<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EC4499</th>
<th><strong>Dissertation in Economics</strong></th>
<th><strong>Whole Year 2019-20</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LECTURER:</td>
<td>Dr Vivek Prasad (Module Coordinator)</td>
<td>CREDITS: 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LECTURE VENUE AND TIME:</td>
<td></td>
<td>TUTORIALS:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 lectures:</td>
<td></td>
<td>None.</td>
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<tr>
<td>EXAMINATION STRUCTURE:</td>
<td></td>
<td>MODULE REQUIREMENTS:</td>
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<tr>
<td>None.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Completion of all pieces of continuous assessment. Attendance at the departmental research colloquia at which students present their dissertations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>FINAL GRADE:</td>
<td></td>
<td>SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dissertation: 80% weight</td>
<td></td>
<td>Students require approval for their dissertation outline from (i) the dissertation supervisor and also from (ii) the Principal Module Teacher (Dr Prasad). The deadline for submission of the outline to Dr Prasad is the end of week 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation: 20% weight</td>
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**CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT:**

**Dissertation:**
Dissertation due 6th April, 23.59.

**Presentation:**
A provisional date for presentations is 22nd April.

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

*What is the level of mathematical difficulty in this module?*

The level of mathematical difficulty will depend on the type and topic of the dissertation. Dissertations may, for instance, extend a theoretical model or apply econometric methods to a question in economics.

*What happens in the tutorials?*

There are none.

*What do I need to know about assessment in this module?*

The dissertation presentation will be 15 minutes long, followed by five minutes of questions and answers.

*What is the strict word count for the essay (if applicable)?*

The maximum number of words allowed is 15,000 but students will be advised to cover the topic in around 12,000.
**What resources are available electronically for the module?**

Lecture slides will be made available online. Students may also find the slides of the information lecture helpful. They are available at https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/economics/current-ug/dissertation/.

**What are the opportunities for group work in this module (e.g. in tutorials or assessment)?**

Essentially no. Students may discuss ideas with one another but each student has to submit their own dissertation.

**What improvements have been made to the module this year in response to student feedback?**

Student feedback on the module has been positive, and so no substantial changes are anticipated this year.

**What else do I need to know about this module?**

Students are responsible for finding a suitable supervisor and a feasible topic with the help of the supervisor. The dissertation outline, which students have to submit by the end of week 1, can be found online at https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/economics/current-ug/dissertation/.

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**Course Catalogue Module Outline**

Link to Course Catalogue: TBC

**Learning Outcomes**

You will:

- Master a body of literature dealing with a particular area of economics.
- Learn how to frame a research hypothesis, conduct bibliographic research, write a literature review, and structure a research paper.
- Develop your presentation skills and learn how to structure a presentation.
- Gain experience in conducting applied economic research and/or applied econometric research.
- Gain experience in writing an economics research paper.

**Course Outline**

This module is designed to develop students' independent research, writing and presentation skills. The dissertation should present original research applying economic and/or econometric methods to a selected topic in economics. The topic should be chosen by students in consultation with their supervisor. The maximum number of words allowed is 15,000 but students will be advised to cover the topic in around 12,000.

Students require approval for their dissertation outline from (i) the dissertation supervisor and also from (ii) the Principal Module Teacher (Dr Knowles). The purpose of writing a dissertation outline is to ensure that your dissertation project is well thought through and feasible. The final dissertation might, of course, differ from the outline, as you will discover new literature, facts or explanations along the way. The outline should contain a preliminary title; a clear statement of the research question and hypothesis; background information on the research topic; a list of the main references in the area; the methodology that you intend to use and a detailed work plan. A template of the outline is available at https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/economics/current-ug/dissertation/.
Information on the research interests and expertise of staff can be found at the end of the handbook and on the homepage of the School (https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/economics/research/expertise/). The deadline for submission of the outline to Dr Knowles is the end of week 1.

Students should meet regularly with their dissertation supervisor. Three of these meetings should be logged. The first meeting is to discuss the outline of the dissertation. The second meeting is to discuss the progress of the dissertation, and the third meeting is to discuss a rough final draft. Students should make sure that their supervisor signs the supervision log at each of these three meetings. Students are expected to have additional meetings with their supervisors, but these meetings do not need to be logged. Your supervisor will guide you through the dissertation process, but students are responsible for their own work-plan and dissertation content.

The aim of the lecture part of the module is to train students’ research skills. Topics covered in the lecture part include:

- Finding a research topic and framing a research hypothesis.
- Conducting bibliographic research and writing a literature survey.
- Finding and using data.
- Structuring and writing a research paper in economics.
- Presenting research results.

Why do/don’t do a Dissertation?
If you are unsure whether to do a dissertation or not, you may check the slides of the information lecture for advice. These slides are available at https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/economics/current-ug/dissertation/. Moreover, Dr Knowles can help you think through whether a dissertation is appropriate for you.

Ethics Committee
Ethics approval is necessary for any study involving human or animal subjects, tissues or samples, or projects that could potentially have adverse effects on them. Ethics approval is needed before the start of the project, otherwise it cannot be assessed. If you think you may need to fill out an Ethical Application Form you should discuss the issue with your supervisor. Application forms and further information can be found at: https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/economics/intranet/research/ethics/.

Main Reading
There is no single textbook for the lecture part of the module. However, students are encouraged to consult (one of) the following books for useful tips on how to write research papers:


Other resources will be made available in due course.