



MN4301 – Research Project

MODULE TYPE/SEMESTER: Senior Honours/**Option** (20 Credits)/Semester 1 or 2

PRE-REQUISITE(S): MN3201 and MN3202 (Grade of 14 or above in MN3202)

MODULE CO-ORDINATOR: Dr Neha Gopinath ng52@st-andrews.ac.uk

MODULE LECTURER(S): Team Supervision

AIM:

This module provides students with the opportunity to undertake a management research project closely based upon the research proposal developed during MN3202. The aim of this module is to: (1) carry out a research project (which may involve fieldwork and/or desk-based research) on a social or managerial phenomenon of the student's choice; (2) work one to one with an academic staff member to design, deliver and write-up the project; (3) experience working on a research project in an independent manner.

THE MODULE IN CONTEXT

This module is the third of a sequence of three linked modules that introduce ideas of knowledge creation, application and use in the context of responsible enterprise. The first module (MN3201) explores how we can come to know the world empirically, through systematic study. It emphasises the importance of theory and meta-theory in the creation of these understandings, introduces notions of methodological rigour and critical appraisal, and highlights the political and ethical connotations of knowledge.

The second module (MN3202) builds on new understandings and skills learned in MN3201 by encouraging students to think through how they would investigate a social or managerial phenomenon of their choice. In doing so, students are encouraged to reflect critically on methodological underpinnings and choice of methods, the importance of research ethics, and the politics of use of any knowledge generated. In developing their proposals, students are also introduced to practical issues such as reflexivity, self-management and getting the best out of supervision.

This final (optional) module (MN4301) can be accessed by those students who now wish to operationalise their planned research project from MN3202 (after reflections on any appropriate modifications). Intensive self-study under close one-to-one supervision allows the development and execution of the project previously outlined in MN3202. This module again strengthens independent learning, appreciation of research ethics, and reflexivity, as well as exposing students to the wide range of practical challenges and opportunities encountered during data gathering, analysis and interpretation.

METHOD OF TEACHING & LEARNING:

A minimum of eight hours of one-to-one supervision from a member of academic staff will be available throughout the semester. This includes face-to-face meetings (in-person or online), email discussion and commentary on written material. You will be expected to take responsibility for arranging meetings with your supervisor and for leading on the content and discussions of supervision sessions.

Your supervisor will usually be the person who supervised your MN3202 research proposal. There will be an additional meeting with the module co-ordinator to provide an overview of the module process.

There are no classes for this module. Therefore, you are advised to retain your class notes and slides from MN3201 and MN3202 to help you complete your project.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Synthesize appropriate theoretical, empirical, and methodological literature to frame their research question, methodology and analysis
- Conduct research in an ethically aware and responsible manner
- Demonstrate a clear understanding of the practical application of specific research methodologies and methods
- Identify new insights emerging from their empirical data and apply those insights in ways that develop existing organizational theories
- Communicate constructively with peers and academic supervisors to meet project requirements and deadlines
- Demonstrate critical thinking and reflection skills, as well as skills for independent learning
- Identify future application of their learning and any further learning needs

ASSESSMENT:

A 10,000-word research dissertation (100% of the module mark)

The dissertation will incorporate a critically engaged literature review leading to clear aims and research questions, a description and justification of methodology and methods pertinent to the research questions and used in the research, presentation of findings, and a critically reflective discussion of how the study contributes to current literature and the implications to management and management research. The dissertation will be first marked by your supervisor and moderated by the module co-ordinator.

CORE READING LIST:

There is no set textbook for this module. The following texts will give some essential background as well as an introduction to many of the areas covered in the course. However, students are expected to identify additional reading on their own initiative and as guided by their supervisor. Students will also refer to notes from MN3201 and MN3202.

- Adams, J., Khan, H., Raeside, R. and White, D. (eds), 2007. Research Methods for Graduate Business and Social Science Students, Thousand Oaks: Sage

- Bryman, A. and Bell, E. 2015. Business Research Methods. 4th ed. Oxford: OU Press.
- Cassell, C. and Symon, G. 2004. Essential Guide to Qualitative Methods in Organizational Research. London: Sage.
- Dolab, P. and Donnelly, P. (eds) 2009. Approaches to Qualitative Research Theory and its Practical Application: A guide for dissertation students, Cork: Oak Tree Press
- Easterby-Smith, M., Thorpe, R. and Jackson, P.R. 2012. Management Research. 4th ed. London: Sage.
- Fisher, C. 2010. Researching and Writing a Dissertation for Business Students. 3rd ed. Harlow: Prentice Hall.
- Hart, C. 2001. Doing a Literature Search. Sage Publications.
- May, T. 2001. Social Research: Issues, Methods and Process. 3rd ed. Buckingham: OU Press.
- Punch, K.F. 2016. Developing Effective Research Proposals. 3rd ed. London: Sage.
- Robson, C. 2011. Real World Research. 3rd ed. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Rog, D. and L. Bickman (eds). 2009. The SAGE Handbook of Applied Social Research Methods. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Saunders, M., Lewis, P. and Thornhill, A. 2019. Research Methods for Business Students. 8th ed. FT/Prentice Hall.
- Wallace, M. and Wray, A. 2011. Critical Reading and Writing for Postgraduates. 2nd ed. London: Sage.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

For those students intending to proceed to MN4301: Research Project, the School acknowledges that the presentation of work for that module might sometimes contain material previously submitted for MN3202: Research Methods 2, namely some aspects of the Literature Review and the Methodology. Students will not therefore be penalised for this inclusion, where it occurs, under the terms of the University's Academic Misconduct Policy.

ETHICAL APPROVAL:

An ethical application must be completed by every student undertaking MN4301 Management Project. The application form and relevant guidance can be found on the UTREC website (<https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/utrec/ethicalapplication/>). Application forms must be signed by you and your supervisor before submission and submitted to management.ethics@st-andrews.ac.uk

If you are using secondary data and there are no ethical issues, you will only be required to complete the first part of the form (up to and including question 8). Once this has been submitted you can proceed with your research.

If you are conducting research which requires you to interact with humans (e.g. surveys; questionnaires; interviews; focus groups; observational studies) you must complete and submit the full application form and any additional documents. You must not start contacting participants or collecting data until you have received approval from the School Ethics Committee. You are required have a copy of your formal approval bound into an appendix before submission.

Organisation of courses may be subject to change without notice.