

Module code	MBMRP	NQF level	7
Credit value	40	Study duration	20 weeks

Research Project

Module description

This module is the culmination of your postgraduate studies. It is an independent research project that you will undertake into a management or organisational issue. Your choice of topic should be guided by the programme subject specialism, and must relate to at least one of the subjects covered in your Masters degree. The project will be undertaken with supervision from a member of the programme's academic faculty who will advise you on the research process, structure of the report, and writing up. The choice of topic, and final report, remains your choice and responsibility throughout.

Purpose of the project:

The aim of the project is to produce a major piece of research that advances knowledge in the subject area of business management. It will encourage students to explore areas that have not been investigated previously, ideally incorporating managerial problems or a business scenario that have important organisational implications.

More specifically, it aims to provide the student with experience in handling data in an organisational setting and in applying relevant concepts and theories appropriate for the business environment. Information and data are collected, analysed and interpreted in such a way that final conclusions are both reliable and valid. Recommendations are then made supporting the research findings and analysis.

Nature of the project

Students have the opportunity to conduct and submit a practical based project. The organisational project approach usually entails applying theoretical knowledge to a workplace problem or issue. In investigating workplace issues primary data is gathered, which may be qualitative or quantitative in nature. Throughout, the emphasis is on conducting an analytical investigation and combining literature and data to ascertain the nature of the problem. Particular attention needs to be paid to the reliability and validity of the approaches used.

The project may be predominately based on existing published material and statistics. Following the identification of the problem to be investigated, the approach involves an in-depth study of the literature, combining synthesis and critical analysis of secondary data. The approach also provides a rigorous evaluation of the methods used, the conclusion drawn and the theories proffered in the literature. The research involved may also be of a primary nature.

This module aims to:

- Enable students to undertake an independent research project into a specific management issue or topic of their choice
- Develop students' independent research skills
- Develop students' transferable skills, including time and project management, organisational skills, data collection and analysis, and communication skills
- Develop students' critical thinking skills
- Develop students' understanding of their chosen topic to an advanced level

Learning outcomes

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

- successfully complete an independent but guided piece of research into their specialist subject area
- demonstrate understanding of approaches to researching management and organisational dynamics through the design, execution and writing up of this project
- critically evaluate a set of approaches to a specific management issue or topic
- demonstrate analytical and synthetic thinking skills in relation to management theories



Syllabus

Minimum of 4 supervisory meetings

Learning and teaching methods

The learning and teaching methods for the module follow the intended online delivery strategy for the programme as a whole. The module will be guided by the taught content delivered in the Research Methods module and will be primarily directed independent study.

Description of unit of assessment	Length/Duration	Submission date	Weighting
Management Report	10,000 words	End of module	100%