MODULE DESCRIPTOR

MODULE TITLE	Dissertation		
Module Code	25-7M10-00Y 25-7M10-00C		
Level	7		
Credit Points	45		
Indicative Assessment Tasks & Percentage Weightings	100% Coursework		
Pre-Requisite Modules *(if applicable)*	None		
Delivered according to Standard Academic Calendar YES	**Long:** 2 semesters YES	**Short:** 1 semester	**Other delivery pattern:**

1   MODULE AIMS

To develop an ability to carry out critical research and/or analyse specific business problems in an original way through the process of:

- critically selecting and rigorously applying the appropriate research methodology in a reflective manner;

- demonstrating a critical understanding of the various social, political and economic relationships and interactions that impact upon research;

- drawing upon professional experience in management and change within organisations;

- demonstrating a rigorous understanding of the theory and literature relevant to the issues under investigation;

- undertaking appropriate research/fieldwork to generate findings relating to the issues under investigation;

- reflecting upon and assessing the generalisability of any findings and the extent to which the research contributes to the understanding of management problems and issues.

The aims and learning outcomes for the dissertation link particularly to the concept of the manager as analytical thinker and as reflective leader.

2   MODULE LEARNING OUTCOMES
BY THE END OF THE MODULE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO

1. analyse a conceptual or practical issue associated with business and set clear research objectives;

2. critically select and rigorously apply appropriate research methodology in a reflective manner;

3. integrate existing theory and literature into the investigation of an issue associated with business;

4. integrate prior experience of management into the investigation of an issue associated with business;

5. investigate an issue associated with business by means of independent fieldwork/research;

6. reflect upon, and assess the generalisability or application of, any findings from an investigation into an issue associated with business and assess the implications and limitations of the study;

7. *present academic analysis in appropriate format.*

3   INDICATIVE LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES

Your learning will be primarily self-directed through a process of identifying learning needs and carrying out a range or learning activities to meet those needs. The process will draw upon research skills developed in other modules of the course, and will include access to guidance material on producing a postgraduate project or dissertation in books and in electronic form. The nature of a dissertation means that this is strongly research-oriented module.

You will have the opportunity to meet with an appointed academic supervisor to discuss the research, and to seek advice on methodological issues and background reading, and as necessary, on the appropriate method of presentation.

You will work independently conducting empirical research, reviewing relevant literature and reflecting upon the process of research and its limitations.
Learning is also expected to take place through peer support from discussion with other students on their research interests and methodologies, and the presentation of work in progress for peer comment and critical feedback.

Assessment will consist of one element, the dissertation, which is a 15,000 (max) word document and will be assessed by the student's supervisor and moderated according to standard University academic procedures.

The learning outcomes will be fully assessed through the dissertation. Informal feedback on progress will address some learning outcomes, but is primarily intended as a developmental activity.

Criteria for assessment are identified in the assessment grid, and weighting of the criteria will normally be negotiated with the student to fit in with the aims and priorities of the piece of work.

You will produce a research proposal and present this for formative feedback, after which you will be allocated a supervisor. You will have the opportunity to have regular meetings with your supervisor to discuss relevant issues and progress. The supervisor will look at draft chapters once and suggest improvements or areas for re-thinking. The final dissertation will be first marked, second marked and made available for moderation by the external examiner.

Formal written feedback, against each of the assessment criteria, will be given on completion of the dissertation.

ASSESSMENT STRATEGY AND METHODS

Task No.	TASK DESCRIPTION	SI Code	Task Weighting %	Word Count / Duration	In-module retrieval available
1	Supervision records	CW	Pass/Fail	N/A	N
2	Coursework	CW	100%	15000 words	Y

4 INDICATIVE MODULE CONTENTS / TOPICS

The content of the dissertation will be determined by the student by negotiation with the module leader, and further revisions to the content and approach will be discussed with the supervisor allocated to the student. The formal requirement is that the content will relate to an aspect of business and management.

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MODULE

- **FURTHER / ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT THIS MODULE, INCLUDING ASSESSMENT CRITERIA DETAILING HOW YOUR PERFORMANCE IN THE MODULE WILL BE MEASURED, HOW YOU WILL RECEIVE FEEDBACK, DETAILS OF LEARNING RESOURCES AND KEY READINGS.**

- **THIS INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND IN**
  - the module handbook
  - the module blackboard site

- **NOTE THAT THIS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE FROM YEAR TO YEAR**

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

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