



MODULE SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Information

Module Title	Economic Research Methods		
Module Code	UMED8N-15-2	Level	2
For implementation from	September 2019		
UWE Credit Rating	15	ECTS Credit Rating	7.5
Faculty	FBL	Field	Economics
Department	BBS: Accounting, Economics and Finance		
Contributes towards	BA (Hons)Economics, BSc (Hons)Economics; BA (Hons) Banking and Finance		
Module type:	Standard		
Pre-requisites	None		
Excluded Combinations	None		
Co- requisites	None		
Module Entry requirements	N/A		

Part 2: Description

The aim of this module is to:

- Teach students how to organise and project manage a small research project (regardless of the ways in which they might collect or analyse their evidence) – ie a research project of similar scope to those they need to do both within their placement year and their 3rd year ‘dissertation’ option;
- Outline the ways in which economists collect and analyse research evidence that do not depend on econometric ways of knowing (primary research and non-econometric analysis of secondary research evidence);
- Further the student’s capacity to link the concepts and theories they are aware of from their programme to empirical evidence (that they can construct).

The students will be presented with 36 hours of contact time with the teaching team supported by online learning materials where appropriate. There is an expectation that students will need to extend the core knowledge they need to pass this module from the reading materials to which they are given access (via the reading list). A body of core ideas will be delivered both through a lecture format but also through workshops where students are expected to apply concepts and ideas outlined both in the lectures and the core reading for this module.

Outside of the 36 taught hours, the teaching team will be available during the semester during their office hours (2 hours a week) for face to face meetings.

Queries and extended discussions with staff can also be approached virtually through e-mail.

In terms of indicative content, this module will cover:

- The structure and presentation of a research project/a research proposal in economics and related disciplines (how you put together a plausible case for finding an empirical answer to a research question you define)
- How you identify an amenable research question and frame it with a literature review in economics (and sub-disciplines/related disciplines of economics)
- Research strategies (such as surveys, experiments, case studies, sampling, mixed/multi method approaches)
- How you collect research data (such as questionnaires, secondary sources, interviews)
- How you put together a plausible (detailed) data analysis plan (covering both quantitative and qualitative forms of analysis)
- Research ethics

Part 3: Assessment

Summative assessment will be based on two pieces of assessed work (Components A and B).

Summative Assessment

Component A: (worth 25% of total marks on this module)

In groups the students will develop an outline research design to explore a question in economics. The in-class group presentation will cover: the identification of a research question, the development of a literature review that frames the research question and an overall research design (strategy) based on material covered in class. The students (as groups) will do a 10 minute presentation and then respond to questions (of clarification and content).

The groups will be assessed on (90% of component A mark):

- the quality of the presentation itself (timing, slides, presentation skills)
- the substantive content of the proposal (general coherence of proposal, amenability of research question, quality of literature review work and the appropriateness of the research design)

Individuals will be assessed on (10% of component A mark):

- their knowledgeable ability in responding to questions about their proposal and/or presentation skills

Students will receive oral feedback during the presentation that they can use in preparing for Component B.

Component B: (worth 75% of total marks on this module)

The student individually writes a 2,500 word research proposal that [ideally] builds on their group Component A submission. The Component B submission will build on work the students have already completed as part of Component A: identify an amenable research question, frame that research question with some academic literature, present an overall research design. Component B will also set out data collection instruments for generating data, present a plausible and concrete data analysis plan based on material covered by the module and address any ethical issues that relate to their research design. On top of this the students will demonstrate the feasibility of their proposal through carrying out a pilot piece of work relating to one of their data collection instruments (questionnaires, interview, document or observation schedules or their experiment protocols). The research proposal will detail the pilot activities and reflections on the pilot process.

Assessment is 2,500 word research proposal.

The students will be assessed on:

- The quality of the report itself (spelling, punctuation, grammar, expression, referencing)
- The substantive content of the proposal (general coherence of proposal, amenability of research question, quality of literature review work, the appropriateness of the research design, the appropriateness of data collection instruments, the coherence and relevance of data analysis plan, ethical considerations)
- The quality of reflection relating to the pilot work.

Formative Assessment:


This module deploys a mix of formative and summative assessment. Formative assessment takes various forms

and will occur throughout the module in particular through the workshop exercises. Formative feedback may take the form of:

1. Engagement with other students and the teaching team in workshops.
2. Email questions and out of class discussions with the teaching team
3. Regular feedback via blackboard announcements and ad hoc podcasts
4. In class quizzes

Formative assessment will be important because the summative assessment all occurs late in this particular module. This will be provided by doing the in class presentations (Component A of the summative assessment) early in the module giving groups feedback that the students can then work on for their individual submission (Component B).

Identify final timetabled piece of assessment (component and element)	Component B	
% weighting between components A and B (Standard modules only)	A:	B:
	25%	75%
First Sit		
Component A (controlled conditions) Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)	
1. In-class group presentation of research design prepared in groups	100%	
Component B Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)	
1. 2500 word research proposal (individual assignment) with pilot	100%	
Resit (further attendance at taught classes is not required)		
Component A (controlled conditions) Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)	
1. Individual presentation of a research proposal (in person)	100%	
Component B Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)	
1. 2500 word research proposal (individual assignment) with pilot	100%	
Part 4: Learning Outcomes & KIS Data		
Learning Outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this module students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply the principles and practice of the design of investigative projects in Economics and related disciplines (A) • Evaluate and assess the roles and purposes of alternative forms of enquiry and research (A, B) • Evaluate, select and pursue alternative enquiry approaches, methods and methodologies in economics and related disciplines (B) • Apply and define an ethical framework to the process and management of a research project (B) • Interpret and evaluate published academic research and other evidence relating to economics and related disciplines (A, B) • Design (as a group) and present an outline research proposal through a group presentation (A) 	

Key Information Sets Information (KIS)	Key Information Set - Module data				
	Number of credits for this module				
Contact Hours					15
	Hours to be allocated	Scheduled learning and teaching study hours	Independent study hours	Placement study hours	Allocated Hours
	150	36	114	0	150
					
Total Assessment	The table below indicates as a percentage the total assessment of the module which constitutes a;				
	<p>Written Exam: Unseen or open book written exam Coursework: Written assignment or essay, report, dissertation, portfolio, project or in class test Practical Exam: Oral Assessment and/or presentation, practical skills assessment, practical exam (i.e. an exam determining mastery of a technique)</p>				
	Total assessment of the module:				
	Written exam assessment percentage				0%
	Coursework assessment percentage				75%
	Practical exam assessment percentage				25%
					100%
Reading List	Reading List link https://uwe.rl.talis.com/search.html?q=UMED8N-15-2&qbutton=				

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First Approval Date (and panel type)	QMAC Dec 2011			
Revision	18 November 2015 (CAP)	Version	2	link to RIA
ASQC	1 June 2016 (CAP)		2.1	
Approval Date	30 May 2019		3	
<i>Update this row each time a change goes to ASQC</i>				