Module Descriptor

Title	Finance & Accounting Dissertation (CIMA)		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	Approved
Code	ACCT11029	**SCQF Level**	11
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	**Business & Creative Industries**		
Module Co-ordinator	G McPake		

Summary of Module

This module develops students' understanding of, and skills in, the academic research process. Students are introduced to the philosophical concepts underpinning good research and a range of qualitative and quantitative research methods. Students build upon and further develop their research proposals to show their abilities to choose feasible and robust research ideas, formulate achievable aims and objectives, and select and design appropriate research strategies.

This module also aims to allow students to undertake a sustained, rigorous, and independent investigation of applied finance or accounting topics. Therefore, students must choose a topic, theme, or problem for investigation and provide a rationale for its selection; identify a series of specific research questions and objectives for the proposed investigation; and formulate a research design appropriate to the problem or topic identified.

The resulting dissertation should present and interpret research findings and critically evaluate the relevant underpinning academic and professional literature. In addition, it is also intended that the experience of carrying out the applied research and writing up the results will provide participants with opportunities to:

- Demonstrate their capability for analysis and reflection.
- Develop the skills and knowledge necessary for lifelong professional development.
- Acquire the confidence and capability to progress in the field of finance or accounting.

Module Delivery Method	**On-Campus[1]**	**Hybrid[2]**	**Online[3]**	**Work -Based Learning[4]**

[1] Where contact hours are synchronous/ live and take place fully on campus. Campus-based learning is focused on providing an interactive learning experience supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[2] The module includes a combination of synchronous/ live on-campus and online learning events. These will be supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus and online contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[3] Where all learning is solely delivered by web-based or internet-based technologies and the participants can engage in all learning activities through these means. All required contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[4] Learning activities where the main location for the learning experience is in the workplace. All required contact hours, whether online or on campus, will be clearly articulated to students

	☐		☒		☐	☐
Campuses for Module Delivery	☐ Ayr ☐ Dumfries		☐ Lanarkshire ☐ London ☒ Paisley		☐ Online / Distance Learning ☐ Other (specify)	
Terms for Module Delivery	Term 1	☐	Term 2	☐	Term 3	☒
Long-thin Delivery over more than one Term	Term 1 – Term 2	☐	Term 2 – Term 3	☐	Term 3 – Term 1	☐

Learning Outcomes	
L1	Demonstrate originality and creativity in the selection and justification of an appropriate research topic.
L2	Undertake a critical review of complex literature within the finance or accounting context.
L3	Display advanced proficiency in the evaluation and selection of techniques of data collection and analysis.
L4	Plan and produce a substantial piece of advanced independent work that shows the competence of carrying out a critical literature review, selecting appropriate research methods, and employing data analysis techniques that achieve the research aims.
L5	

Employability Skills and Personal Development Planning (PDP) Skills	
SCQF Headings	**During completion of this module, there will be an opportunity to achieve core skills in:**
Knowledge and Understanding (K and U)	**SCQF 11** -Critical understanding of key issues in research philosophy -Searching for and synthesising a range of research topics within a finance or/accounting context. -Critical understanding of theoretical perspectives on a selected topic of finance or accounting area. -Developing extensive knowledge of different research methodologies, designs, and techniques appropriate to finance or/and accounting contexts
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 11** -Evaluate challenges and opportunities in the selected project topic. -Constructing an appropriate research design. -Planning a significant piece of finance or/and accounting-based research.
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 11** -Giving reasoned justification for choices of topic and method. -Critically reviewing appropriate literature.

	-Demonstrating originality and creativity in topic choice.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 11** -Writing an advanced-level project, synthesizing and consolidating a wide range of appropriate and up-to-date literature, using secondary data, and demonstrating awareness of methodological choices all undertaken within an accounting context. -Communicating effectively and appropriately in speech and writing. -Interpreting complex secondary materials. -Making effective use of information retrieval systems and use information technology applications.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 11** -Taking responsibility for producing a project. -Working effectively with a project supervisor and in seminar groups. -the student will work on their own for larger periods setting personal goals and targets.

Prerequisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**
	Other	
Co-requisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**

Learning and Teaching	
In line with current learning and teaching principles, a 20-credit module includes 200 learning hours, normally including a minimum of 36 contact hours and maximum of 48 contact hours.	
Learning Activities During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below:	**Student Learning Hours** (Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Independent Study	475
Asynchronous Class Activity	100
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	15
Personal Development Plan	10
Please select	
Please select	
TOTAL	600

Indicative Resources
The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes:

Students are required to make use of written and electronic sources to complete their dissertation. Guidance will be provided by their supervisor. However, in addition to specialized academic references that will vary among students, some indicative resources are supplied below:

General:

Saunders, M.N.K., Lewis. P. and Thornhill, A. (Latest edition) Research Methods for Business Students, London, Pearson Education Ltd.

Literature Review:

Ridley, D. (Latest edition) The Literature Review: A Step-by-Step Guide for Students, London, Sage

Method and Methodology:

Paterson A. (Latest edition) Research Methods for Accounting & Finance, Goodfellow Publishers

Clough, P. and Nutbrown, C. (Latest edition) A Student's Guide to Methodology, Third Edition, London, Sage

(N.B. Although reading lists should include current publications, students are advised (particularly for material marked with an asterisk*) to wait until the start of session for confirmation of the most up-to-date material)

Attendance and Engagement Requirements

In line with the Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure, Students are academically engaged if they are regularly attending and participating in timetabled on-campus and online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, course-related learning resources, and complete assessments and submit these on time.

For the purposes of this module, academic engagement equates to the following:

Attendance at arranged supervisor meetings, submission of draft work as agreed with the supervisor, engagement with resources or articles suggested by a supervisor, attendance at any online or on-campus support sessions, and submission of the final dissertation by the deadline.

Equality and Diversity

The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Procedure can be accessed at the following link: UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code.

(N.B. Every effort will be made by the University to accommodate any equality and diversity issues brought to the attention of the School)

Supplemental Information

Divisional Programme Board	**Accounting, Finance & Law**
Overall Assessment Results	☐ **Pass / Fail** ☒ **Graded**
Module Eligible for Compensation	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No** **If this module is eligible for compensation, there may be cases where compensation is not permitted due to**

	programme accreditation requirements. Please check the associated programme specification for details.
School Assessment Board	Accounting, Finance & Law
Moderator	C Shrestha
External Examiner	S Gad
Accreditation Details	Professional exemptions from the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**
Changes / Version Number	MD Version

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
MSc Dissertation weighted at 100% of the final module mark. A minimum mark of 50% must be gained to pass the module. The word limit for the dissertation is between 15,000-18,000 words.It should have an appropriate structure and presentation. Electronic submission PDF.
Assessment 2
Assessment 3
(N.B. (i) Assessment Outcomes Grids for the module (one for each component) can be found below which clearly demonstrate how the learning outcomes of the module will be assessed. (ii) An indicative schedule listing approximate times within the academic calendar when assessment is likely to feature will be provided within the Student Module Handbook.)

Component 1							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Dissertation	☒	☒	☒	☒	☐	100	0

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		

Component 3							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
Combined total for all components						100%	0 hours

Change Control

What	When	Who
Update to reading list	26/02/25	Dr Gerry McPake