

## MODULE DESCRIPTOR

<b>MODULE TITLE</b>	Research and Consultancy Project		
<b>Module Code</b>	44-7979-00S		
<b>Level</b>	7		
<b>Credit Points</b>	15		
<b>Indicative Assessment Components &amp; Percentage Weightings</b>	Coursework 100%		
<b>Pre-Requisite Modules (if applicable)</b>	None		
<b>Delivered according to Standard Academic Calendar</b> YES	<b>Long: 2 semesters</b>  NO	<b>Short: 1 semester</b>  YES	<b>Other delivery pattern:</b>

### 1 MODULE AIMS

These are the aims of this module are to:

1. critically apply management theory to a real world task or organisational issue within your sector;
2. ensure that you appreciate the importance of integrated, strategic holistic thinking when tackling management issues;
3. provide you with an opportunity to design, implement and evaluate a project within your sector;
4. provide an opportunity for you to develop skills in problem-solving and project management;

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

1. understand the role of problem-solving and consultancy in your sector and appreciate the different forms which research and consultancy projects can take;
2. critically evaluate past and current literature on consultancy practice, project management and problem-solving;
3. use relevant data, concepts, and techniques to develop an integrated problem-solving approach in response to a given issue within your sector;
4. present your ideas effectively, as managers and consultants are required to do, bearing in mind the brief you were given;
5. identify, appreciate, and understand the implications of a range of ethical dilemmas in the field of consultancy, problem solving and project management; and
6. analyse real case studies, of project management, problem-solving and consultancy projects in your sector, and understand why and how they were more successful or less successful.

## **3 INDICATIVE LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES**

The module will be delivered through a series of keynote lectures and seminar sessions. Lectures will be used to deliver new material to you but will be interactive and you will be expected to debate key themes introduced in these lectures. Support sessions will be arranged with a nominated supervisor to guide you through the process of applying research and consultancy theory and to assist you in the management of your consultancy 'teams'. These will take place instead of seminars and, sometimes, these sessions may also take the guise of 'client' updating meetings. You will be provided with opportunities to draw upon practical examples of real-life research and consultancy projects. Additionally, you will have access to academic staff with personal research and consultancy management expertise.

The module will be assessed through a single individual project that has several elements, as follows:

- Working in small groups, you will take the role of a research and consultancy 'team' employed by a hypothetical or real organisation;
- based on the specific brief that you will agree with your tutor, you will be required to produce a research and consultancy report advising your organisation on how they should handle a particular problem they have identified.
- You will then present your team proposals in a short presentation to your tutor and/or fellow students who will play the role of your employer or client. You will then be questioned by these people.
- Each team member must then produce a word response to the audience reaction to your proposals, together with a short piece of reflection on their own performance and/or experiences of working in a team for this type of task.

You will be guided in your selection of projects to ensure that they are appropriate and sector specific.

#### **4 INDICATIVE MODULE CONTENTS/TOPICS**

This module provides you with an opportunity to design, implement and evaluate a practical project within your sector.

- Consultancy practice
- Problem solving
- Project management
- Ethics in consultancy

#### **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:**
  - Module Handbook
  - Module Blackboard site
- **NOTE THAT THIS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE FROM YEAR TO YEAR**