Research Dissertation

Module Descriptor

Module Code: PRJ7RED

Version: V2.00

Status: Final

Date: 19/12/2024

Summary Module Details

Module details

Module Title: Research Dissertation

Module Leader: Dr Graeme Whitehall (each student would have their own supervisor)

Module Mode: Supported online learning

Semester: Spring (UK)

Level: 7

Credits: 40

Learning Hours: 400

Contact & Study Hours

Scheduled learning and teaching activities: 66 hrs (16.5%)

Guided independent study: 334 hrs (83.5%)

Assessment Type

Coursework: 0%

Computer Marked Assessment: 0%

Self-directed Research Project: 100%

Portfolio: 0%

Module Summary

This module focusses upon students developing an academically robust dissertation. It will draw upon the academic body of knowledge, theories, frameworks and include academic research publications around a specific topic. Building upon the Final Project Proposal module, relevant literature will be critiqued to develop a research question, with an aim, hypothesis, proposition and objectives as appropriate. A theoretical position and methodological choices will be discussed, and a research design developed, thus ensuring rigour at the highest level possible for an MSc. The dissertation might include primary or secondary data and analysis.

For the best dissertations, discussions will be considered for further development to become publications at external conferences such as ARCOM.

Taken on which Programmes

MSc Innovation in Sustainable Built Environments (E)*

Core (C) or Elective (E)

*Students must choose the Research Dissertation (PRJ7RED) module or the Work-based Project (PRJ7WBP) module. Final Project Proposal (SUS7PRP) is a pre-requisite for this module.

Module Aim

This module aims to provide students the opportunity to build upon research skills and knowledge from the programme. This involves undertaking a rigorous piece of social science research whilst developing the necessary understanding, knowledge and skills to produce a dissertation including all parts of a research project.

Students are provided with academic supervision to support their dissertation research and writing on a topic of their choice.

Module Learning Outcomes

LO1.   Understand how a research project with a focus on sustainability might be undertaken through critique to literature to develop a research problematic.

LO2.   Analyse data from a research design associated with sustainability within the context of the built environment and beyond.

LO3.   Evaluate the impact of the research findings for the built environment literature, thus make a contribution.

LO4.   Transferable skills – critique published reports/research, construct a convincing argument drawing upon that critique, self-reflection and research project management.

LO5.   Demonstrate the craft of social science research through the delivery of a dissertation.

Indicative Module Content

Module topics

- Supervisory guidance around literature critique.

- Supervisory guidance around ontology, epistemology and methodology.

- Supervisory guidance around research object, unit of analysis and level of understanding.

- Supervisory guidance around rigour and appropriate claims.

- Supervisory guidance around the topic area to be studied.

This content will be reviewed and updated regularly to reflect the evolving body of knowledge regarding social science research.

Overview of Summative Assessment

Module learning outcomes	Assessment	Word count or equivalent	Weighting
LO1, LO2, LO3, LO4 & LO5	Research Dissertation	10,000	100%

Module Pass Mark (as a weighted average of all assessments): 50%

Key Module Learning Resources

Core Sources and Texts

The core reading resources within each module will be provided via the specific Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) module pages and within the e-Library. Additional reference material and supplementary resources to support your studies are available through the UCEM e-Library.

Module tools

Students will have access to study materials, dedicated academic support, student forums, and learning activities via an online learning platform (VLE).

This is an independent student research project, guided and supported by a dissertation supervisor (UCEM academic team). Students will be supported through either individual or group meetings with their supervisor. Sessions will be recorded where appropriate to support students who cannot attend and to enable students to recap the session.

Professional online resources

The e-Library provides access to trusted, quality online resources, selected by subject specialists, to support students' study. This includes journals, industry publications, magazines, academic books and a dissertation/work-based library. For a list of the key industry specific and education resources available please visit the VLE e-Library.

Other relevant resources

Access is also provided to further information sources that include the British Library and Open University UK catalogues, as well as providing a monthly current awareness service entitled, *Knowledge Foundations* - a compendium of news, research and resources relating to the educational sector and the Built Environment.

The module resource list is available on the module website and is updated regularly to ensure materials are relevant and current.