

<b>MODULE TITLE</b>	<b>Dissertation</b>
<b>Module Code</b>	26-7U13-00C
<b>Semester of Delivery</b>	n/a
<b>State whether module is Mandatory, Elective or Option</b>	Mandatory
<b>Level (4/5/6/7/8)</b>	7
<b>Credit Points</b>	45
<b>Assessment Pattern: Components &amp; Weighting</b>	Coursework 100%
<b>Pre-Requisite Modules (<i>if applicable</i>)</b>	Research Methods
<b>Breakdown of Student Learning Hours by Type*</b>	8 hours Supervision 442 hours Student Centred Learning
<b>Module Leader &amp; School</b>	Mel Bull
<b>Module Banding</b>	A
<b>Date of Original Approval</b>	
<b>Date of Next Review</b>	

## 1 RATIONALE

The Dissertation provides an opportunity for the student to develop an in depth research based independent study in a subject area of their own choice. The only restrictions on choice of topic are that it must relate to the broad area of study undertaken on the Programme and be approved by the Course Leader. The Dissertation should be viewed as a means of consolidating material delivered in the taught elements of the Programme and should be seen as a vehicle for developing ideas or material from the Programme in a critical and analytical fashion.

## 2 SUMMARY OF AIMS

The Module is intended to develop research skills and the ability to think independently, by the student taking responsibility for the planning, organisation and implementation of a study. The completed work should be 15,000 words in length and should define a particular area of study in the field of Facilities Management and, by a combination of literature survey, empirical research and critical analysis, seek to develop a reasoned, balanced critical view of the area of study. The Dissertation may be linked to the students work in employment and may therefore draw on case studies, data and experiences.

### **3 ANTICIPATED LEARNING OUTCOMES**

On completion of the Module students will be able to:

- Define an area of study and frame, organise and execute an appropriate programme of research;
- Evaluate research methodologies and develop critiques of them applying appropriate research methods in the context of their study;
- Synthesize and critically analyse literature and other data relevant to the study;
- Draw appropriate conclusions and make recommendations and, where relevant, propose new hypotheses in Facilities Management;
- Take responsibility for independent learning, self-direction and demonstrate originality in solving problems
- Apply logic to the structure and presentation of an argument;
- Apply appropriate presentation techniques in the design of the Dissertation;
- Produce written work to a professional and academic standard.

### **4 LEARNING AND TEACHING STRATEGY AND METHODS, INCLUDING RESOURCES**

The pre-requisite for this Module is the Research Methods Module. This will have provided an opportunity for students to develop their ideas and produce their preliminary research proposal.

Each student is allocated an academic supervisor who will guide their Dissertation through to completion. Supervisor contact can take place in a number of ways, by written correspondence, e-mail, telephone or face to face meetings. The Dissertation Supervisor will provide, where possible and appropriate, access to other specialist academic staff.

The Module is supported with a Dissertation Guidance Pack which is provided to students during the prerequisite Research Methods Module. This documentation guides students through the Dissertation Process and sets a timetable for contact with the Dissertation Supervisor. Typically the supervision allowance is 6 hours over the period of study.

### **5 ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK STRATEGY AND METHODS**

Students will be required to produce a written Dissertation of approximately 15,000 words in length.

The Module includes both formative and summative assessment elements.

The Dissertation Supervisor will provide formative feedback on a regular basis as the Dissertation progresses. Summative assessment takes place on completion of the Dissertation.

The Dissertation is normally assessed by two markers and an agreed mark is communicated to the Student. In the event of significant disagreement between the markers, a third marker may be asked to adjudicate. The Assessors each provide written feedback to the student.

## **ASSESSMENT STRATEGY AND METHODS**

<b>Task No.</b>	<b><u>TASK DESCRIPTION</u></b>	<b>SI Code</b>	<b>Task Weighting %</b>	<b>Word Count / Duration</b>	<b>In-module retrieval available</b>
1	Coursework	CW	100%	15000	No

## **6 SPECIFIC ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

To achieve a pass or distinction student's work will demonstrate:-

<b>Pass (40% - 69%)</b>	<b>Distinction (70% and above)</b>
some links between the specialist area of study and a wider context of knowledge are created and partially justified.	extensive links between the specialist area of study and a wider context of knowledge are created and fully justified.
arguments partially sustained and supported valid data that offers some original/new insights about the specialist subject area.	arguments fully supported by valid and significant evidence, many elements of which are new and original and offer new insights to the specialist subject.
synthesis of some of the data and information relating to the selected area of specialist study.	a comprehensive synthesis of the data and information relating to the selected area of specialist study.
methodologies and methods adopted in the study are partially evaluated and applied with some adaptation to the area of specialised knowledge.	methodologies and methods adopted in the study are fully and critically evaluated and then applied to the area of specialised knowledge in a rigorous and valid way showing new interpretation or improvements in understanding.
some references to key aspects of relevant research and academic publications.	extensive references to a broad range of current and relevant research and academic publications.
independent written work following the main conventions of spoken and written English, using the Harvard referencing system and relevant IT applications	work is at a professional standard following all conventions of spoken and/or written English, using the Harvard referencing system and relevant IT applications to enhance understanding of the target audience.

## **7 INDICATIVE CONTENTS, READING LIST AND RESOURCES**

The content for the Dissertation is to be determined by each individual student in agreement with the Course Leader. The subject matter will be personal to the student but must be related to the field of Facilities Management.

The student will be allocated a Dissertation Supervisor and provided with a Dissertation Guide but normally all other resources will be provided by the student with guidance from the Dissertation Supervisor.

## Reading List

- Bell J (1987), *Doing your research project*, Buckingham: Open University Press
- Blaxter L, Hughes C & Tight M (1996) *How to Research*, Buckingham: Open University Press
- Bouma G D & Atkinson G B J (1995), *A handbook of social science research*, (2nd ed.) Oxford: Oxford University Press
- Bryman A & Cramer D (1990), *Quantitative data analysis for social scientists*, London: Routledge
- Bryman A (1988), *Quantity and quality in social research*, London: Routledge
- De Vaus D (1991), *Surveys in social research*, London: Allen & Unwin
- Dey I (1993), *Qualitative data analysis*, London: Routledge
- Hakim C (1987), *Research design*, London: Unwin Hyman
- Hussey J & Hussey R (1997) *Business Research: A practical Guide for undergraduate and postgraduate students*, London: Macmillan Press
- Kumar, R (1999) *Research Methodology*, Sage London
- Marshall C & Rossman G (1989), *Designing qualitative research*, London: Sage
- May T (1993), *Social research*, Buckingham: Open University Press
- Oppenheim A (1992), *Questionnaire design, interviewing and attitude measurement*, London: Pinter Publishers
- Sapsford R & Jupp V (eds) (1996) *Data collection and Analysis*, London: Sage Publications
- Silverman D (1993) *Interpreting qualitative data*, London: Sage
- Walliman, N (2001) *Your Research Project*, Sage, London

## FINAL TASK

<b>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)</b>	Task No. 1
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## MODULE REFERRAL STRATEGY

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

## REVISIONS

Date	Reason
July 2012	Assessment Framework review