

Module Title:	Dissertation Level 8
Language of Instruction:	English
Credits:	10
NFQ Level:	8
Module Delivered In	4 programme(s)
Teaching & Learning Strategies:	Writing a dissertation involves the learner deciding what phenomenon to study, how to study it and within the established conventions of the relevant business research community. Thus the pedagogy of the module is student-centred, where learners are seen as active and responsible participants in the development of their learning. Learners will be allocated a dissertation supervisor to support the research process and will be able to draw on up to 15 minutes per week of advice and guidance from their supervisor. Class activities to support the research process include lectures and tutorial sessions, using small group activities and individual tasks contributing towards the development of research skills. The purpose of the lectures, seminars and practical classes is to address the theoretical and practical issues involved in business research. The module will also be supported with on-line learning materials.
Module Aim:	The aim of this module is to give learners supervised guidance and research method training (through a series of research method lectures/workshops and individual dissertation supervision) in preparing their dissertation on an agreed research topic. It aims to develop students' research, critical writing and thinking skills and will provide students with the opportunity to apply the theories, ideas, skills and techniques from their programme of study to a research area of personal, academic and/or career interest to them. It is the intention of the dissertation module to develop a body of knowledge that contributes to the continuing evolution and development of business, both nationally and internationally.
Learning Outcomes	
<i>On successful completion of this module the learner should be able to:</i>	
LO1	Develop an appropriate research question/hypotheses and write a research proposal for investigation.
LO2	Locate, analyse and synthesise a body of source material (including primary and secondary) appropriate to the research topic under investigation and undertake a comprehensive literature review using the Harvard System of Referencing.
LO3	Evaluate the research method options available to a researcher and justify the methodology chosen for the research question/hypotheses under investigation.
LO4	Conduct independent primary research to address the research aims/objectives of the dissertation demonstrating an awareness of the ethical issues to be considered in business research.
LO5	Critically assess, compare and discuss research findings with existing evidence.
LO6	Produce a research dissertation that demonstrates sound research skills with clarity of thinking and logical argumentation in drawing conclusions and recommendations for management theory and/or practice.
Pre-requisite learning	
Module Recommendations	
<i>This is prior learning (or a practical skill) that is recommended before enrolment in this module.</i>	
No recommendations listed	
Incompatible Modules	
<i>These are modules which have learning outcomes that are too similar to the learning outcomes of this module.</i>	
No incompatible modules listed	
Co-requisite Modules	
No Co-requisite modules listed	
Requirements	
<i>This is prior learning (or a practical skill) that is mandatory before enrolment in this module is allowed.</i>	
No requirements listed	

Module Content & Assessment

Indicative Content

Developing a Research Question

Starting a dissertation project and identifying a feasible research problem/question/ hypotheses; Techniques for generating a research topic and research Ideas; Defining research questions /hypotheses into a statement of problem and research objectives; what makes a good research proposal?; Writing and structuring a research proposal

Writing a Literature Review

The purpose of doing a literature review; Starting a literature search; The literature review process; Breadth and depth of material cited; Level of critical analysis; Integration of research objectives within the literature review; Using the Harvard Referencing System

Research Design

Research philosophy, research theory and methodology behind choice of research method; Emphasis on reasoning behind quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods design.

Ethics in Business Research

Key ethical issues in relation to the choice of research topic, Methods of data collection, The responsibilities of the researcher toward the research participants and the sharing of research findings and results; Compliance with IT Carlow Policy on Ethics in Research

Sampling

Differences between probabilistic and non-probabilistic sampling strategies and for which type of research they are best suited; Sampling techniques

Data Collection

Choice of data collection methods (Interviews & Interview Schedules; Surveys/Questionnaires; Focus Groups; Case Studies; Ethnography; Experiments; Critical Incident Techniques; Content Analysis; E-Research Methods); Justification for research method chosen; How to construct a data collection tool in the context of either quantitative or qualitative research; The Importance of quality (including Reliability, Validity, Feasibility, Limitations and Ethical Research); Project management, effort and originality.

Data Analysis, Results and Findings

Key principles in both quantitative and qualitative data analysis; Data Analysis using SPSS, Statistical Thinking and/or Nvivo (SPSS classes assist students as follows, Using the Data Editor: Data Coding and Entry; Defining Variables; Value labels; Missing values; and, Modifying and recoding data values; Analysing and interpreting data: Frequencies; Descriptive Statistics; Explore and Cross tab procedures; and, Multiple Response Procedures; Exploring Sub-Groups of datasets: Select procedure and the split file procedure; Linear Correlation and Regression; Normal distribution; Confidence Intervals; Introduction to Hypothesis Testing (parametric, non-parametric); Using the Output Editor: Creating and modifying Charts; Changing TableLooks; Exporting tables and charts to other applications; and, Statistical Thinking); Expression and presentation of results; basis of results; final results

Writing a Critical Discussion

Discussion of problems and evidence; Discussion related to the literature; Synthesis of arguments made; Professionalism of discussion

Writing Conclusions and Recommendations

Relationship of conclusions to objectives; Strength of conclusions; Research Recommendations (feasibility, appropriateness).

The Written Report/Dissertation

Structure of a research dissertation; Standard of expression; Final checks on referencing (accuracy, completeness); Professionalism of report.

Other Relevant Information on Dissertation

Dissertation Document comprising of between 10,000 to 12,000 words; Individually appointed supervisor; Maintenance of Weekly Supervision Logbook; Oral presentation may be required; .

Assessment Breakdown	%
Continuous Assessment	100.00%

Continuous Assessment

Assessment Type	Assessment Description	Outcome addressed	% of total	Assessment Date
Other	Research Proposal -Formative Assessment	1	5.00	Week 3
Other	Literature Review - Formative Assessment	2	5.00	Week 9
Other	Research Methodology Chapter -Formative Assessment	3	5.00	Sem 1 End
Other	Dissertation 10,000-12,000 words	1,2,3,4,5,6	85.00	Sem 2 End

No Project

No Practical

No End of Module Formal Examination

SETU Carlow Campus reserves the right to alter the nature and timings of assessment

Module Workload

Workload: Full Time		
<i>Workload Type</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Average Weekly Learner Workload</i>
Lecturer-Supervised Learning (Contact)	Every Week	0.25
Independent Learning	Every Week	5.75
Lecture	Every Week	2.00
Laboratory	Every Week	1.00
Total Hours		9.00

Workload: Part Time		
<i>Workload Type</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Average Weekly Learner Workload</i>
Contact Hours	Every Week	0.25
Independent Learning Time	Every Week	7.25
Lecture	Every Week	1.50
Total Hours		9.00

Module Delivered In

Programme Code	Programme	Semester	Delivery
CW_BBHRM_B	Bachelor of Business (Honours) in Human Resource Management	7	Mandatory
CW_BBBBM_B	Bachelor of Business (Honours) in Management	7	Mandatory
CW_BBSCM_B	Bachelor of Business (Honours) in Supply Chain Management	7	Mandatory
CW_BRLMB_B	Bachelor of Business(Honours) in Management	4	Mandatory