finance research
- (c) Writing and technical presentation skills
- (d) Curation and evaluation of secondary data resources
- (e) Research ethics

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The module employs a diverse range of pedagogical approaches to cultivate graduate-level research skills in banking and finance. Taught workshops develop and extend skills, knowledge and research methodologies that have been initially covered at Level 5. Group and peer mentorship sessions foster collaborative learning and offer constructive feedback. Individual mentoring offers personalized guidance throughout the research process, aiding in project development and refinement. Structured independent activities encourage autonomy and critical thinking, allowing students to apply theoretical concepts to practical research scenarios. Through this multifaceted approach, students gain the requisite skills to conceptualize, execute, and communicate small research projects suited for graduate-level banking and financial analysis.

Students are expected to take ownership of their project progress using the 3Ps (Prepare, Participate, Practise) framework. Typical activities expected around 3Ps framework include:

Prepare

Before attending the seminars, workshops, and supervision meeting you will need to: Undertake background reading into the topic(s) you are interested in researching on. As the module progresses, you will start to focus all preparatory work around main research question you aim to explore during the course of the year.

Regular note taking to ensure you build a bank of literature and open questions that can feed into your writing and meetings with mentors.

Regular record keeping to demonstrate progress you have made following previous meetings with your mentor.

Maintain regular touch points with your project mentor and proactively arrange meetings with clear agenda, materials/questions supplied to the project mentor ahead of the meeting.

Participate

Attend seminars, master classes and supervision meetings.

Proactively ask questions during seminar and communicate your research and issues you want to explore in support your research during these sessions.

Active participation in group mentoring sessions, learning from each other, and

contributing to each other's research issues/topic.

Practise

Action on project feedback received and maintain a clear record of all feedback and actioned points.

Regularly update the project portfolio with the information and action points

Undertake independent analysis and writing on the back of the milestones published in the module handbook. Through the 3Ps framework (Prepare, Participate, Practise), students take ownership of their project progress. This entails background reading, note-taking, regular communication with mentors, active seminar participation, and diligent action on feedback received, facilitating comprehensive project development and portfolio maintenance.

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

MO1 Critically evaluate and synthesise arguments to offer persuasive insights to a research question.

MO2 Communicate information, research and results to a specialist reader/audience in multiple media.

MO3 Independently manage and design a small research project including making appropriately justified choices about data collection/data curation and data analysis.

MO4 Situate technical knowledge in a broader context including (as appropriate): ethics, structural inequality and/or sustainability.

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/umeth5-30-3.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/umeth5-30-3.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 mentor/peer support group. The assessment tasks are: Task 1 (60%) - the development portfolio of the research project - where the student showcases the development of their project via a proposal, an ethical review and a reflective piece on performance.

Task 2 (40%) - a written submission (maximum of 3000 words) that will include the student presenting their key findings orally to the marking team - this will include a Q&A element.

Assessment tasks:

Portfolio (First Sit)

Description: A project portfolio.

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO3, MO4

Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: A written assignment accompanied by a presentation (3000 words).

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO2

Portfolio (Resit)

Description: A project portfolio.

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO3, MO4

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: A written assignment accompanied by a presentation (3000 words).

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO2

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Banking and Finance {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2024-25

Banking and Finance [NEU] BSc (Hons) 2025-26

Banking and Finance [UFM] BSc (Hons) 2025-26

Banking and Finance {Dual} [Taylors] BA (Hons) 2025-26

Banking and Finance [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2025-26