MODULE DESCRIPTOR

TITLE	Research Methods
SI MODULE CODE	25-7A16-00C/N/S
CREDITS	15
LEVEL	7
JACS CODE	N300
SUBJECT GROUP	SG-44008 - Financial and Management Accounting
DEPARTMENT	Finance, Accounting and Business Systems
MODULE LEADER	Dora Chan

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

The aim of this module is to deepen students' research skills so that they are able to develop a well thought through research proposal supported by a preliminary literature review and proceed to conduct their own research project or study, at a level appropriate for a postgraduate award, in a way that demonstrates reflective learning.

MODULE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. formulate, develop and evaluate a research topic through reflective learning that demonstrates critical understanding of methodological issues and the relevance of published research for the research topic.

2. prepare a detailed research proposal supported by a preliminary review of the relevant academic literature;

3. reflect on its implications of producing a detailed research proposal for your future professional development.

INDICATIVE CONTENT

This particular module will be informed by the material covered in the earlier Methods of Enquiry: Research and Consultancy in Finance Module. The content will be focussed on putting together a research proposal and the learning resources used will be similar to those outlined in the Methods of Enquiry: Research and Consultancy in Finance Module.

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT - STRATEGY AND METHODS

Students will be supported in their learning, to achieve the above outcomes, in the following ways

The learning philosophy adopted is fundamentally enquiry based and through it students are encouraged and supported to take a critical and independent approach towards the anticipated learning outcomes.

There will be initial inputs by the module team through a serious of workshops in which keynote ideas and themes will be introduced. In addition, students will receive several one to one guidance meetings with the module tutors and their dissertation supervisor to support the development of their

capability to undertake research as demonstrated through the completion of an individual Research Methods Workbook.

The Workbook, issued following the initial workshop sessions, contains a sequence of separately specified tasks relating to the selection, justification and development of a research proposal, detailed literature review and critique, as well as reflection on the implications of the research process for future career development. The Workbook comprises a portfolio of activities undertaken in preparation for the final dissertation. The several elements of the workbook have separately specified completion dates so that the completed Workbook logs progress from the initial idea for a possible research topic, the literature search and review, through to the completion of the introduction chapter of the final dissertation. It also contains the University's Research Ethics Form that students complete in conjunction with their dissertation supervisor after they have finalised their research proposal. Each element within the Workbook has a deadline for completion and the first three elements have to be agreed and signed-off by a member of the module team. The sequencing of the elements in the Workbook extends across the whole delivery period of the module and is dovetailed to support the group presentations within the module. The student's final choice of research topic articulated as one element of the Workbook is also used to facilitate the allocation of an appropriate dissertation supervisor.

Students will be required to make non-assessed group presentations, as well as assessed group presentations, to their peers during the delivery of the module and will receive immediate feedback on their presentations to assist their learning. The group work and presentations are structured to serve as vehicles to stimulate students to interact and reflect on the nature of research activity, the purpose and structure of a research proposal and the use of alternative research methodologies.

ASSESSMENT TASK INFORMATION

The degree of attainment of the learning outcomes for the module will be assessed on the basis of coursework. Student progress will be assessed via the use of two coursework tasks:

1. The first task is a group presentation of a detailed research proposal based on an assigned research topic, (25%) (This will be assessed on first two assessment criteria detailed in the grid below).

2. The second task is a written individual Research Methods Workbook, (75%). (This will be assessed on all three of the assessment criteria detailed in the grid below).

The Research Methods Workbook will be issued at the commencement of the Research Methods module and completed in stages as the module progresses. The Research Methods Workbook will:

- present a statement of the focus of the research and the main questions to be investigated;

- theoretically contextualise the topic through a review of the relevant literature;

- from the above, either articulate the hypotheses to be deductively tested through the collection of data, or articulate the concepts/embedded problems that are going to explored by other means;

- critically review the research methods available for undertaking the proposed research and justify the choice of method to be used;

- discusses the practical outcomes of the research and demonstrates an achievable research plan.

The detailed proposal presented in the Workbook will form the introduction to the final dissertation. The Workbook will also contain a critical review of three key published research articles/reports/monographs directly relevant to the proposed topic of research. This preliminary literature review will form the basis for the literature review section of the final dissertation.

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	25%	30 minutes	N
2	Workbook Portfolio	CW	75%	3500 words	N

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

The Research Methods Workbook is structured in such a way as to provide students with ongoing individual face to face formative feedback on their progress, with either a member of the module team or their dissertation supervisor, prior to completing their Workbook as the final summative assessment task. The module leader will provide written feedback on the completed Workbook within three weeks of the submission deadline.
Formative guidance on the skills required to develop successfully a research proposal will be provided through tutor and peer evaluation of student led seminars which take place during the delivery of the module. There will be immediate informal feedback on the group presentations by the module team to the students which can then be used to inform continued work on their research proposal in their Workbook.

LEARNING RESOURCES FOR THIS MODULE (INCLUDING READING LISTS)
Main Learning Resources
The students will be required to make extensive use of online information databases to access appropriate online research and consultancy journal articles covering both methodology and relevant subject issues. Use will also be made of internet sites. Online databases, highlighted in other unit outlines on the programme, can be used to inform the technical nature of the research topic.
Reference will also be made to relevant research methods textbooks as identified in the Methods of Enquiry: Research and Consultancy in Finance Module. For example:
Easterly-Smith M, Thorpe R and Lowe A (2002), Management Research – an Introduction, Sage, 2nd Edition.
Gill J and Johnson P (2002), Research Methods for Managers, Paul Chapman Publishing, 3nd Edition.
Gambeson G (2000), Qualitative methods in management research, Sage, 2nd Edition.
Maxim P.S. (1999), Quantitative Research Methods in the social sciences, Oxford University Press.
Koop G (2000), Analysis of Economic Data, John Wiley.

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	Y
Title Change	N
Level Change	N
Credit Change	N
Assessment Pattern Change	N
Change to Delivery Pattern	N
Date the changes (or new module) will be implemented	**N/A**

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	27/01/2014	27/06/2014
Course Intake 2	27/09/2014	23/01/2015
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.**	