



## **Module Specification**

### Dissertation

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#### **Contents**

<b>Module Specification .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Part 1: Information .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Part 2: Description .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Part 3: Teaching and learning methods .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Part 4: Assessment.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Part 5: Contributes towards .....</b>	<b>8</b>

## Part 1: Information

**Module title:** Dissertation

**Module code:** UBGMT6-30-M

**Level:** Level 7

**For implementation from:** 2023-24

**UWE credit rating:** 30

**ECTS credit rating:** 15

**Faculty:** Faculty of Environment & Technology

**Department:** FET Dept of Geography & Environmental Mgmt

**Partner institutions:** None

**Field:** Geography and Environmental Management

**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:** See Learning Outcomes.

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.

**Outline syllabus: RESEARCH METHODS (ONLINE CONTENT):**

Introduction - describes the aims, content and structure of the module, as well as how it interfaces with the dissertation.

Research Philosophy and Principles – consolidation of knowledge from research methods and techniques used in other modules on the programme 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 other modules in which the student is required to undertake information/data gathering 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 provided by other modules 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 other modules 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 - embedded within the programme providing a reference source

concerning the position of the researcher and the 'researched' and sets down standards for honest, open and ethical behaviour.

### **Part 3: Teaching and learning methods**

**Teaching and learning methods:** The programme follows a Programmatic by Design approach in which research methods are embedded as a strand throughout the programme. A key exercise within this module to explore and 'test' the appropriateness of specific research methods is the 'research proposal'. This is a key stage in the student's dissertation progression and allows them to gain formal feedback on their suggested approach. The intention is that this builds on a research narrative throughout the course whereby students are encouraged to find their own sources of data and information.

Students will be provided with online reading materials to consolidate knowledge gained from the research methods used in other modules on the programme. They will be provided with reference materials that support their progress through the preparation of their dissertation.

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 5 hours of contact time with their tutor, however 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, student will be able to take responsibility for their own time management and progress, so the majority of the study hours will be spent by students working independently, under the broad guidance of their supervisor.

## Contact Hours:

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.).

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

**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.

**Hours to be allocated:** 300

**Contact hours:**

Independent study/self-guided study = 295 hours

Face-to-face learning = 5 hours

Total = 300

**Reading list:** The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ubgmt6-30-m.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ubgmt6-30-m.html>

## Part 4: Assessment

**Assessment strategy:** The assessment comprises one summative component, the final dissertation submission.

However, in order to encourage students to engage with the dissertation process at an early stage students are expected to submit a research proposal paper , on which the student will receive formative feedback from their supervisor. This also allows for a formal point of engagement to enable supervisors to monitor individual student's progress.

This formative 'proposal' is a 2000 word document which it is suggested will propose a research question or hypothesis and place this proposal in the context of the relevant literature. It will also set out the key methods being identified for data collection.

**RESEARCH PROPOSAL INFORMAL 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.

**Assessment tasks:**

**Dissertation (First Sit)**

Description: Dissertation (Final Submission) 12,000 words

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6, MO7, MO8, MO9

**Dissertation (Resit)**

Description: Dissertation (Final Submission) 12,000 words

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6, MO7, MO8, MO9

**Part 5: Contributes towards**

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Urban Planning [Frenchay] MSc 2023-24

Planning and Urban Leadership [Distance] MSc 2023-24

Planning and Urban Leadership [Distance] MSc 2022-23

Urban Planning {Apprenticeship-UWE} [Frenchay] MSc 2022-23

Urban Planning [Frenchay] MSc 2022-23