

University of the West of Scotland Module Descriptor

Session: 2024/25

Title of Module: Risk Analysis and Decision Making			
Code:	SCQF Level: 11 (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework)	Credit Points: 20	ECTS: 10 (European Credit Transfer Scheme)
School:	School of Business & Creative Industries		
Module Co-ordinator:	Ephias Ruhode		

Summary of Module

This module introduces students to decision making theory and the tools that might be used to aid decision making and problem solving applied to risk, crisis, and resilience. The module takes an applied perspective, focusing on decision-making in risky business environments. It will equip the student to develop an understanding of different approaches to analytical decision making in the context of business risk analysis. It will be of particular interest to students who appreciate adopting multiple perspectives in managing risk in complex systems, particularly human activity systems such as organizations.

The participants will learn how to apply to theories, tools, and techniques in decision analysis, risk and resilience management to complex organizational systems.

Applying decision making approaches enables analysing risks from multiple perspectives and gaining insights into complex relationships to developing organisational resilience.

This module will be of key interest to anyone in a leadership position and essential to anyone directly involved in managing compliance, strategic and operational risk.

Module Delivery Method

Face-To-Face	Blended	Fully Online	HybridC	HybridO	Work-based Learning
✓	✓				

Face-To-Face

Term used to describe the traditional classroom environment where the students and the lecturer meet synchronously in the same room for the whole provision.

Blended

A mode of delivery of a module or a programme that involves online and face-to-face delivery of learning, teaching and assessment activities, student support and feedback. A programme may be considered "blended" if it includes a combination of face-to-face, online and blended modules. If an online programme has any compulsory face-to-face and campus elements it must be described as blended with clearly articulated delivery information to manage student expectations

Fully Online

Instruction that is solely delivered by web-based or internet-based technologies. This term is used to describe the previously used terms distance learning and e learning.

HybridC

Online with mandatory face-to-face learning on Campus

HybridO

Online with optional face-to-face learning on Campus

Work-based Learning

Learning activities where the main location for the learning experience is in the workplace.

Campus(es) for Module Delivery

The module will **normally** be offered on the following campuses / or by Distance/Online Learning: (Provided viable student numbers permit)

Paisley:	Ayr:	Dumfries:	Lanarkshire:	London:	Distance/Online Learning:	Other:
✓			✓			

Term(s) for Module Delivery

(Provided viable student numbers permit).

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
✓	✓	✓

Learning Outcomes: (maximum of 5 statements)

On successful completion of this module the student will be able to:

- L1. Develop in-depth knowledge of management decision in the context of business risk
- L2. Critically evaluate models of management decision making to complex business problems involving risk
- L3. Critically assess the processes through which organisations make decisions in risky environments
- L4. Demonstrate the ability to apply tools, and techniques to complex business problems in the context of risk

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 Level 11. A critical understanding of the theories of risk management and decision making analysis and how they could be applied to organisational settings.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	SCQF Level 11. Using a range of skills, tools and techniques as appropriate to undertake analytical decisions about case studies and apply them to other scenarios. Applying a range of techniques of enquiry and research to investigate the topics of risk, resilience and decision making Planning and executing the analysis and presentation of the findings of problem solving in a business continuity context
Generic Cognitive skills	SCQF Level 7. Applying critical analysis and evaluation to complex and abstract situations and issues that exist in the business environment.

Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	SCQF Level 11. Critically evaluate data in a variety of forms to generate understanding	
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with others	SCQF Level 7. Exercising substantial autonomy and initiative in studies Taking responsibility for own work. Dealing with complex ethical and multicultural issues inherent in the business environment	
Pre-requisites:	Before undertaking this module, the student should have undertaken the following:	
	Module Code:	Module Title:
	Other:	
Co-requisites	Module Code:	Module Title:

* Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Learning and Teaching	
The strategy for delivery will be one on online information and student centred and directed learning. This will provide the foundation on which the students learning will be built through the face-to-face workshops. The workshops will have no more than 40 students. The students will come to the workshops having undertaken preparator work and during which this will be explored and contextualised in a range of scenarios. The workshops will be enquiry based with structure and unstructured activities. The students will be expected to take responsibility for their direction of learning.	
Learning Activities During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below:	Student Learning Hours (Normally totalling 200 hours): (Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Laboratory/Practical Demonstration/Workshop	36
Asynchronous Class Activity	18
Independent Study	146
	200 Hours Total
**Indicative Resources: (eg. Core text, journals, internet access)	
The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes: Goodwin, P. & Wright, G. (2014) Decision Analysis for Management Judgement 5th ed. Chichester: Wiley.	

Fundamentals of Risk Management: Understanding, Evaluating and Implementing Effective Enterprise Risk Management; Thompson C. and Hopkin P. 6th Ed (2021) Kogan Page Ltd

(**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)

Engagement Requirements

In line with the Academic Engagement Procedure, Students are defined as academically engaged if they are regularly engaged with timetabled teaching sessions, course-related learning resources including those in the Library and on the relevant learning platform, and complete assessments and submit these on time. Please refer to the Academic Engagement Procedure at the following link: [Academic engagement procedure](#)

Supplemental Information

Programme Board	
Assessment Results (Pass/Fail)	No
Subject Panel	MITE
Moderator	Sabrina Azzi
External Examiner	Peri Papadimitriou
Accreditation Details	
Changes/Version Number	2

Assessment: (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)

Portfolio of work

(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 Handbook.)

Assessment Outcome Grids (Footnote A.)

Component 1						
Assessment Type (Footnote B.)	Learning Outcome (1)	Learning Outcome (2)	Learning Outcome (3)	Learning Outcome (4)	Weighting (%) of Assessment Element	Timetabled Contact Hours

Portfolio of written work	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	0
Combined Total For All Components					100%	0 hours

Footnotes

A. Referred to within Assessment Section above

B. Identified in the Learning Outcome Section above

Note(s):

1. More than one assessment method can be used to assess individual learning outcomes.
2. Schools are responsible for determining student contact hours. Please refer to University Policy on contact hours (extract contained within section 10 of the Module Descriptor guidance note).
This will normally be variable across Schools, dependent on Programmes &/or Professional requirements.

Equality and Diversity

[UWS Equality and Diversity Policy](#)

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