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MODULE DESCRIPTOR

Module Title

Professional Development and Research Skills

Reference	CMM507	Version	6
Created	April 2017	SCQF Level	SCQF 11
Approved	November 2003	SCQF Points	15
Amended	August 2017	ECTS Points	7.5

Aims of Module

To develop practical planning and communication skills and gain familiarity with research methods relevant to a rapidly evolving technological discipline. To foster an awareness of ethical and legal implications of IT. To develop collaborative skills.

Learning Outcomes for Module

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

- 1 Undertake a literature search, identifying various information resources (on-line and off-line) and access these in order to obtain relevant and up-to-date information on a topic of specialist interest.
- 2 With other members of a team, assess and evaluate the legal aspects of workplace practices with respect to intellectual property rights, copyright issues, contracts pertaining to software development/IT projects, product liability and data protection.
- 3 Plan and manage a major software development or research project, using appropriate software tools to create, evaluate and monitor the progress of the project.
- 4 Evaluate research claims and/or analyse software performance using simple statistical techniques to lend scientific rigour to the process of evaluation.

Indicative Module Content

Library skills: literature searches; information sources (on-line and off-line). Legal Issues: Social and ethical implications of IT; copyright; patents; intellectual property rights; contracts; product liability; data protection. Project planning and management: skills; tools and techniques; configuration management. Report writing: citation styles; practical skills in formatting, building contents and indices; report writing style. Evaluation: experimental design; reproducible research; evaluation of research outcomes. Statistics: experimental design; data analysis; inference.

Module Delivery

The course content is delivered by a combination of lectures and interactive lab sessions, and is based on extensive use of case studies.

Indicative Student Workload

	Full Time	Part Time
Contact Hours	44	44
Non-Contact Hours	106	106
Placement/Work-Based Learning Experience [Notional] Hours	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	150	150
<i>Actual Placement hours for professional, statutory or regulatory body</i>		

ASSESSMENT PLAN

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

Component 1

Type:	Coursework	Weighting:	100%	Outcomes Assessed:	1, 2, 3, 4
Description:	This is a coursework. For a given brief, students will consider professional, social and legal issues; students will devise a project plan, design an experiment and, given data, use statistical techniques to undertake analysis and evaluation.				

MODULE PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTOR**Explanatory Text**

The coursework pass grade is D.

Module Grade	Minimum Requirements to achieve Module Grade:
A	To achieve an A, the student must achieve an A in Component 1.
B	To achieve a B, the student must achieve a B in Component 1.
C	To achieve a C, the student must achieve a C in Component 1.
D	To achieve a D, the student must achieve a D in Component 1.
E	To achieve an E, the student must achieve an E in Component 1.
F	To achieve an F, the student must achieve an F in Component 1.
NS	Non-submission of work by published deadline or non-attendance for examination

Module Requirements

Prerequisites for Module	None in addition to the standard entry requirements.
Corequisites for module	None.
Precluded Modules	None.

INDICATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 1 BAINBRIDGE, D., 2008. Introduction to Information Technology Law, Pearson.
- 2 BELL, J., 2014. Doing Your research Project. Open University Press.
- 3 BOWDEN, J., 2011. Writing a report: How to prepare, write and present really effective reports. How To Books Ltd.
- 4 BLAIR, L., 2016. Writing a Graduate Thesis or Dissertation. Sense Publishers.
- 5 CRESWELL, J.W. , 2014. Research design: qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches. Sage.
- 6 MADSEN, B., 2016, Statistics for non-statisticians. Springer.