

<b>Module Title</b>	Dissertation
<b>Credit</b>	<b>60 (30 ECTS)</b> (8 ECTS (Research Methods) + 4 ECTS (Practical work) + 18 ECTS (Research paper))

### **Aims**

This module aims to prepare students to undertake dissertation. Students will be given an overview of different business research techniques and how to plan, execute and present a project or dissertation. They will have the opportunity to develop and refine their ideas and objectives and this will provide a basis for more detailed discussion with supervisors.

### **Learning Outcomes**

#### Knowledge

On successful completion of this module, the student will be able to:

1. select an appropriate project/dissertation topic and develop realistic aims and objectives;
2. develop a sound research methodology to meet the project/dissertation aims;
3. demonstrate how different types and sources of data contribute to research process;
4. relate how qualitative and quantitative research techniques meet research aims through an appropriate methodology;
5. undertake the research project with explicit presentation of results achieved;

#### Skills

On successful completion of this module, the student will be able to:

1. Conduct sound and well developed research into business and management issues to a high standard
2. Communicate the results of their research in a written report and oral presentation, to the standard expected of a high level professional manager

### **Syllabus**

- Dissertation/project aims and objectives: the need to focus;
- Project planning and time management: the research proposal;
- Research methodology: primary and secondary data;
- Survey techniques, questionnaire design and interviewing skills;
- Qualitative research: depth interviews, focus groups and data recording;
- Data analysis: drawing conclusions and making recommendations;
- Reviewing the literature, use of academic theory and referencing;
- Developing working hypotheses;
- Report writing.

### **Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies**

Students have to pass all the taught modules before they can progress to their dissertation. The assessment of the dissertation module is focused at individual research project realization by the students within an area of interest that they choose and decide upon together with the mentor. The research project is defined with a research topic within the disciplines and modules taught within the Master program and it is suggested by the students expressing their field of special interest, relating to their present employment and problems, etc. The mentor can be any module leader and professor engaged within the study program. There is a precise procedure at the Faculty defining the steps to apply for the dissertation topic and for the mentor to be defined. Later in the process, a commission of three professors in the field of the dissertation research

study is defined and this commission is reviewing the dissertation and it is defended in front of this commission and public.

### **Assessment Scheme**

Assessment is accomplished as a three-step procedure:

1. The Research Methods sub-module assessed by **Dissertation Proposal**, written paper proposing the research topic, justifying its relevance, with research aims and objectives, research methodology, methods and techniques, literature, developing working hypotheses, indicating expected results. Dissertation proposal shows candidates' capacity to prepare the dissertation as a research project, with clear understanding of the problems and issues raised, also showing the candidates' capability to approach the research in a systematic way. Dissertation Proposal is assessed by assessment grade (5-10) and brings 8 ECTS (Research Methods).
2. Practical work sub-module is assessed by written **practical work report**. The report is signed both by company representative and dissertation mentor, confirming successful completion of practical assignment. It is assessed on pass/fail basis and brings 4 ECTS (Practical work).
3. After having successfully passed the research methods and practical work sub-modules, student progress to dissertation research paper. The Dissertation research paper assessment is performed on the basis of written dissertation research paper (approx. 15000 words) and oral presentation and defence in public. The academic commission consisting of minimum three professors in the field, among which one is a mentor, assesses the submitted dissertation/research paper and after oral presentation and defence provides the final assessment grade (5-10) for the research paper, which is the final grade for the Dissertation module. Successful completion of this stage brings 18 ECTS (Research paper).

Dissertation module is complete when all three stages have been successfully accomplished bringing sum of 30 ECTS.

### **Learning Materials**

1. Ghauri, P, Gronhaug, K: Research Methods in Business Studies, Prentice Hall, 2010.
  2. Krishnaswamy K.N, Sivakumar A.I, Mathirsijn M: Management research methodology: integration of principles, methods and techniques, Pearson Education: Dorling Kindersley, 2006.
  3. Brannick, M.T, Levine E.L, Morgeson F.P: Job and work analysis : methods, research, and applications for human resource management, 2nd ed, SAGE Publications, 2007
  4. Bui, I.N, How to Write a Master's Thesis, SAGE Publications, 2009
- Patton, M.I Q., Qualitative evaluation and research methods. 3rd ed, SAGE Publications, 2002