



## **Module Specification**

### **Economic Research Methods**

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## Part 1: Information

**Module title:** Economic Research Methods

**Module code:** UMED8N-15-2

**Level:** Level 5

**For implementation from:** 2023-24

**UWE credit rating:** 15

**ECTS credit rating:** 7.5

**Faculty:** Faculty of Business & Law

**Department:** FBL Dept of Accounting Economics & Finance

**Partner institutions:** None

**Delivery locations:** Not in use for Modules

**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:** Not applicable

**Features:** Not applicable

**Educational aims:** 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).

**Outline syllabus:** 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: Teaching and learning methods**

**Teaching and learning methods:** 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.

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

**MO1** Apply the principles and practice of the design of investigative projects in Economics and related disciplines

**MO2** Evaluate and assess the roles and purposes of alternative forms of enquiry and research

**MO3** Evaluate, select and pursue alternative enquiry approaches, methods and methodologies in economics and related disciplines

**MO4** Apply and define an ethical framework to the process and management of a research project

**MO5** Interpret and evaluate published academic research and other evidence relating to economics and related disciplines

**MO6** Design (as a group) and present an outline research proposal through a group presentation

**Hours to be allocated:** 150

**Contact hours:**

Independent study/self-guided study = 114 hours

Face-to-face learning = 36 hours

Total = 150

**Reading list:** The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/umed8n-15-2.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/umed8n-15-2.html>

## Part 4: Assessment

**Assessment strategy:** Summative assessment will be based on two pieces of assessed work (Assessment Task 1 and Assessment Task 2).

Summative Assessment

Assessment Task 1: (worth 25% of total marks on this module)

In groups, students will compile a narrated PowerPoint of a 10 minute group presentation that focuses on the outline research design for a research question of their choice. The 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 groups will be assessed on :

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. Students will receive feedback that they can use in preparing for Assessment Task 2.

Assessment Task 2: (worth 75% of total marks on this module)

The student individually writes a 2,500 word research proposal that [ideally] builds on their group Assessment Task 1 submission. The Assessment Task 2 submission will build on work the students have already completed as part of Assessment Task 1:

identify an amenable research question, frame that research question with some academic literature, present an overall research design. Assessment Task 2 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:

Engagement with other students and the teaching team in workshops.

Email questions and out of class discussions with the teaching team

Regular feedback via blackboard announcements and ad hoc podcasts

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 group presentations (Assessment Task 1 of the summative assessment) early in the module giving groups feedback that the students can then work on for their individual submission (Assessment Task 2).

### **Assessment components:**

#### **Presentation (First Sit)**

Description: Group presentation - narrated powerpoint - 10 minutes

Weighting: 25 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: Yes

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO5, MO6

#### **Written Assignment (First Sit)**

Description: 2500 word research proposal (individual assignment) with pilot

Weighting: 75 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

#### **Presentation (Resit)**

Description: Individual presentation of a research proposal - narrated powerpoint max 10 mins. Min 1 slide with reflection on groupwork skills .

Weighting: 25 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested:

**Written Assignment (Resit)**

Description: 2500 word research proposal (individual assignment) with pilot

Weighting: 75 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested:

**Part 5: Contributes towards**

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Economics [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Economics {Dual} [Taylors] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Economics [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2022-23

Economics {Dual} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Economics {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22

Economics {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22

Economics {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Economics {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Banking and Finance [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2022-23

Banking and Finance {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22

Banking and Finance {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22