



MODULE SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Information			
Module Title	Dissertation		
Module Code	UBGMT6-30-M	Level	Level 7
For implementation from	2018-19		
UWE Credit Rating	30	ECTS Credit Rating	15
Faculty	Faculty of Environment & Technology	Field	Geography and Environmental Management
Department	FET Dept of Geography & Environmental Mgmt		
Contributes towards			
Module type:	Project		
Pre-requisites	None		
Excluded Combinations	None		
Co- requisites	None		
Module Entry requirements	None		

Part 2: Description
<p>Educational Aims: See Learning Outcomes.</p> <p>In terms of the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) Learning Outcomes for masters' programmes, on completion of the module the student should be able to respond to a series of the identified learning outcomes depending upon their area of focus. Students will therefore Consolidate their knowledge (C) and be Assessed (A) in selected LO from A1 to A13 in accordance with the scope and parameters of their study.</p> <p>Outline Syllabus: RESEARCH METHODS (ONLINE CONTENT)</p> <p>Introduction - describes the aims, content and structure of the module, as well as how it interfaces with the dissertation.</p>

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Research Philosophy and Principles – consolidation of knowledge from Research Techniques module and providing a reference source concerning the nature of understanding, research and research problems; different methods, philosophies and assumptions; current issues and different research perspectives; and the important areas of values and objectivity.

Managing the Research Process - consolidation of knowledge from Research Techniques module and providing a reference source concerning the planning and management of a piece of research, from choosing a subject, through asking and answering a specific question, clarifying concepts and developing indicators, to evolving a methodology.

Research Practice - consolidation of knowledge from Research Techniques module and providing a reference source concerning different research practices, methods and information sources upon which to reflect in the context of their applicability to study.

Research Strategy - consolidation of knowledge from Research Techniques module and providing a reference source concerning the importance of 'scoping' a programme, carrying out a literature review and establishing a sound methodology. Concluding and reflecting on the work is also covered here.

Research Ethics - consolidation of knowledge from Research Techniques module and providing a reference source concerning the position of the researcher and the 'researched' and sets down standards for honest, open and ethical behaviour.

Teaching and Learning Methods: This is a project module, and students are expected to work unsupervised for most of the study hours allocated for this module.

Students will have online content materials provided to support their studies, with their progress supported by personal supervisors who will offer direct and remote support (Skype, email, telephone etc).

Students will be provided with materials to consolidate knowledge gained in the Research Techniques module and provide reference materials to support their dissertation progress.

Upon completion of the research element of the module, students will work closely with academic staff to formulate their research question, and /or hypothesis and identify key project objectives.

Students will be allocated a project supervisor and it is the responsibility of the student to make sure that they work closely with their supervisor and keep them informed of their progress.

Students can expect to have at least 12 hours of contact time. This time may be divided up in a range of ways and may be with members of staff other than their supervisor.

Students will be supported by personal supervisors who will offer direct and remote support (Skype, email, telephone etc).

Independent learning

The dissertation is essentially a piece of independent work, so the majority of the study hours will be spent by students working independently, under the broad guidance of their supervisor.

Part 3: Assessment

There are two elements to the assessment, to encourage students to engage with the dissertation process at an early stage. This also allows for formal points of engagement to enable supervisors to monitor individual student's progress.

Students complete a dissertation proposal once they have completed the research methods section of the module. This is a 2000 word document which will propose a research question or hypothesis and place this proposal in the context of the relevant literature.

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RESEARCH PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Defining research problem; setting context of research; justification of purpose of research.

Define research questions/ hypotheses.

Establishing objectives; the literature review; selecting data collection methods; identifying source requirements; specifying time/milestones preparing research proposal.

Students will complete the final piece of work which will be a dissertation/project dissertation /project of 12,000 words.

FINAL DISSERTATION SUBMISSION

Students undertake a piece of independent research which explores in depth a topic that is relevant to their studies.

Under the supervision of a tutor, students are expected to select relevant research methods introduced in the earlier part of the module and develop these to enable them to produce a piece of work that contributes to existing research in their field of study.

The written dissertation should make clear how the primary research was designed and conducted and discussion of the outcomes of primary research should be clearly related to existing literature.

Formative feedback is an ongoing part of this module.

First Sit Components	Final Assessment	Element weighting	Description
Written Assignment - Component A		15 %	Dissertation proposal (2000 words)
Dissertation - Component A	✓	85 %	Dissertation (Final Submission) 12,000 words
Resit Components	Final Assessment	Element weighting	Description
Dissertation - Component A	✓	100 %	Dissertation (Final Submission) 12,000 words

Part 4: Teaching and Learning Methods

Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this module students will be able to:	
		Module Learning Outcomes
	MO1	Define or select a research question and/or hypothesis and provide a rationale for this which demonstrates a thorough grasp of existing literature on the subject.
	MO2	Design an appropriate research strategy to examine the chosen question(s) and/ or hypothesis, demonstrating a critical awareness of the methodological problems posed by the investigation.
	MO3	Collect, analyse and synthesise evidence and/or data using appropriate techniques and instruments.
	MO4	Demonstrate knowledge and advanced understanding of relevant concepts in a specific subject area.

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	MO5	Apply advanced research and analytical skills to an extended piece of writing, drawing on key theoretical perspectives in their discipline area.
	MO6	Present and communicate ideas and conclusions and or recommendations in a clear and accessible manner using language appropriate to academic writing.
	MO7	Work independently to plan and manage a complex research project over an extended period of time and complete it by a given deadline.
	MO8	Explore and understand the issues of ethics, validity, trustworthiness and reliability in research.
	MO9	Critically reflect on the research process and identify limitations of the work.
Contact Hours	Contact Hours	
	Independent Study Hours:	
	Independent study/self-guided study	288
	Total Independent Study Hours:	288
	Scheduled Learning and Teaching Hours:	
	Face-to-face learning	12
	Total Scheduled Learning and Teaching Hours:	12
	Hours to be allocated	300
	Allocated Hours	300
Reading List	<p>The reading list for this module can be accessed via the following link:</p> <p>https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ubgmt6-30-m.html</p>	