

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	Richmond Business School
Programme:	Master of Business Administration MSc International Business Management
FHEQ Level:	7
Course Title:	Extended Professional Project
Course Code:	BUSM 7501
Total Hours:	400
Timetabled Hours:	0
Supervised Learning Hours:	18
Independent Learning Hours:	382
Credits:	50 UK CATS credits 25 ECTS credits 10 US credits

Course Description:

This course will provide students with the opportunity of constructing an applied research project in the area of business and management. Students will initiate, plan and execute an individually constructed project. The topic is usually related to the programme content and is investigated with the use of appropriate research methods. Emphasis is placed on appropriate literature search, and collection and analysis of data. The course will lead to the preparation of a 12,000-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 12,000-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:

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 theoretical and 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 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 business
- 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 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:

- 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 15,000 word project report.

Assessment:

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

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):

- Bryman, A., Bell, E. and Harley, B. (2022) *Business research methods*. 6th edn. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Gray, D. (2021) *Doing research in the real world*. 5th edn. London: Sage Publications.
- Saunders, M.N.K., Lewis, P. and Thornhill, A. (2023) *Research methods for business students*. 9th edn. Harlow: Pearson.
- Thomas, G. (2023) *How to do your research project*. 4th edn. 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
New course	Programme Team/School: by email (27/01/2014 to AB (07/02/2014)	
Adapting to new template	AB 30/05/2014	
Reduced to 10 credits from 12, Change of word count of research proposal to 500-700 words, Change of word count of Dissertation to 15.000, Update of bibliography,	School Board 10/11/2018 and School Approval by email Feb/March 18	
Change of course title from 'extended dissertation' to 'extended professional project' Changes in text – course desc and learning outcomes	School by email 18 th Sept 18	
Added MSc and associated programme outcomes		
Revision – annual update	May 2023	
Total hours updated	April 2024	