

## **COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT**

<b>Academic School / Department:</b>	School of Liberal Arts
<b>Programme:</b>	MSc Project Management for Sustainability
<b>FHEQ Level:</b>	7
<b>Course Title:</b>	Extended Dissertation
<b>Course Code:</b>	PMG 7550
<b>Total Hours:</b>	400
Timetabled Hours:	0
Guided Learning Hours:	18
Independent Learning Hours:	382
<b>Credits:</b>	50 UK CATS credits 25 ECTS credits 10 US credits

### **Course Description:**

This course will provide students with the opportunity of writing an extended applied research dissertation in the field of project management. Students will initiate research and plan an individually designed study. The topic will be related to the programme content and is investigated with the use of appropriate research methods. Emphasis is placed on appropriate literature search, the collection and analysis of data. The course will lead to the preparation of a 10,000-word maximum project report.

### **Prerequisites:**

All FHEQ L7 taught courses for the programme successfully completed.

### **Aims and Objectives:**

- To compose a 10,000-word maximum professional project with the guidance of a faculty supervisor
- To develop skills and experience which can be applied in the professional work environment.

### **Programme Outcomes:**

A1, A2, B1, B2, C3, D3.

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course->

[specifications/](#)

### **Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

#### **Knowledge and Understanding (A)**

- Demonstrate a high level of theoretical and applied knowledge of project management.
- Critically discuss, select and justify the project approach and chosen research methods in relation to a relevant project management issue.
- Apply the steps required to create a literature review.
- Apply appropriate research designs for quantitative and qualitative research.

#### **Cognitive Skills (B)**

- Evaluate independently critical approaches and techniques relevant to project management.
- Evaluate outcomes and accurately assess/report on own/others work with justification and relate them to existing knowledge structures and methodologies.
- Critically evaluate the implications for the recommendations presented.
- Critically reflect on the development of knowledge, skills and techniques used during the preparation of the report.

#### **Subject specific, Practical and Professional Skills (C)**

- Develop and utilise theory and methodology appropriate to inquiry of an empirical subject area related to project management.
- Gather, organise and effectively communicate complex and abstract ideas and diverse information.

#### **General/Transferable Skills (D)**

- Demonstrate skills in the following areas: research organisation and planning, data manipulation and reporting, critical reasoning, reporting and writing.
- Evaluate ethical dilemmas likely to arise in research and professional practice and formulate solutions in dialogue with peers, clients, and others.
- Demonstrate initiative in organising and pursuing a supervised project, while accepting full accountability for outcomes.

**Indicative Content:**

This course will provide students with the opportunity of writing an applied project in the area of project management. Students will initiate, plan and write an individually constructed project with a strong emphasis on applied project management challenges. The course will lead to the preparation of a 12,000-word project report.

**Assessment:**

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board which are located at <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies>.

**Teaching Methodology:**

The course will require independent research overseen by the supervisor, tutorial opportunities including with specialist faculty for more specific academic guidance, including comments on draft materials, and faculty and peer review feedback. This is supported by a proactive use of Blackboard VLE to support guided, independent and online learning.

**Indicative Text(s):**

- Cleland, D. I., & Ireland, L. R. (2006). Project management: Strategic design and implementation. McGraw-Hill Education.
- Freeman, R. E., Harrison, J. S., Wicks, A. C., Parmar, B. L., & De Colle, S. (2010). Stakeholder theory: The state of the art. Cambridge University Press.
- Gray, D. (2022). *Doing Research in the Real World*. 5<sup>th</sup> edn. London: Sage Publications.
- Thomas, G. (2023). *How to do your research project*. 4<sup>th</sup> edn. London: Sage Publishing.

**Recommended additional literature**

- Joyner, R. L. (2018) Writing the winning thesis or dissertation: a step-by-step guide. 4<sup>th</sup> edn. Corwin.
- Nygaard, L.P. Writing Your Master's Thesis: From A to Zen (SAGE, 2017).
- Wallace, M., Wray, A. Critical reading and writing for postgraduates. Fourth ed. (SAGE 2021).
- Saunders, M., P. Lewis and A. Thornhill (2023) *Research Methods for Business Students*. 9<sup>th</sup> edn. Pearson Education.

**Web Sites**

- Research Methods Knowledge Base: [www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/index.php](http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/index.php)

See syllabus for complete reading list

**Change Log for this CSD:**

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry Services
First Edition	January 2024	