

Module Title:	Project Preparation
Module Code:	07H
Level:	6
Credits:	15
Pre-Requisites:	

Module Description:

This module will enable students to acquire the knowledge and skills required to effectively plan the development of their individual projects and the writing up of the dissertation report. A study of research methods will provide students with the knowledge required to choose and justify their planned approach to their own project. The student is required to produce, after obtaining feedback from both staff and students, a satisfactory project proposal. This proposal will include a critical appraisal of the relevant literature.

Indicative Content:

- Selecting relevant and feasible research topics
 - Inductive and deductive research
 - Primary and secondary research
 - Quantitative and qualitative methods
 - Questionnaires (paper and online), interviews, observation
 - Sampling
 - Analysing data
 - Understanding the importance and need for literature search
 - Quoting, paraphrasing and referencing information from other sources
 - Copyright and plagiarism issues
 - Evaluating the reliability of sources and critically evaluating the content
 - Evaluating and dealing with possible ethical issues
 - Product development and development phases
 - Recap project management tools such as Work Breakdown Charts and the use of Gantt charts
 - Presenting results and writing conclusions
 - Developing and writing research and technical reports
 - Logical organisation of ideas and information
-

Module Specifications: Schools of Business & Management & Information Technology

Learning and Teaching Methods:

Teaching and learning will take the form of a series of lectures supported by practical seminar sessions and discussions. Students will be expected to undertake a programme of directed and independent study to support the taught sessions. The seminar sessions will draw upon the students' studies and directed learning. Each student will be expected to take part in activities such as small group seminars and poster presentations to enable them to get feedback on and develop their ideas.

Specific Learning Resources:

None.

Bibliography

Highly Recommended

Cottrell, S. (2014) *Dissertations and Project Reports: a step by step guide*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Dawson, C (2009) *Projects in Computing and Information Systems (2nd Edition)*. Harlow, Pearson Education Ltd.

Recommended

Barker, M., Barker, D. and Pinard, K. (2011) *Internet Research (6th Ed)*. USA: South- Western College Publishing.

Cadle, J. and Yeates, D. (2008) *Project Management for Information Systems (5th Ed)*. Harlow: Pearson Education Ltd.

Cottrell, S. (2011) *Critical thinking Skills: developing effective analysis and argument (2nd Edition)*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Levin, P. (2005) *Excellent Dissertations!* London: Open University Press.

O'Dochartaigh, N. (2012) *Internet Research Skills*. London: Sage Publications Ltd.

Pears R. and Shields G. (2010) *Cite them Right (8th Edition)*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan

Winstanley, C. (2009) *Writing a Dissertation for Dummies*. Chichester: John Wiley and Sons Ltd.

Module Learning Outcomes

Subject Specific Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module you will be able to:

LO 1 | Critically review published research and literature in relation to the chosen area of study.

LO 2 | Develop an idea for a suitable research project, making use of opportunities for feedback, and compare and contrast the suitability of different research and

Module Specifications: *Schools of Business & Management & Information Technology*

development methods.

LO 3 | Select and apply appropriate project planning techniques.

LO 4 | Orally present a project proposal and engage in discussion to show a critical understanding of the topic area.

Assessment Title or element	Weighting (%)
Report (3000 words) [late semester] containing: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A critical review of the literature in the subject area (20%)• A project proposal, including planning documentation (60%)	80%
Presentation (20 mins) including discussion [end semester]	20%

Information correct at point of publication.