**University of the West of Scotland**

**Module Descriptor**

**Session:**

| Title of Module: Honours Dissertation BAcc/BUFA | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Code: ACCT10007** | **SCQF Level: 10 (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework)** | **Credit Points: 40** | **ECTS: (European Credit Transfer Scheme)** |
| **School:** | School of Business and Creative Industries | | |
| **Module Co-ordinator:** | Dr Mary Fletcher | | |

| Summary of Module |
|---|
| This module provides you with the research knowledge and skills to prepare you for completing your dissertation. You will initially learn how to prepare and complete a literature review that will form the background to your dissertation as well as a research plan for the remainder of the dissertation. <br><br> The module involves the independent production of a substantial, written piece of academic work, a dissertation of around 12,000-15,000 words, which is intended to demonstrate that you are capable of advanced research, analysis, synthesis and presentation of data or information pertinent to a question or investigation appropriate to your degree studies. The dissertation is widely regarded as the principal piece of work which, if successfully completed, distinguishes an Honours graduate's attainments from those of an ordinary graduate. <br><br> In the first term there will be research methods classes to help with the selection of a topic, independent research, organization and writeup, and referencing of the dissertation. You will be allocated a supervisor, with whom you will discuss research plans, which are then submitted. You will attend meetings with supervisors to further the progress of the dissertation, receiving advice on the dissertation and on draft chapters. You are required to submit progress reports at agreed time intervals and also a final draft, which is due to be submitted in good time for the submission date. <br><br> This module is suitable for delivery overseas. |

| 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 | Identify and apply the key approaches that underpin research in the field of accounting and finance. |
| L2 | Critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the main research methods used in accounting and finance research. |
| L3 | Prepare a literature review in a suitable format and outline briefly a research plan in a related accounting and finance area. |
| L4 | Analyse and synthesise facts, information and ideas. |
| L5 | Produce a detailed, coherent dissertation. |

| **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 **10** Research methods and methodologies appropriate to accountancy and finance contexts and practice. |
| Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding | SCQF Level **10** Production of substantial reports, guidelines, practice manuals in a variety of standard and non-standard situations. |
| Generic Cognitive skills | SCQF Level **10** |

| | |
|---|---|
| | Critical identification, conceptualization and analysis of complex, professional level problems. |
| Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills | SCQF Level **10** <br><br> Interpretation, evaluation and usage of a range of written and numerical data in a professional context. |
| Autonomy, Accountability and Working with others | SCQF Level **10** <br><br> Autonomous working in a range of professional activities. Working effectively with some guidance from qualified practitioners. |

| **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.** <br> Delivery of the module in the first term will be a combination of traditional lectures and interactive workshop sessions. The module will have a VLE site which provides additional resources. The module will also involve independent work preparing a draft of the first parts of the dissertation. Students will be allocated an academic supervisor who will act as a guide and mentor during the process, however students will work primarily on their own for the large part of this period. The choice of dissertation topic should build on previous learning from earlier modules. Student skills will be developed in written communication, research, data collection and analysis, and should result in students improving their critical thinking skills. Support will also be provided by a specific virtual learning environment. | |
| **Learning Activities** <br> During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below: | **Student Learning Hours** <br> (Normally totalling 200 hours): <br> (Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities) |
| Lecture/Core Content Delivery | 24 |
| Tutorial/Synchronous Support Activity | 12 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Choose an item. | 364 |
| Choose an item. | |
| Choose an item. | |
| Choose an item. | |
| Choose an item. | |
| Choose an item. | |
| Choose an item. | |
| | 400 |

| **\*\*Indicative Resources: (eg. Core text, journals, internet access)** |
|---|
| The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes:<br><br>Paterson, A. et al. (2016) Research methods in accounting and finance. Oxford: Goodfellow Publishers Ltd.<br><br>Saunders et al. (latest edition). Research methods for business students. Essex: Pearson.<br><br>Thomas, G. (latest edition). How to do your research project. A guide for students. London: Sage.<br><br>Please ensure the list is kept short and current.  Essential resources should be included, broader resources should be kept for module handbooks / Aula VLE.<br><br>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.<br><br>For the purposes of this module, academic engagement equates to the following: |

Students are considered to be academically engaged if they are regularly engaged with timetabled teaching sessions, course-related learning resources on the relevant learning platform, and complete assessments and submit these on time

| **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.<br><br>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 | Accounting, Finance and Law |
| --- | --- |
| Assessment Results (Pass/Fail) | Yes ☐No ☒ |
| School Assessment Board | Accounting, Finance and Law |
| Moderator | Dr Xin Guo |
| External Examiner | M Marzouk |
| Accreditation Details | N/A |
| Changes/Version Number | 2.08<br><br>Summary of module. Additional Learning Outcomes. Inclusion of research training in Learning and Teaching. |

| **Assessment: (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)** |
| --- |
| This section should make transparent what assessment categories form part of this module (stating what % contributes to the final mark).<br>Maximum of 3 main assessment categories can be identified (which may comprise smaller elements of assessment).<br>**NB: The 30% aggregate regulation (Reg. 3.9) (40% for PG) for each main category must be taken into account. When using PSMD, if all assessments are recorded in the one box, only one assessment grid will show and the 30% (40% at PG) aggregate regulation will not stand. For the aggregate regulation to stand, each component of assessment must be captured in a separate box.**<br>Please provide brief information about the overall approach to assessment that is taken within the module. In order to be flexible with assessment delivery, be brief, but |

do state assessment type (e.g. written assignment rather than "essay" / presentation, etc ) and keep the detail for the module handbook. Click or tap here to enter text.

Assessment 1 Dissertation/Project report

Assessment 2 – Free Text

Assessment 3 – Free Text

(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** |
| Dissertation/Project report | x | x | x | x | x | | 36 |

| 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** |
| | | | | | | | |

| 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%** | **36 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)**