

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	Richmond Business School
Programme:	Master of Business Administration MSc International Business Management
FHEQ Level:	7
Course Title:	Professional Project
Course Code:	BUSM 7500
Total Hours:	230
Timetabled Hours:	0
Supervised Learning Hours:	10
Independent Learning Hours:	220
Credits:	30 UK CATS credits 15 ECTS credits 6 US credits

Course Description:

This course will provide students with the opportunity of constructing an applied project in the area of business and management. Students will initiate, plan and execute an individually constructed project with a strong emphasis on applied business scenarios/challenges. The course will lead to the preparation of a 7,000 word maximum project report.

Prerequisites:

BUSM 7104 Business Research plus all programme core courses and one elective of choice.

Aims and Objectives:

- To compose a 7,000 word maximum professional project report with the guidance of a faculty supervisor
- To undertake independent research applying background information and empirical data
- To develop skills and experience which can be applied in the professional work environment

Programme Outcomes:

MBA A1, A2, A3, A4, A5

B1, B2, B3, B4

C1, C2, C3, C4

D1, D2, D3, D4

MSc IBM

A2,

B1, B2, B3, B4

C1, C2, C3,

D1, D2, D4

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 applied knowledge of business research
- Critically discuss, select and justify the project approach and chosen research methods in relation to a relevant business issue
- Apply appropriate research designs for quantitative and qualitative research

Cognitive Skills (B)

- Evaluate independently critical approaches and techniques relevant to business
- Evaluate outcomes and accurately assess/report on own/others work with justification and relate them to existing knowledge structures and methodologies
- 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 business
- 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:

- Students will identify a potential research area subject to approval by the faculty supervisor. Students will work independently applying learning outcomes from

BUSM 7104 Business Research. The supervisor will facilitate the research through regular consultations.

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board.

Teaching Methodology:

This is an independent student-initiated business research project. Students will be allocated a research supervisor who will act as a guide and mentor through the process. A series of group and individual tutorials will be arranged by appointment with the supervisor.

Initial group tutorials will focus on consolidation of research skills, and choices of topic and methodologies. Later tutorials will focus on monitoring project development.

Failure to attend or actively engage in tutorials will be noted as a failure of participation and engagement. The purpose of the tutorials will be to monitor student progress and allow students to demonstrate the reliability, credibility, and authenticity of their work. Students will be encouraged to present a precis or draft summary on their ongoing work. Students on an international student visa must attend a minimum of one supervision meeting per calendar month to maintain their visa status.

Indicative Text(s):

- Saunders, M. N. K., Lewis, P., & Thornhill, A. (2023) *Research methods for business students*. (9th ed.). London: Pearson.
- Bryman, A., Bell, E. and Harley, B. (2022) *Business research methods*. (6th ed.) New York: Oxford University Press.
- Gray, D. (2021) *Doing Research in the Real World*. (5th ed.) London: Sage Publications.
- Thomas, G. (2023) *How to do your research project*. (4th ed) London: Sage Publishing.

Websites

- Research Methods Knowledge Base: 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
------------------	--	--------------------------------------

Adapting existing CSD to latest template	AB approved 30/05/2014	
Change of word count of research proposal to 500-700 words	School Board 10/11/2017	
Change of word count of Dissertation to 10.000 +/- 10%	School Board 10/11/2018	
Update of bibliography	School Board 10/11/2017	
Reduced to 6 credits from 8, 2 credits go to Business Research MGT 7160, Teaching Methodology	School Approval by email Feb/March 18	
Change of course title from 'dissertation' to 'professional project' Change of course description, learning outcomes, aims and objectives	School by email 18 th Sept 18	
Revision – annual update	May 2023	
Total hours updated		