University of the West of England
BRISTOL

CORPORATE AND ACADEMIC SERVICES

MODULE SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Basic Data						
Module Title	Consultancy Dissertation					
Module Code	UMSDFP-45-M		Level	M	Version	1
Owning Faculty	FBL		Field	Strategy and International Business		
Contributes towards	MBA					
UWE Credit Rating	45	ECTS Credit Rating	22.5	Module Type	Dissertation	
Pre-requisites	Integrated Management Research and Professional Development		Co- requisites	none		
Excluded Combinations	Executive Dissertation UMSDFN-45-M		Module Entry requirements	Must have passed 60 credits of MBA modules and have submitted a consultancy proposal for the Integrated Management Research and Professional Development module		
Valid From	September 2014		Valid to			

CAP Approval Date	22 May 2014

Part 2: Learning and Teaching	
Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this module students will be able to: • critically appreciate the key drivers, issues and factors relating to a specific area of application in the field of consultancy • critically explore and apply both primary and secondary research methodologies within the consultancy project demonstrate the ability to conduct research into complex business and management issues through research design, data collection, analysis, synthesis and produce robust recommendations • demonstrate highly effective consulting skills and the ability to deploy such skills in complex organisational contexts • reflect critically on their learning from conducting the project • show clear evidence of an advanced ability to define and address the consulting issues under study • demonstrate evidence of robust and effective communication with project stakeholders in fulfilling a position similar to that of a managing partner within a consultancy company • evidence critical thinking and creativity: organise thoughts, analyse, synthesise and critically appraise • demonstrate the ability to recognise and address ethical dilemmas and apply

	ethical and organisational values to situations and choices • demonstrate a variety of core consulting skills including all or some of the following: structured [market] research skills, interviewing techniques, group / team management, presentation and project management skills.
Syllabus Outline	***The formal consulting proposal and client contract will be developed within the Integrated Management Research and Professional Development module.*** The module is a combination of sound academic underpinning and practical application. It enables students to further develop knowledge developed within the MBA programme applied within the context of their professional experience. Through independent study, in consultation with supervisors, they will be able to reflect on, and learn, from that experience and thus be able to integrate new knowledge with past and current professional experience and apply it in the context of their consultancy work. The project is mentored by a suitably qualified supervisor and the i-kit software package is utilised throughout.
Contact Hours	Based on the consultancy proposal submitted for the Integrated Management Research and Professional Development module, students will be allocated supervisors. Students should consult their supervisors on a regular basis throughout the design and execution of their consultancy study. These consultations may take place face to face or via email or other electronic media. Approximate distribution of activities within the consulting dissertation will be: Hours Reading [content / process refresher]: 45 Applied consulting topics: 45 Consulting project. Research and client-based practice: 315 Reflective practice: 45
Teaching and Learning Methods	This module will involve supervision of a live project. Mentoring is provided by the supervisor who will provide both core consulting skills, in addition to those taught within the spine module (Integrated Management Research and Professional Development), and technical guidance relating to the content of the consultancy issue. The student should have at least four meetings with the supervisor and these will include: post-proposal project planning session, further interim meetings, as necessary, to discuss project progress; discussion of the proposed presentation and report which will from an essential part of the dissertation [immediately prior to final client reporting]. It is intended that in the future the module delivery will be either face-to-face on a weekly basis, block delivery on a part-time basis and fully or partially online delivery. In the on line delivery, students could have access to some of the following contents: lectures, filmed interviews, virtual library tours and workshops, access to group tutorials, access to monitored discussion boards, supported videoconference sessions. It is intended that they would be able to undertake supported sessions virtually and participate in webinars, blogs and other virtual teaching environments. Some sessions could be delivered simultaneously for both present and remote attendants through conference call and virtual discussion groups (synchronously and asynchronously).
Reading Strategy	Students taking this module will need to reprise learning gained on previous modules relevant to the consulting project in which they are involved. They will also need to read in the area of consulting process but will largely apply learning gained in the Integrated Management Research and Professional Development module, with respect to research processes. The 'i-kit' software, a comprehensive consultant's toolkit, uses a unique structure which breaks a consultancy project into 16 areas of practice giving, with guidance, examples and exercises provided for each component area. This will be used throughout the live project. 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 web sites and information gateways. The University Library web pages provide access to subject relevant resources and services and to the library catalogue. Many resources can be

| | accessed remotely. Students will be presented with opportunities within the curriculum to develop their information retrieval and evaluation skills in order to identify such resources effectively.

Essential reading

Given the specificity attached to each consulting-based dissertation the reading will be tailored to the needs of each situation and individual. Some essential reading will be specified in the module handbook and on Blackboard at the start of the module. This is potentially subject to change at short notice and students should not purchase any text without the guidance of the module leader. |
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| Indicative Reading List | The i-kit software programme is essential for successful completion of the consultancy dissertation. |

Part 3: Assessment

| Assessment Strategy | 70% Consultancy report (11,000 words)

30% Client presentation and question and answer session (30 minutes)

The supervisor will monitor student progress, in terms of increased capability with respect to consulting practice and process, through discussion of issues utilising the student's project diary. |
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Identify final assessment component and element	**A1**		
% weighting between components A and B (Standard modules only)		**A:** **70%**	**B:** **30%**

First Sit

Component A (controlled conditions) **Description of each element**	**Element weighting** (as % of component)
1. Written report (11,000 words)	70%
2. Presentation (30 minutes)	30%
Component B **Description of each element**	**Element weighting** (as % of component)
n/a	

Resit

Component A (controlled conditions) **Description of each element**	**Element weighting** (as % of component)
1. Written report (11,000 words)	70%
2. Presentation (30 minutes)	30%
Component B **Description of each element**	**Element weighting** (as % of component)
n/a	
If a student is permitted a **RETAKE** of the module the assessment will be that indicated by the Module Description at the time that retake commences.	