

**CORPORATE AND ACADEMIC SERVICES**

**MODULE SPECIFICATION**

Part 1: Basic Data					
Module Title	Dissertation				
Module Code	UMEN49-60-M	Level	M	Version	3.1
Owning Faculty	Faculty of Business and Law	Field	Economics		
Contributes towards	MSc Applied Economics, MSc/LLM Global Trade				
UWE Credit Rating	60	ECTS Credit Rating	30	Module Type	Dissertation
Pre-requisites	none		Co- requisites		
Excluded Combinations	none		Module Entry requirements		
Valid From	September 2005 (revised September 2014)		Valid to		

<b>CAP Approval Date</b>	22/5/14
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Part 2: Learning and Teaching	
Learning Outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this module students will be able to:</p> <p>The dissertation provides the student with the opportunity to work under supervision to produce a research project of Masters standard. As a result of preparing the dissertation, students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define a feasible and clear area of research and formulate and present an appropriate research project.</li> <li>• Critically review and evaluate relevant literature</li> <li>• Choose and use relevant research methods</li> <li>• Show familiarity with appropriate theoretical explanations of the observed phenomena.</li> <li>• Show independent and critical thought.</li> <li>• Produce a well structured, argued and presented piece of written work</li> </ul> <p>There may also be opportunities to study abroad or in relevant organisations subject to agreement with the organisation in question.</p>
Syllabus Outline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Production of a preliminary research proposal and the development of this under the guidance of an assigned supervisor. The topic will normally bear a clear relation to the students' chosen path.</li> <li>• Production of a literature review under the guidance of the supervisor.</li> <li>• Undertaking planned research under the guidance of the supervisor.</li> <li>• Production of a written dissertation</li> </ul>
Contact Hours	One scheduled workshop will be offered which will provide an introduction to the

	<p>module.</p> <p>Students will consult academic staff about topics and for assistance with the development of their proposals in the first half of semester 2. These consultations will take place face to face or via email or other electronic media.</p> <p>Up to 10 hours of supervision by the academic supervisor and/or the organisational mentor which will take place face to face or via email or other electronic media.</p>																														
Teaching and Learning Methods	<p><b>Where a student chooses to undertake an academic dissertation, the following procedures should be followed:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Preparation of a dissertation proposal and plan, identifying research questions, outlining the methodology, reviewing the literature and reflecting on the research process.</li><li>2. Students should develop and carry out their investigation in regular consultation with their allocated supervisor.</li><li>3. Preparation of a 15 000 word (max) dissertation.</li></ol> <p><b>Where a student chooses to undertake a work-based project, the following procedures should be followed:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Preparation of a learning contract agreed between the learner, host organisation(s) and academic supervisor which sets out the aims and parameters of the work-placed project, the timetable and resources required for the investigation. The learning contract should also formally consider ethical issues.</li><li>2. The student will use their learning contract to explore and further enquire into their chosen work-based project in regular consultation with their organisational mentor and their academic supervisor.</li><li>3. Preparation of a 15 000 word (max) project report.</li></ol> <p>Students will be expected to develop their own learning and skills by independently using resources within the University Library. Appropriate reading will be highlighted in discussion with the supervisor / organisational mentor.</p>																														
Key Information Sets Information	<p><b>Coursework:</b> Written assignment dissertation.</p> <p>Please note that this is the total of various types of assessment and will not necessarily reflect the component and module weightings in the Assessment section of this module description:</p> <table><tr><td colspan="4">Total assessment of the module:</td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td colspan="4">Written exam assessment percentage</td><td>0%</td></tr><tr><td colspan="4">Coursework assessment percentage</td><td>100%</td></tr><tr><td colspan="4">Practical exam assessment percentage</td><td>0%</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>100%</td></tr></table>	Total assessment of the module:										Written exam assessment percentage				0%	Coursework assessment percentage				100%	Practical exam assessment percentage				0%					100%
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Reading Strategy	<p>All students will be encouraged to make full use of the print and electronic resources available to them through membership of the University. These include a range of electronic journals and a wide variety of resources available through websites and information gateways. The University Library's web pages provide access to subject relevant resources and services, and to the library catalogue. Many resources can be accessed remotely.</p> <p>Students will be directed towards the MSc Research Learning Unit which has been developed to support the Dissertation module and which can be accessed via the</p>																														

	Dissertation Blackboard as well as other resources made available via the Dissertation Blackboard
Indicative Reading List	<p>G. Allan and C. Skinner (eds) <i>Handbook for Research Students in the Social Sciences</i> (Routledge, 1991)</p> <p>M. Henn, et. al., <i>A Critical Introduction to Social Research</i> (2<sup>nd</sup> edn, Sage 2009)</p> <p>P. Burnham et. al., <i>Research Methods in Politics</i>. London (Palgrave 2008)</p> <p>D. M. Silbergh, <i>Doing Dissertations in Politics</i> London (Routledge 2001)</p> <p>L. Harrison, <i>Political Research: an introduction</i> (Routledge, 2001)</p> <p>J. Bell, <i>Doing Your Research Project</i> (Open University Press, 2010)</p> <p>D. Dorling and S. Simpson (eds) <i>Statistics in Society</i> (Arnold, 1999)</p> <p>M. Intriligator, R. Bodlin, and C. Hsaio, <i>Econometric Models, Techniques and Applications</i> (Prentice Hall, 1996).</p> <p>R. Murray, <i>How to Write a thesis</i> (Open University Press, 2011)</p> <p>Relevant subject specific reading will be provided by the supervisor.</p> <p>Students will be expected to generate their own reading lists focusing on their individual dissertation/project topics in consultation with their supervisors.</p>

### Part 3: Assessment

Assessment Strategy	Assessment will be by means of a single dissertation/report. This dissertation/report will involve either researching an issue of academic relevance in law or a work-based project with a legal element. Students will draw on the skills and knowledge developed on taught modules in the MSc/LLM, in particular the Research Methods module, and will apply appropriate methodologies and enquiry methods as appropriate.
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Identify final assessment component and element	<b>Component A</b>	
% weighting between components A and B (Standard modules only)	<b>A:</b>	<b>B:</b>
	<b>100%</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>First Sit</b>		
<b>Component A</b> (controlled conditions) <b>Description of each element</b>	<b>Element weighting</b> (as % of component)	
Dissertation (maximum 15,000-words)	100%	
<b>Component B</b> <b>Description of each element</b>	<b>Element weighting</b> (as % of component)	
n/a		

Resit (further attendance at taught classes is not required)	
Component A (controlled conditions) Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)
Dissertation (maximum 15,000-words)	100%
Component B Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)
n/a	
If a student is permitted a <b>RETAKE</b> of the module the assessment will be that indicated by the Module Description at the time that retake commences.	