University of the West of Scotland

Module Descriptor

Session: 2024/25

Title of Module: Risk Management and Systems Thinking			
Code:	**SCQF Level: 11 (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework)**	**Credit Points: 20**	**ECTS: 10 (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**
School:	School of School of Business & Creative Industries		
Module Co-ordinator:	Salman Ahmad		

Summary of Module
This module will introduce students to develop holistic thinking skills with systems thinking at its core applied to risk management. It will be of particular interest to students who appreciate adopting multiple perspectives in managing risk in a complex system, particularly human activity systems such as organizations.   The participants will learn how to apply to theories, tools, and techniques of systems thinking, to complex organizational systems.   Applying a systems approach enables analysing risks from multiple perspectives and gaining insights into complex relationships aiming to develop organizational resilience.   This module will be of key interest to anyone in a leadership position and essential to anyone directly involved in managing strategic and operational risk.

Module Delivery Method					
Face-To-Face	**Blended**	**Fully Online**	**HybridC**	**Hybrid 0**	**Work-Based Learning**
☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
See Guidance Note for details.					

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) (tick as appropriate)						
Paisley:	Ayr:	Dumfries:	Lanarkshire:	London:	Distance/Online Learning:	Other:
☒	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	Add name

Term(s) for Module Delivery					
(Provided viable student numbers permit).					
Term 1	☒	Term 2	☒	Term 3	☒

Learning Outcomes: (maximum of 5 statements) These should take cognisance of the SCQF level descriptors and be at the appropriate level for the module. At the end of this module the student will be able to:	
L1	Develop in-depth knowledge of systems and risk theory
L2	Critically evaluate systems thinking approaches
L3	Demonstrate an ability to apply systems thinking tools, and techniques to complex risk business problems
L4	Click or tap here to enter text.
L5	Click or tap here to enter text.

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 systems thinking and how they could be applied to organisational settings in risk analysis and management.
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 and system thinking Planning and executing the analysis and presentation of the findings of problem solving in a business continuity context
Generic Cognitive skills	SCQF Level **11** Applying systems thinking approaches to critical analysis and evaluation of a complex and abstract situation and issues that exist in the risk 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 **11** Exercising substantial autonomy and initiative in studies Taking responsibility for own work. Dealing with complex ethical and multicultural issues inherent in the risk 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	
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** (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
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
	Hours Total 200

**Indicative Resources: (eg. Core text, journals, internet access)

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

Systems Thinking for Business and Management: Principles and Practice. Unit Bititici and Agnessa Spanellis. KoganPage.

Systems Approaches to Managing Change: a practical guide. Reynolds, M. and Holwell, S., eds (2020 2nd edition)

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

Resources should be listed in Right Harvard referencing style or agreed professional body deviation and in alphabetical order.

(**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:

The delivery strategy will focus on online information dissemination and adopting a student-centric and directed learning approach. This methodology 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. Prior to attending these workshops sessions, students will engage in preparatory work, setting the stage for in-depth exploration and contextualization within various 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

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.

Please ensure any specific requirements are detailed in this section. Module Co-ordinators should consider the accessibility of their module for groups with protected characteristics..

(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	
Assessment Results (Pass/Fail)	Yes ☐No ☒
School Assessment Board	MITE
Moderator	Tom Keegan
External Examiner	TBC
Accreditation Details	None
Changes/Version Number	1

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 Module Handbook.)

Assessment Outcome Grids (**See Guidance Note**)

Component 1							
Assessment Type (Footnote B.)	**Learning Outcome (1)**	**Learning Outcome (2)**	**Learning Outcome (3)**	**Learning Outcome (4)**	**Learning Outcome (5)**	**Weighting (%) of Assessment Element**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Portfolio of work	✓	✓	✓			100	0

Component 2							
Assessment Type (Footnote B.)	**Learning Outcome (1)**	**Learning Outcome (2)**	**Learning Outcome (3)**	**Learning Outcome (4)**	**Learning Outcome (5)**	**Weighting (%) of Assessment Element**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
							0

Component 3							
Assessment Type (Footnote B.)	**Learning Outcome (1)**	**Learning Outcome (2)**	**Learning Outcome (3)**	**Learning Outcome (4)**	**Learning Outcome (5)**	**Weighting (%) of Assessment Element**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Combined Total for All Components						**100%**	**0 hours**

Change Control:

What	When	Who
Further guidance on aggregate regulation and application when completing template	16/01/2020	H McLean
Updated contact hours	14/09/21	H McLean
Updated Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure	19/10/2023	C Winter
Updated UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code	19/10/2023	C Winter
Guidance Note 23-24 provided	12/12/23	D Taylor
General housekeeping to text across sections. .	12/12/23	D Taylor

Version Number: MD Template 1 (2023-24)