MODULE DATA

MODULE TITLE	Dissertation (Charity Resource Management)
MODULE LEVEL	7
MODULE CREDIT POINTS	60
SI MODULE CODE (if known)	44-7E35-00C
MODULE JACS CODE	N200
SUBJECT GROUP	Strategic Management

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 ✓	
Sem 1 & 2		Sem 1		Start Date	TBC
Sem 2 & 3		Sem 2		End Date	TBC
		Sem 3			

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 - 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 - if choosing "Other" please give further details of assessment pattern in the blank space below	
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 (i.e. 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, e.g.. 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 January 2011

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	**9**	**585**	**600**

OTHER COURSES FEATURING THIS MODULE (please list below)

1 AIM OF THIS MODULE

Candidates undertake research work that enables them critically to assess and analyse an aspect of charity resource management of their choice. This module is core.

Charity resource management frequently involves major strategic decisions in a charitable organisation, typically associated with significant change, or anticipated change, in the charity's funding sources, financial management, governance, deployment of human resources (paid or voluntary) or other areas.

The dissertation is an opportunity to explore and develop an in-depth understanding and critical awareness of a range of issues connected with the management of resources in a charity environment, and subject to the constraints of charity law. The dissertation enables candidates to demonstrate ability to undertake an in-depth piece of independent study in this area, with a significant contribution to their personal practice.

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

1. To analyse and develop an issue associated with charity resource management.

2. To select critically and rigorously apply the appropriate research methodology for analysis of some significant aspect of change or potential change in a UK charitable organisation (or affecting a number of charities) where resources are a central issue.

3. To demonstrate a critical understanding of the various social, economic and political factors that impact upon the research – especially the legal and regulatory context applicable to UK charities.

4. To demonstrate a rigorous understanding of the theory and literature relevant to the issues under investigation.

5. To reflect upon and assess the generalisability of any findings and the extent to which the research contributes to the practical understanding of charity resource management.

6. To have a critical and reflective understanding of the paradigmatic location and basis of the "mode of engagement" with the problem.

3 THESE ARE EXAMPLES OF THE CONTENT OF THE MODULE

You may choose your own title for the dissertation, subject to agreement by the Dissertation Module Leader and by your proposed Supervisor (if different), but:

- it must relate to the overall theme of the MSc Charity Resource Management as a course exploring the use of resources in charitable organisations

- it must involve some form of original study, including collection of primary data using appropriate research methods for data collection and analysis

- it must be linked to the UK charity context – however, this could be:
    o a single charity, or
    o a small number of charities, or
    o a wide class of charities,

        o   or the charity sector as a whole.

- although the topic must relate to UK charities, it is fine to explore an issue with international implications, or where non-charitable organisations are part of the study provide there is a clear conclusion applicable to one or more UK charities

- all dissertations must link to the themes of <u>managing resources in a charity</u> – finances, people, premises etc – even where the main question is regarding broader organisational issues

- there must be at least some consideration of how <u>the regulatory regime</u> for charities affects the issues being considered (charity law, charity accounting, regulation of fundraising, impact of the Charity Commission and other regulators, charity taxation etc)

- the topic should be up to date – located in the context of current issues, including Government policy towards the sector where relevant, and any key changes in service provision.

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

- The philosophy underpinning learning for the dissertation will encourage students to take a critical and independent approach towards the anticipated learning outcomes. To achieve this the students will:

- Meet with an appointed academic supervisor to discuss the research, seek advice on methodological issues and background reading, and as necessary, on the appropriate method of presentation.

- Work independently conducting empirical research and a review of the literature.

- Be encouraged to reflect upon the process of research.

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

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%**
Supervision records	Pass/Fail	N/A	No	
Dissertation	100%	15,000	No	

The supervisor will give verbal feedback during the supervision meetings and formal written feedback from tutors will be given at the assessment stage of the dissertation

Students will be assessed on:	Minimum criteria for pass
In-depth explanation of the principles and organisational context underpinning the charity resource issue under investigation by conducting an empirical research study using the appropriate integration of research methodology and methods and through a relevant literature review.	Satisfactory explanation of principles and organisational context underpinning the charity resource issue under investigation. Sufficient integration of research methodology and methods. Sound, but comparatively narrow, literature review.
Explanation of the impact of one's own presence on the research process through awareness of one's own role as a researcher, and through the use of rigorous research methods.	Satisfactory explanation of impact as researcher, and adequate research methods.
Explanation of the validity and generalisability of any conclusions drawn from the research by following an appropriate research method and by careful data analysis.	Satisfactory explanation of the validity and generalisability of conclusions from research.
Consideration of alternative approaches to investigating and analysing the charity resource issue from a variety of perspectives by critically evaluating a range of research methods.	Satisfactory evaluation of a range of research methods appropriate to charity resources.
Collection of empirical data and secondary data relevant to charity resource management and appropriate interpretation using a justifiable methodology.	Satisfactory data collection, satisfactory interpretation using a reasonable methodology.
Demonstration of critical evaluation skills through recognising the significance of the research findings and data analysis with intellectual competence.	Satisfactory demonstration of critical evaluation skills with respect to research findings and data analysis.
Presentation of data and information in a clear and logical form using appropriate techniques.	Data and information presented in a reasonably clear and logical form, and using appropriate techniques.

THIS IS HOW YOU WILL BE GIVEN FEEDBACK ON YOUR PERFORMANCE

Feedback in the support of student learning is an integral part of module design and:

- We encourage dialogue and collaboration around learning through regular supervisory meetings and e-mail

- We help clarify what good performance is through full discussion of the dissertation in discussions the final two modules of the course, in the dissertation handbook and then in supervisory meetings.

- We provide information that can be used to help shape teaching and learning support through the dissertation handbook and the BlackBoard site

- Encourage positive motivational beliefs and self esteem through the establishment

of clear boundaries in the supervisory sessions.

- Provide formative feedback on performance in supervision and, where appropriate, feedback on draft chapters.

- Facilitate the development of self-assessment and reflection in learning through the reflective nature of the dissertation and its relationship to experience, reflection and relevant theory.

- Deliver high quality information to students about their learning through the use of supervisory meetings and the matrix and the feedback narrative.

- Provide opportunities to close the gap between current and desired performance through the development of formative as well as substantive content feedback through the supervision process. Where students request this, we can also look at drafts of their work.

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

Dissertation tutors will recommend specific reading tailored to individual research interests. Research methodology literature is offered in the Research Methods core module specification. However, in general terms, students will be expected to make use of the following learning resources:

- textbooks and academic journals
- professional publications
- the research organisation(s)
- stakeholder experiences
- official reports and publications (including legislation)
- case study material
- resources from regulators relevant to the charity sector and from sector umbrella bodies
- resources from professional bodies – especially charity-specific bodies.

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