Module Descriptor

Title	Research Methods And Skills		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	
Code	BUSN11156	**SCQF Level**	11
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	**Business and Creative Industries**		
Module Co-ordinator	C Reilly		

Summary of Module

This module aims to prepare students to undertake their Masters Dissertation or Project on either the MSc International Management or the MSc Human Resource Management. Students will learn the tools and techniques that they need to help them plan, design and deliver an independent research project.

The module will enhance student knowledge of research methodologies and help them to critically examine the different approaches used in wider business and management research. This will included both qualitative and quantitative methods.

Students will be supported to select an appropriate research topic for a Masters dissertation or project and will plan their research by producing a research proposal which details their chosen research philosophy, methodological approach, research methods and plans for data analysis. There will be the opportunity to present these plans in class mid-term and receive feedback to help strengthen the final proposal assessment.

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

Campuses for Module Delivery			
	☐ Ayr	☐ Lanarkshire	☐ Online / Distance Learning
	☐ Dumfries	☐ London	☐ Other (specify)
		☒ Paisley	

[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

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	Verbally justify the selection of an appropriate topic for a Masters Dissertation/Project
L2	Demonstrate a robust understanding of different methodological approaches and their philosophical underpinning
L3	Critically evaluate research design, methodology and methods in a systematic approach and justify the selection of these in relation to a chosen topic
L4	Demonstrate capacity for critical engagement with academic literature that will inform an independent research project
L5	Create a detailed and academically underpinned research proposal for a Masters Dissertation/Project

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** Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a range of research methodologies and methods and the contexts in which they can be applied
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 11** Apply appropriate research methodologies to a chosen research topic, demsontrating awareness of the strengths and weaknesses of such
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 11** Reflect critically on academic literature and research, giving reasoned analysis in relation to a chosen topic area
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 11** Communicate effectively in both speech and writing as well as making effective use of ICT
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 11** Work effectively with others within workshops to develop teamwork skills and understanding of key topics

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)
Laboratory / Practical Demonstration / Workshop	36
Independent Study	164
Please select	
Please select	
Please select	
Please select	
TOTAL	200

Indicative Resources

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

Saunders, M., Lewis, P., & Thornhill, A. (2024) Research Methods for Business Students. 9th edition. Harlow: Pearson

Additional resources will be highlighted to students via the Module Handbook and the VLE.

(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 a minimum of 75% of scheduled classes, participation in class preparation activities and in class workshop activities and submission of assessment.

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.

This module is appropriate for all students irrespective of ethnic status, disability, age, gender, religeon or sexual orientation. The module has been designed to take account of the diversity of the student body and in this respect is 'learner centred'.

(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	**Management, Organisations People**
Overall Assessment Results	**Graded**
Module Eligible for Compensation	☐ **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	Management, Organisations and People
Moderator	S Hofmann
External Examiner	M Bradley
Accreditation Details	N/A
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**
Changes / Version Number	1

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
Verbal Presentation with Q&A
Assessment 2
Written Research Proposal
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**
Verbal Presentation	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	20	3

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Written Research Proposal	☐	☒	☒	☒	☒	80	-

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

Change Control

What	When	Who