Module Specification

Group Project Challenge

Version: 2025-26, v1.0, Approved

Contents

Part 1: Information

Module title: Group Project Challenge

Module code: UMMTFU-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: The Group Project Challenge is the first of two project modules. It introduces students to the practice and process of research, supporting their engagement with relevant academic and professional literature as they learn how to frame a research study within the context of an existing body of knowledge. It also gives students the opportunity to develop their group working skills.

Features: This module is aligned with the Association for Project Management (APM) Competence Framework and the Project Management Institute (PMI) Global Accreditation Centre (GAC) standards.

Educational aims: The module aims to develop students' ability to identify and summarise existing professional and/or academic knowledge on a given topic, whilst facilitating the development of group management and collaborative skills. As well as giving students an understanding of research principles and practices, the module will encourage students to apply this knowledge to the evaluation of a body of knowledge, and the development of research ideas to address a professional issue or opportunity.

Outline syllabus: Indicative content:

The role of research in professional practice

The research process

Research approaches and methodologies

Research methods

Using AI in research

Research ethics

Collaborative and group management skills

Presentation and arguing skills.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The distinctive feature of the module is the 'challenge'; which will be given to the students in the form of a series of issues currently facing practicing project managers. The 'challenge' to students is to develop a research idea which addresses one of these issues. The teaching and learning methods will create a sense of urgency by including intensive, immersive group-work sessions during which the students work together on the assessment task

Independent study materials and interactive sessions will guide students through the process of developing and justifying a research topic, including:

Identifying and analysing academic and professional literature

Critiquing literature

Developing and justifying a research topic

Students learn in 3 steps: Prepare, Participate, and Practise. First, ahead of the classes, students prepare by studying the provided and suggested materials to acquire background knowledge. Second, students actively participate in class via group debates, completion of tasks and interactive sessions, becoming co-creators of their own learning journey. Third, students practise by applying what they have learned to real-world problems via the project challenge.

The AI in Assessment Scale (AIAS) proposed by Perkins et al (2024) will be used a framework by which students can explore the various ways in which AI can be used in line with the University's Academic Offences policy. Students will be encouraged to exploit the full potential of AI to support their learning, whilst being mindful of the potential problems with and dangers of using AI.

Groupwork will be supported not only by teaching inputs, but also by a set of protocols that will encourage a sense of shared responsibility for the group's outputs. These protocols will empower groups to address issues of poor engagement by individual members. These include:

- A group contract

- Guidance on record keeping for group activities

- A procedure for addressing poor engagement of individual group members

- Peer-assessment

- The facility to award different marks to different group members in the final assessment

The assessment task itself will be the focus of intensive, immersive groupwork sessions, in which students are set specific goals within a challenging timeframe, working together through structured tasks that contribute to the final assessed presentation.

During these sessions, tutors will facilitate the groupwork tasks, offering support,

encouragement and constructive criticism, contributing to an atmosphere of constructive co-creation. The last of these sessions will culminate in the summative assessment for the module - the group presentation.

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

MO1 Collaborate effectively to investigate a contemporary project management topic, developing a coherent conceptual framework based on recognised academic and/or professional literature.

MO2 Demonstrate a critical understanding of research methodologies and ethical considerations in project settings.

MO3 Critically analyse, evaluate and synthesise information to produce a project proposal.

MO4 Effectively communicate complex and sophisticated outputs to professional stakeholders.

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 255 hours

Face-to-face learning = 45 hours

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/3C84E119-06CA-10A2-581D-8F708E1ACAE7.html?lang=en-GB&login=1

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Group presentation (30 minutes)

Students will be provided a list of Project Management Challenges (to address UN Sustainability Goals) and then work in small groups to develop a set of preliminary project proposals to address an issue or opportunity in the field of project management. The presentation will focus on explaining what has been done before

on that issue and on what students propose to tackle it. This process requires students to engage in collective and collaborative desk-based research focusing on academic and professional literature, including examples of relevant projects.

Their work will involve jointly discussing and agreeing on the justification of the challenge choice, the identification and review of the underpinning literature, the evaluation of the usefulness of existing research and project methodologies, a clear definition and justification of the collective project scope and the development and justification of individual work breakdown structures and work packages

To achieve this, the presentation will cover:
- A clear problem statement
- A review of existing interventions and approaches to the problem
- An overview of research evaluating these interventions
- A proposed collective project scope
- An outline of the individual work packages, which will be addressed in detail by each student

The module assessment provides for marks for content and structure to be varied between students according to individual contributions, subject to the provision of specified evidence.

Formative feedback will be provided in live class discussion and question and answer sessions.

Resit assessment will be the same as the first-sit where possible.
Where group work is not possible, the resit will be an individual Recorded PowerPoint presentation (15 minutes) plus a reflective piece (1500 words) on the role of project teams in addressing the challenge.

Assessment tasks:

Presentation (First Sit)
Description: Group presentation (30 minutes)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: Yes

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Presentation (Resit)

Description: Group presentation (30 minutes) or equivalent.

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: Yes

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Project Management [Frenchay] MSc 2025-26