

**MN5499 – Individual Dissertation & MN5498 – Group Dissertation**

**MODULE TYPE/SEMESTER:** All Year Module: Semesters 1 & 2 and throughout the summer

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**AIM:** This module provides students with the opportunity to undertake an in-depth investigation into issues within the fields of business, finance and management. The first two semesters provide preparatory input on using literature, developing investigative questions, and understanding methods of enquiry. Following this, over the summer period, students are required to prepare an (up to) 15,000-word dissertation detailing justified conclusions and recommendations. (Students undertaking a group dissertation have a further requirement to produce a 3,000-word individual piece of work in addition to the main dissertation of 15,000 words.)

***This is a core element for all of the MSc and MLitt Programmes in the School of Management.*** Preparatory input (semesters 1 & 2) is provided through a variety of taught classes, including lectures and interactive workshops that prepares students for their dissertation and also supports them with the assessments for their taught modules in Semesters 1 and 2. Dissertation support over the summer dissertation period is enabled through individual and group supervision, with students allocated to dissertation supervisors toward the end of Semester 2.

***Please note*** – teaching will be delivered for all PGT students within the MN5499 Individual Dissertation module. All teaching materials will be made available on the MN5499 Moodle site. Students will be required to make their choice of whether to undertake an individual or group dissertation when submitting their dissertation proposal in the middle of Semester 2 and those choosing a group dissertation will be moved over to MN5498 after Semester 2.

**METHOD OF TEACHING & LEARNING:**

Lectures, workshops, tutorials and individual supervision

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

By the end of Semester 1, students should be able to:

1. Make effective use of existing literature resources;
2. Identify relevant questions that are amenable to investigative enquiry;

3. Prepare an initial outline for a feasible topic for further investigation over the summer session.

By the end of Semester 2, students should be able to:

1. Understand the relevance and application of various formal research methods;
2. Prepare a final research proposal for a feasible topic for submission the basis of which will be used to allocate a dissertation supervisor;
3. Demonstrate awareness of the ethical issues related to research and how to address them.

By the end of the summer dissertation, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a detailed and critical grasp of a particular and focused part of the business, management or finance literature;
2. Articulate a clear set of investigative questions that arise from this critical reading of the literature;
3. Demonstrate a clear and focused attempt to address these questions through analysis and synthesis of existing or newly gathered data and information;
4. Show evidence of critical reflection on both the process and findings of their investigative enquiry.

#### **READING LIST:**

Fuller reading lists will be provided as part of individual lectures / module sessions, however useful texts for general consultation include:

**Business Research Methods Bell, Emma, Alan Bryman, and Bill Harley. (Oxford university press, 2022).**

**Management research / Mark Easterby-Smith, Richard Thorpe and Paul R. Jackson (Sage, 2008)**

**Doing critical management research /Mats Alvesson and Stanley Deetz (Sage, 2000)**

**MODULE ASSESSMENT: This module is formally assessed on the basis of the final dissertation (individual or group) which is due on the 13<sup>th</sup> of August 2024.**

Students must submit a dissertation proposal in order to be allocated a dissertation supervisor. **The draft dissertation proposal in Semester 2 (normally in Week 6)**

***All lectures are MANDATORY.***

### SEMESTER 1 TIMETABLE

<b>Week 1</b>	Mandatory Session on Group Work (Session 2 on Group Working following up from Session One in Orientation week)
<b>Week 2</b>	Introduction to the Dissertation
<b>Week 3</b>	Identifying and sourcing academic literature
<b>Week 4</b>	Doing a literature review – assessing the quality of resources
<b>Week 5</b>	Doing a literature review – reading and critiquing academic literature, developing a theoretical framework
<b>Week 6</b>	<b>ILW - No Lecture this Week</b>
<b>Week 7</b>	Research and Your Dissertation (what makes a good research question)
<b>Week 8</b>	Dissertation Workshops – “Narrowing Down a topic” ( <i>additional information on timing and venues TBC</i> )
<b>Week 9</b>	Dissertation Workshops – “Narrowing Down a topic” ( <i>additional information on timing and venues TBC</i> )
<b>Week 10</b>	Preparing Your Dissertation Proposal
<b>Week 11</b>	<b>No Lecture this Week</b>
<b>Week 12</b>	<b>No Lecture this Week</b>

### SEMESTER 2 TIMETABLE

<b>Week 1</b>	Dissertation Q&A session and catch up – open session for students to ask any questions arising from the work they have done on their proposals to date and preview of the rest of the semester with regard to the dissertation.
<b>Week 2</b>	Data and Qualitative Research Methods
<b>Week 3</b>	Data and Quantitative Research Methods
<b>Week 4</b>	Beyond the “quantitative and the qualitative” – other methods of enquiry for dissertation research
<b>Week 5</b>	Research approach, philosophy and writing a good methodology section
	SPRING BREAK
<b>Week 6</b>	Data Collection – methods for accessing data – in depth lecture and demonstration on databases available and other sources of data.
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>No Lecture this Week</b>
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>No Lecture this Week</b>
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>No Lecture this Week</b>
<b>Week 10</b>	TBC – DISSERTATION ETHICS
<b>Week 11</b>	<b>No Lecture this Week</b>
<b>Week 12</b>	Revision Week - No Lecture this Week

*Organisation of courses may be subject to change without notice.*