MODULE DESCRIPTOR

TITLE	Methods of Enquiry: Research and Consultancy in Finance
SI MODULE CODE	25-7A04-00S
CREDITS	15
LEVEL	7
JACS CODE	N300
SUBJECT GROUP	SG-44008 - Financial and Management Accounting
DEPARTMENT	Finance, Accounting and Business Systems
MODULE LEADER	Trevor Hassall

MODULE STUDY HOURS (based on 10 hours per credit)*			
Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities	**Placement (if applicable)**	**Independent Guided Study**	**Total Number of Study Hours**
90		60	150

MODULE AIM

To introduce students to the nature of research and consultancy and to give them an overview of the processes involved.

MODULE LEARNING OUTCOMES

By engaging successfully with this module a student will be able to

1. Evaluate the epistemological and ontological differences between different research methodologies.
2. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of a variety of research methods and identify appropriate methods related to specific research objectives
3. Analyse the main research issues that need to be considered when preparing quantitative and qualitative data for analysis
4. Critically examine and evaluate published research, especially in the field of finance.
5. Critically evaluate the relationship between the research activity and research methodologies and their implications in the processes of consultancy.
6. Develop the personal skills and qualities necessary for you to successfully undertake research and consultancy.

INDICATIVE CONTENT
- Discussion of the language of research: Epistemology and ontology
- Stages in the research process
- Issues around methodology
- The role of theory in research methods: Induction and deduction
- Experimental or classical approach to research
- Ethnography, theory and practice
- The case study approach
- Surveys and questionnaires
- Action research
- Data analysis: qualitative and quantitative.
- Use of statistical packages to analyse data; financial models.
- Dissemination of findings
- Theoretical framework of consultancy
- Relationships between research and consultancy

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT - STRATEGY AND METHODS
Students will be supported in their learning, to achieve the above outcomes, in the following ways

- You will be provided with a detailed module learning scheme. This will include a programme topic outline with relevant reading for each topic,
- You will be given lecture inputs by tutors in which keynote ideas and themes will be introduced.
- Student led seminars will enable students to develop presentational skills and the ability to respond to critical analysis of their work by peers and lecturing staff.
- Student analysis of published research and consultancy material will facilitate critical debate in the sessions
- Assignments will allow you to demonstrate the knowledge and skills you have developed.

In the individual written coursework you will be able to demonstrate:

- Evaluation of the epistemological and ontological differences between the different research methodologies.
- Evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of a variety of research methods and identify appropriate methods related to specific research objectives.
- Analysis of the main research issues that need to be considered when preparing quantitative and qualitative data for analysis.
- Critically examination and evaluation of published research

In the group presentation you will be able to demonstrate:

- Critically evaluation of the relationship between research activity and research methodologies and their implications in the process of consultancy.

ASSESSMENT TASK INFORMATION

Task No.*	Short Description of Task	SI Code EX/CW/PR	Task Weighting %	Word Count or Exam Duration**	In-module retrieval available
1	Group Presentation	PR	20%	20 minutes	N
2	Individual Written Coursework	CW	80%	4000 words	N

FEEDBACK
Students will receive feedback on their performance in the following ways

- You will receive written feedback on each part of the summative assessment within three weeks of the submission deadline.
- You will receive formative guidance on the skills required will be provided through tutor and peer evaluation of student led seminars which take place during the delivery of the module.
- You will receive formative feedback prior to undertaking the summative assessment.

LEARNING RESOURCES FOR THIS MODULE (INCLUDING READING LISTS)

You will be required to make extensive use of the library information database to access appropriate online research and consultancy journal articles covering both methodology and relevant subject issues.

Use will also be made of internet sites and software which provide financial and statistical data. Statistical packages will be used to analyse data.

Online databases, highlighted in other module outlines on the programme, can be used to inform the technical nature of the research topic.

Reference will also be made to relevant textbooks, for example:

Collis J and Hussey R (2003) "Business Research", Palgrave Macmillan, London.

Gill J and Johnson P (2002), Research Methods for Managers, Paul Chapman Publishing, 3rd Edition.

Smith M (2003) "Research Methods in Accounting", Sage, London.

Block P (2000), Flawless Consulting: a guide to getting your expertise used, Jossey-Bass Pfeiffer, 2nd Edition.

E-Learning Resources

Business Source Premier
EBSCO's "Business Source Premier" provides full text for over 2,800 journals covering management, Business Process Management, Supply Chain Management, economics, banking and finance, industry and manufacturing, marketing, business law, international business, country data, company information and other business topics.

EMERALD Fulltext
Abstracts (from 1989) and full text (from 1994) of business and management titles published by the MCB Press.

Accountancy Direct
Brings together many of the main reference works in accountancy, taxation and company law including UK GAAP and International GAAP. Searching can be done across the range of resources or within each particular database.

SECTION 2   MODULE INFORMATION FOR STAFF ONLY

MODULE DELIVERY AND ASSESSMENT MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

MODULE STATUS - INDICATE IF ANY CHANGES BEING MADE

NEW MODULE	N
EXISTING MODULE - NO CHANGE	N
Title Change	N
Level Change	N
Credit Change	N
Assessment Pattern Change	Y
Change to Delivery Pattern	N
Date the changes (or new module) will be implemented	**09/2013**

MODULE DELIVERY PATTERN - *Give details of the start and end dates for each module. If the course has more than one intake, for example, September and January, please give details of the module start and end dates for each intake.*

	Module Begins	**Module Ends**
Course Intake 1	30/09/2013	24/01/2014
Course Intake 2	07/01/2013	
Course Intake 3	DD/MM/YYYY	DD/MM/YYYY

Is timetabled contact time required for this module?	Y

Are any staff teaching on this module non-SHU employees?	N
If yes, please give details of the employer institution(s) below	
What proportion of the module is taught by these non-SHU staff, expressed as a percentage?	

MODULE ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Indicate how the module will be marked	
*Overall PERCENTAGE Mark of 40%	Y
*Overall PASS / FAIL Grade	N

*Choose one only – module cannot include both percentage mark and pass/fail graded tasks

SUB-TASKS

Will any sub-tasks (activities) be used as part of the assessment strategy for this module?	N

If sub-tasks / activities are to be used this must be approved within the Faculty prior to approval. Sub-task / activity marks will be recorded locally and extenuating circumstances, extensions, referrals and deferrals will not apply to sub-tasks / activities.

FINAL TASK

According to the Assessment Information shown in the Module Descriptor, which task will be the LAST TASK to be taken or handed-in? (Give task number as shown in the Assessment Information Grid in Section 1 of the Descriptor)	Task No. 2

NON-STANDARD ASSESSMENT PATTERNS

MARK 'X' IN BOX IF MODULE ASSESSMENT PATTERN IS NON STANDARD, eg MODEL B, ALL TASKS MUST BE PASSED AT 40%. **NB: Non-standard assessment patterns are subject to faculty agreement and approval by Registry Services - see guidance. notes.**	