Module Specification

Interim Research Report

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Contents

Part 1: Information

Module title: Interim Research Report

Module code: USSJFS-30-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

Faculty: Faculty of Health & Applied Sciences

Department: HAS Dept of Applied Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Field: Applied Sciences

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: Project Development Towards a Doctorate 2023-24

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: See Learning Outcomes.

Outline syllabus: A series of one-to-one tutorials will run which are designed to offer support and guidance during the project process and generation of the interim report, whose recommended length is 10,000 words maximum. The supervisory

team, and particularly the Director of Studies (DoS) will meet with the student at least four times a year to discuss progress and the interim report will be written and submitted for a progression exam viva voce examination.

The interim report will detail the hypothesis, research results, statistical analyses, discussion of these results in the context of published work and future planned work. The report is assessed by the supervisory team plus an internal examiner; appropriate forms are filled out following the standard progression examination protocol set out by the appropriate research degrees committee.

It is anticipated that the students pass the progression exam by the middle of year three of the five year programme; and certainly by no later than the end of year three. The outcome of both the report and oral defence of the research will support progress towards the DBMS.

For the purpose of assessment, the progression report and viva voce examination is uncoupled from this module so that it is instead embedded into the normal doctoral/postgraduate journey through the research degrees committee. Instead, this module requires the students to develop their critical thinking and science communication skills by preparing a systematic review based on the background of the doctoral research project, and to present a brief talk (in the style of a talk typically presented at scientific meetings) that outlines their research aims, preliminary results and future work plans. The systematic review will be submitted in the December DBMS session in year two, and marked independently by two members of staff. The talk will be given in the January DBMS session in year three, namely a few months before the progression report is due to be examined. The talk will also be marked by two members of staff, taking into account the presentation, clarity, scientific content and ability to answer questions. The students will have the opportunity to receive feedback on their review and talk, all of which help them prepare for the progression examination.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Support for the research studies takes the form of a series of meetings with the supervisory team and one-to-one support in the preparation of the interim report. Preparation for the systematic review and talk will be undertaken in a tutorial context.

The contact hours (12) are distributed as follows:

12 hours tutorials (8 hours in year 2, 4 hours in year 3).

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

MO1 Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the research process involved with completion of a research study

MO2 Demonstrate the ability to define and execute objectives

MO3 Perform an investigation of a well-defined research problem related to biomedical science practice

MO4 Demonstrate the ability to draw valid conclusions based on research observation

MO5 Discuss critically the significance and contribution of their project to existing published work and biomedical science practice

MO6 Develop their scientific writing skills by preparing a systematic review

MO7 Utilise electronic information sources effectively as learning aids

MO8 Demonstrate an awareness of doctorate level trajectory by the oral presentation and defence of interim research study

MO9 Develop a concept of lateral thinking and appreciation of future research strategies

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 288 hours

Face-to-face learning = 12 hours

Total = 300

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/ussjfs-30-m.html

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The Assessment for this module is designed to test the breadth and depth of students' knowledge, as well as their ability to analyse, synthesize and summarise information critically, including published research and data from the 'grey' literature.

The module will be assessed through a professionally prepared systematic review and oral presentation which will be first and second marked, with detailed feedback provided to the student. This module requires the students to develop their critical thinking and science communication skills which outline their research aims, preliminary results and future work plans.

Systematic reviews are intended to be unbiased reviews of the literature pertaining to the topic area that the student is researching. As a prequel to writing their progression dissertation, and as a framework for their final thesis, students will be required to analyse the literature, filter the retrieved journals and present a systematic review which will represent a typical introduction to a thesis.

Presentation of a brief talk (in the style of a talk typically presented at scientific meetings) enhances the student's communication skills and prepares them for defence of their progression and final thesis. The talk will be assessed by taking into account the presentation, clarity, scientific content and ability to answer questions.

The students will have the opportunity to receive feedback on their review and talk, all of which help them prepare for the progression examination.

Opportunities for formative assessment and feedback are built into the assignment and oral presentations.

Assessment tasks:

Presentation (First Sit)
Description: 20 minute oral presentation
Weighting: 50 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO4, MO5, MO7, MO8, MO9

Written Assignment (First Sit)
Description: Systematic review, up to 5000 words
Weighting: 50 %
Final assessment: No
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6, MO7, MO9

Presentation (Resit)
Description: 20 minute oral presentation
Weighting: 50 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO4, MO5, MO7, MO8, MO9

Written Assignment (Resit)
Description: Systematic review, up to 5000 words
Weighting: 50 %
Final assessment: No
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6, MO7, MO8, MO9

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Doctor of Biomedical Sciences [Frenchay] DBMS 2022-23