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MODULE DESCRIPTOR

Module Title

Project Preparation (MSc)

Reference	ASM022	Version	5
Created	October 2017	SCQF Level	SCQF 11
Approved	December 2004	SCQF Points	30
Amended	February 2018	ECTS Points	15

Aims of Module

To enable students to acquire the knowledge and skills required to effectively plan a short period of research work as preparation for a longer investigation. To provide an opportunity for preliminary research related work to be undertaken.

Learning Outcomes for Module

On completion of this module, students are expected to be able to:

- 1 Plan and negotiate a satisfactory project planning learning agreement.
- 2 Produce a project plan to a professional standard. This will cover the risk assessment, ethics and costing of the practical work and methodology required for the MSc Project.
- 3 Apply a problem solving approach to all aspects of the research work detailed in the learning agreement, negotiating changes in the agreement if necessary.
- 4 Demonstrate professional competence in identifying appropriate reported work, critically appraising its relevance to the topic(s) being studied and presenting the research done.
- 5 Competently defend the literature review presented, via an oral assessment.

Indicative Module Content

Project Management: calculation of duration, sequencing of activities, resource profile. Techniques: networks, Gantt charts, critical paths, floats. Management: manning, monitoring, control. Research methods. Project Planning Agreement: The student is required to produce, after negotiating with his/her supervisory team, a satisfactory learning agreement to cover work to be done during the project planning stage. This agreement is completed and approved in advance. This learning agreement represents a "contract" between the student and the Programme Management Team. This agreement will include a critical appraisal of the relevant literature. Project Preparation: The student carries out the learning outcomes identified in the Project Preparation Agreement, normally on a six week period.

Module Delivery

The project management component is delivered through lectures and workshops.

Indicative Student Workload	Full Time	Part Time
Contact Hours	90	90
Non-Contact Hours	210	210
Placement/Work-Based Learning Experience [Notional] Hours	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	300	300
Actual Placement hours for professional, statutory or regulatory body		

ASSESSMENT PLAN

If a major/minor model is used and box is ticked, % weightings below are indicative only.

Component 1

Type:	Examination	Weighting:	30%	Outcomes Assessed:	5
Description:	An oral defence based on the Literature Review				

Component 2

Type:	Coursework	Weighting:	0%	Outcomes Assessed:	1, 2
Description:	Project Plan which will be assessed on a PASS/FAIL basis.				

Component 3

Type:	Coursework	Weighting:	70%	Outcomes Assessed:	3, 4
Description:	Literature Review of the Project topic.				

MODULE PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTOR

Explanatory Text

To pass this module the students must achieve a grade D or better. The module grade depends upon the following criteria:-

Module Grade	Minimum Requirements to achieve Module Grade:
A	Both C1 and C3 must have a minimum of 50% and an overall total (by weighting) of greater than or equal to 70%, and a Pass in C2
B	Both C1 and C3 must have a minimum of 40% and an overall total (by weighting) between 60-69%, and a Pass in C2
C	Both C1 and C3 must have a minimum of 35% and an overall total (by weighting) between 50-59%, and a Pass in C2
D	Both C1 and C3 must have a minimum of 35% and an overall total (by weighting) between 40-49%, and a Pass in C2
E	MARGINAL FAIL. Both C1 and C3 must have a minimum of 35% and an overall total (by weighting) between 35-39%, and a Pass in C2
F	FAIL. Either/Both of C1 and C3 has mark less than or equal to 34% and/or a FAIL in C2
NS	Non-submission of work by published deadline or non-attendance for examination

Module Requirements

Prerequisites for Module	Completion of the PgCert Analytical Sciences.
Corequisites for module	None.
Precluded Modules	None.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

In respect of preliminary practical investigations, the safe working practice of the Institution in which the work is being done must be followed, and course members must always follow procedures agreed in advance with the supervisors. The project preparation involves the planning and carrying out of preliminary work including planning, researching the literature and undertaking appropriate experiments.

INDICATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 1 Cresswell, J.W. (2009). Research Design - qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods approaches, 4th edition, SAGE.
- 2 Crombie, I. (1996). The pocket guide to critical appraisal, Wiley.
- 3 Subject specific literature as advised by project supervisor, this will include mainly recent journal publications.