

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

TITLE	Research Methods
SI MODULE CODE	25-7D13-00L (September Intake) 25-7D13-00C (January Intake)
CREDITS	15
LEVEL	7
JACS CODE	N120
SUBJECT GROUP	SG-44010 - International Business and Business Economics
DEPARTMENT	Management
MODULE LEADER	Robert Jones

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
36		114	150

MODULE AIM

The principal aim of this module is to provide you with a sound and wide ranging introduction to Research Methods, in order to underpin your work in other modules and in particular in the dissertation. More specifically:

- to encourage you to examine critically and appraise published research;
- to enable you to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of various research techniques and methods;
- to encourage you to search for information from a variety of sources and databases and to interpret these;
- to enable you to appreciate the principal research issues which need to be considered when preparing data for analysis;
- to encourage you to utilise a wide range of research methods for analysing data;
- to assist you to design a research study of a type which would be suitable for a postgraduate dissertation.

MODULE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. understand and define what research is and how it is conducted;
2. appreciate and critique the merits and defects of various research techniques and methods;
3. conduct investigations of research topics by applying appropriate research methods and acquiring and using data from a variety of sources;
4. synthesise and apply your knowledge of key research issues and problems in order to facilitate and enhance your research tasks;
5. evaluate different research methods in relation to their limitations and ethical dimensions;

6. articulate the main components of a dissertation including understanding some of the main challenges of completing a dissertation.

INDICATIVE CONTENT

- Introduction to Research Methods. Definitions. Types of research;
- Clarifying research questions.
- Types of information useful to research.
- Methods of collecting information; web-based and other databases;
- Writing up and presenting your research;
- Recording references, citing sources and avoiding plagiarism;
- The Dissertation: choosing, researching and completing a dissertation;
- Research Paradigms and Methodologies;
- Qualitative Research;
- Quantitative Research;
- Questionnaires;
- Interviews;
- Case Studies;
- Writing up and presenting your dissertation

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT - STRATEGY AND METHODS

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

The course will be taught in the form of two blocks, both comprising approximately one week. The first block (Research Methods 1) will be designed to provide you with a good grounding in basic research techniques which are likely to be of value to you when undertaking research for your module assignments. The second block (Research Methods 2) focuses more directly on the skills and techniques you will need in order to successfully complete your dissertation. The teaching blocks will comprise a mixture of lectures and workshops, involving practical individual and group exercises.

The Database exercise will ask students to select a clearly defined, focussed topic that would be suitable for an academic dissertation, and to perform a preliminary search for relevant data on this topic using a variety of different sources of information, and to evaluate the relative merits and defects of the data sources chosen.

The Research Proposal will require students to select a research topic (preferably the same research topic as the database exercise) for the purposes of analysis. In this proposal, students will have to apply a range of methodological issues, such as research paradigms, research strategies, research methods, desired data etc.

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	Written Assignment (Database Exercise)	CW	25	1520 words	Y
2	Final Report (Research Proposal)	CW	75	3750 words	N

FEEDBACK

Students will receive feedback on their performance in the following ways

Feedback will be given in both verbal (in class on activities and exercises included in the module programme) and written form, including via assessment matrices, supplemented with individual written comments. The feedback for the first assignment will be formative, in that it will give guidance over the suitability of the topic for an academic dissertation or otherwise, or how it might be amended so as to make it more suitable. In addition, the feedback for the second assignment will be formative as it will guide students as they progress towards the dissertation.

LEARNING RESOURCES FOR THIS MODULE (INCLUDING READING LISTS)

- Electronic sources available through the Library Gateway;
- Books and journals available in the Adsetts centre;
- Key texts and other required reading;
- Internet sources of good quality.

Blackboard forms an integral part of the learning and assessment process for this module. In addition to learning materials such as the module guide, lectures slides, additional readings and seminar materials being available on Blackboard, the students are also encouraged from the outset to make full use of the electronic sources available through the Library Gateway. In the first block, students are given guidance on accessing information via the Library Gateway by a member of the library staff. Both assignments for this module must be submitted via turnitin and the assessed work is returned to the students via electronic feedback.

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	30/09/2013	11/05/2014
Course Intake 2	21/01/2014	11/05/2014
Course Intake 3	DD/MM/YYYY	DD/MM/YYYY

Is timetabled contact time required for this module?	Y
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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
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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
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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.	