Dissertation

Module Code | DISS | NQF level: | 7  
Credit Value | 60 | Study duration: | 36 weeks

**Module description:**
The dissertation module provides students with an opportunity to conduct an original research project on a topic of interest aligned to a relevant area, linked to their masters’ programme. The project will be agreed upon by a designated dissertation tutor prior to commencement to ensure that the project is feasible within the timeframe of the module. Understanding ethical considerations, research methodologies and research planning whilst developing report writing skills will be essential learning outcomes of this module.

This module aims to:
- enable students to undertake an independent research project into a specific 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:
- identify a suitable research topic within the context of their masters programme
- evidence competence in research retrieval, evidence synthesis, critical appraisal and presentation
- systematically identify a relevant and suitable research problem and justify the choice of the intended research design to explore this research problem
- search for historical and contemporary information and research on the topic
- carry out a focused critical and analytical reading and synthesis of accessed information on the topic
- conduct a primary or secondary research project using the appropriate methodology
- systematically structure and effectively present in written form a synthesis of accessed information relevant to the research topic
- critically reflect on his/her development of knowledge, skills and techniques during the preparation of the dissertation

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of unit of assessment</th>
<th>Length/Duration</th>
<th>Submission Date</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research proposal (compulsory, not credit bearing)</td>
<td>1,500-2,000 words</td>
<td>Unit 8</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dissertation thesis</td>
<td>12,000-15,000 words</td>
<td>Within 34 weeks of module start</td>
<td>80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scientific poster and online conference</td>
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<td>Within 36 weeks of module start</td>
<td>20%</td>
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**Syllabus**
- Research Design including primary and secondary research
- Ethical Considerations
- Project Management
- Proposal writing
- Academic Writing including critical analysis
- Personal Development

**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 delivered through the provision of specified reading materials on the virtual learning platform, which shall be supported by specified discussion forums and lecturecasts, and Tutor support will be available to students via phone, email, and question and answer (Q&A) sessions.