

MODULE TITLE		Dissertation			
MODULE LEVEL		7			
MODULE CREDIT POINTS		60			
SI MODULE CODE (if known)		25-7K06-00C			
MODULE JACS CODE		N200			
SUBJECT GROUP		SG-44014 Strategic Management -OM			
MODULE DELIVERY PATTERN (✓ as applicable or give dates for non-standard delivery) NB "Semester 3" ends on 31 July each year					
LONG (2 semesters)		SHORT (1 semester)		NON-STANDARD DELIVERY	
				Start Date	Flexible Distance Learning Start date whenever student opts to start
				End Date	Notified to student at Start date - 60 weeks from the Start date as it is a 60 credit module
MODULE ASSESSMENT PATTERN (✓ as applicable - also complete Table A, Section 5, below)					
Single Module Mark with Overall Module Pass Mark of 40%					✓
Single Module Mark - Distinction/Pass/Fail only					
Up to Three Assessment Tasks with Pass Mark of 40% for each Task and Overall Module Pass Mark of 40%					
Up to Three Assessment Tasks - Pass/Fail only					
Other					
Overall Module Pass Mark if other than 40% (subject to approval)					
MODULE INFORMATION (✓ as applicable - also complete Table A, Section 5)					
Is a timetabled examination required for the assessment of this module?					
Is a timetabled examination required for the reassessment of this module?					
Is the module delivered wholly by Distance Learning (ie. not timetabled at SHU)					✓
Are any staff who are responsible for teaching on this module non-SHU employees?					
MODULE STATUS (✓ as applicable to status of module in the context of current proposal)					
Unchanged: an existing module, presented as unchanged from previous years					
Modified: an existing module being modified as a result of this validation, eg. changes to delivery or assessment pattern, title, credit weighting etc					
New: new module to be approved through current validation process					✓
If status is 'Modified', please give date when modified version is to be available from				Modified Version Available from N/A	
Breakdown of notional study hours by type (Typically requires 10 hours of notional study time for 1 CATS credit)		Tutor-Led (Contact Hours)	Tutor-Directed Study	Self-Directed Study	TOTAL STUDY HOURS for this Module
		6	0	594	600
OTHER COURSES FEATURING THIS MODULE (please list below)					
None					

1 AIM OF THIS MODULE

This module will enable students to produce a comprehensive piece of research on a management or leadership related topic and to develop a deeper insight into their chosen area of study. The aims and learning outcomes for the dissertation link particularly to the concept of the manager as analytical thinker and reflective leader.

2 BY ENGAGING SUCCESSFULLY WITH THIS MODULE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO

1. Demonstrate an ability to undertake a major piece of research work which will involve:
 - a. Specifying research objectives,
 - b. Choosing an appropriate research methodology depending on the research objectives,
 - c. Critically researching the literature relevant to the issues under investigation,
 - d. Understanding practical implications and limitations of theory,
 - e. Demonstrating an ability to synthesise arguments based upon the various social, political and economic factors that impacted on the research,
 - f. Reviewing the proposed conclusions/solutions and reflecting upon the generalisability of these.
2. Present academic analysis in an appropriate format.

3 THESE ARE EXAMPLES OF THE CONTENT OF THE MODULE

It is expected that the dissertation will represent a synthesis of the learning from the earlier parts of the course, and an opportunity to explore in depth the selected topic.

The key content points are:

- The use of an appropriate research methodology in the dissertation,
- A clear understanding of the theoretical underpinnings of the research.
- The use of relevant theory in the conduct of the research and the analysis of the topic.

Dissertations may be of two broad types:

Problem Centred

A dissertation in this category would be concerned with a transferable generic topic, related perhaps to a particular sector (e.g. customer service quality). The analysis would be largely literature based or fieldwork based, or a mixture of both.

Problem Solving

A dissertation in this category would be concerned with a specific topic in an organisation. The objectives may be the analysis of, for example, the implementation of quality systems and processes and the argument for a variety of conclusions/solutions. In effect, you would act as a consultant to a client organisation, which of course, may be your own.

4 THESE ARE THE MAIN WAYS YOU WILL BE SUPPORTED IN YOUR LEARNING TO ACHIEVE THESE OUTCOMES

You will be allocated an academic supervisor whose role will be to provide guidance and advice on methodological and technical matters. You will be expected to discuss and develop a suitable topic for the dissertation with the appointed supervisor, normally drawing on the work carried out for the Management research methods module.

You will be expected to maintain regular contact with your supervisor and to report progress against an agreed timescale. Contact with your supervisor will be achieved by means suitable for both you and your supervisor including meetings, e-mail, post and telephone.

5 THESE ARE THE WAYS THAT WILL BE USED TO ENABLE YOU TO DEMONSTRATE YOU HAVE MET THE LEARNING OUTCOMES

The mechanism that will be used to enable you to demonstrate that you have met the learning outcomes will be in the form of individual written coursework, assessed as a package against the module learning outcomes.

The written coursework will consist of a 15,000 word dissertation.

The dissertation will be assessed by your supervisor and independently by a second marker. Summative feedback will be provided after this stage.

The pass level criteria are provided in the following table:

Assessment Criterion	Pass
Specify research objectives	State research objectives which establish scope / focus, but lack clarity in the purpose and objectives
Critically research the literature relevant to the issues under investigation	Address a range of relevant literature, though with limited evaluation
Understand practical implications and limitations of theory	Demonstrate awareness of limitations
Demonstrate an ability to synthesise arguments based upon the various social, political and economic factors that impacted on the research	Incorporate analysis and evaluation relevant to the research objectives, and integrate theoretical frameworks to some extent
Review the proposed conclusions/solutions and reflect upon the generalisability of these	Address the question of whether the proposed conclusions/solutions can be generalised
Choose an appropriate research methodology depending on the research objectives	Provide some justification for the methodology and relevant research methods
Present academic analysis in an appropriate format	Express ideas in a generally coherent way, but with scope to improve structure, clarity of expression and referencing

TABLE A: ASSESSMENT TASK INFORMATION

ASSESSMENT TASK	% weighting of overall module mark	Duration of task / word count / length of exam	In-module retrieval available?	Individual task pass mark ONLY IF OVER 40%**
Written dissertation covering all aspects of the module	100%	15,000 words	No	

6 THIS IS HOW YOU WILL BE GIVEN FEEDBACK ON YOUR PERFORMANCE

Formative feedback will be provided by the supervisor during the dissertation work on the basis of progress reports and a draft of the dissertation.

The completed work will then be submitted in hard copy to the course administrator and in contrast to other coursework, summative feedback and marks will normally only be provided after the subsequent exam board.

7 THESE ARE EXAMPLES OF THE KEY LEARNING RESOURCES YOU WILL USE

The basic material to support you in the process of working on a dissertation will be provided through a dissertation module Blackboard site but other resources will be available from the Management research methods module.

Further supporting material on approaches to learning, on skills development and on personal development planning will be provided through the course Blackboard site.

In order to achieve the learning outcomes illustrated earlier you will be expected to use a variety of resources for your dissertation work including:

- Textbooks and academic journals,
- Professional publications,
- Prior and current research experience,
- Prior and current organisational and professional experience,
- Research facilities and data sources,
- Various research databases, media and the Internet.

FINAL TASK

According to the Assessment Strategy 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 Strategy)	Task No. 1
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MODULE REFERRAL STRATEGY

Task for Task (as shown for initial assessment strategy)	Y
Single Referral Package for All Referred Students	N

REVISIONS

Date	Reason
July 2012	Assessment Framework review