Workbased Research Project

Module Descriptor

Module Code: PRJ6WRA/PRJ6WRS

Version: 11.00

Status: Final

Date: 17/01/2024

Summary Module Details

Module Title: Workbased Research Project

Module Leader: Dr. Steven Ruddock

Module Mode: Supported online learning

Semester: Autumn (UK) and Spring (UK)

Level: 6

Credits: 40

Learning Hours: 400

Contact & Study Hours:

Directed Study Time: 60hrs (15%)

Self-Directed Study Time: 160hrs (40%)

Assessment Study Time: 180hrs (45%)

Assessment Type:

Coursework: 0%

Computer Marked Assessment: 0%

Self-directed Research Project: 75%

Portfolio: 0%

Presentation: 25%

Module Summary

This module requires apprentices to develop their research skills within the context of the built environment, their chosen career path and the workplace. The apprentices are required to relate the practicalities of the case study to the academic concepts and ideas that underpin it; providing them with the vehicle to conduct a self-directed study.

This module also requires apprentices to reflect on the knowledge and skills that they have developed during their programme of studies and requires them to demonstrate their development of their professional competence with reference to the appropriate professional framework.

This module is core for apprenticeship students. For those students not a part of the Apprenticeship Scheme, there is an equivalent Project (PRJ6PRA/PRJ6PRS) module.

Taken on which Programmes

BSc (Hons) Building Surveying (C for apprenticeship students only)

BSc (Hons) Construction Management (C for apprenticeship students only)

BSc (Hons) Quantity Surveying (C for apprenticeship students only)

BSc (Hons) Real Estate Management (C for apprenticeship students only)

Core (C) or Elective (E)

Module Aims

This module aims to:

- Recognise the knowledge and skills developed throughout the programme through a self-directed investigation into a chosen project;
- Develop self-reflection;
- Develop and apply research techniques to the detailed examination of an issue or activity within a case study.

Module Learning Outcomes

LO1. Comprehensively summarise a case study, demonstrating a systematic and detailed understanding of the case study from various stakeholder perspectives.

LO2. Critically analyse an issue or the complexity of the case study.

LO3. Research the appropriate theoretical framework and relate this to the case study.

LO4. Produce a structured report to a high professional standard.

LO5. Reflect on the knowledge and the skills developed and demonstrate development of professional competence.

Indicative Module Content

Module topics

- **Case study selection from the workplace or using scenarios on the VLE**

  Definition of case study research, criteria for selecting manageable case studies, workplace case studies and business confidentiality.

- **Case studies and complexity**

  Types of case study, recognising complexity, managing complexity, development of manageable case study research through the identification of the component parts, issues and activities. Selection of an aspect within a complex case study.

- **Stakeholders and their influence on projects**

  Definition and identification of stakeholder groups; recognising and analysing stakeholders' preferences, influence and power; approach to the analysis of stakeholder influence; identification of bias in stakeholder reporting and evidence.

- **Research methodologies and their application to case study research**

  Overview of key research methodologies that support and develop case study approaches including types of data, methods of data collection, triangulation of data, literature review, surveys, experiments, archival research.

  Research skills relating to the use of case studies

  Review the nature of the chosen case study or issue or activity; identifying potential stakeholder influences in the selected case study and the development of a case study research plan and timeline.

- **Critical review and reflection**

  Principles of reflective practice.

- **Self-reflection and professional development**

  Developmental processes involving reflection, the role of mentoring and supervision, reflective writing, personal development using reflective practice, and the development of personal development objectives and plans within a professional competency framework.

This content will be reviewed and updated regularly to reflect the legal, moral and financial changes in professional standards and practice.

Overview of Summative Assessment

Module learning outcomes	Assessment	Word count or equivalent	Weighting
LO1, LO5	**Assessment 1** Video Presentation (10 minutes).	3,500 word count equivalent	25%
LO1, LO2, LO3, LO4 & LO5	**Assessment 2** Case Study Report	4,000	60%
LO5	**Assessment 3** Reflective Summary	1,500	15%

Module Pass Mark (as a weighted average of all assessments): 40%

Key Module Learning Resources

Core Sources and Texts

The core reading resources within each module will be provided via the specific Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) module pages and within the e-Library. Additional reference material and supplementary resources to support your studies are available through the UCEM e-Library.

Module tools

Students will be allocated to discipline specific forums to develop communities of learning. Each discussion forum will be led by a Discipline Specific Tutor (Subject Lead) with broad knowledge and skills relevant to individuals discipline area. The Subject Lead will advise during the initial stages of the module, helping the student's choice an appropriate project and focus for their study. Students will also have access to regular recorded online sessions, dedicated academic skills support and a suite of online resources on undertaking a self-directed case study research project. In the second semester, students will be allocated a specified Subject Tutor who provides technical and academic guidance, based on personal expertise and knowledge. Communication with tutors will be mainly through video conferencing, email and telephone and students are encouraged to plan communication

strategies with their tutor to suit their research plan. The module page on the VLE contains a clear schedule of work with formative milestone submissions to support students to plan their time.

Professional online resources

The e-Library provides access to trusted, quality online resources, selected by subject specialists, to support students' study. This includes journals, industry publications, magazines, academic books and a dissertation/work-based library. For a list of the key industry specific and education resources available please visit the VLE e-Library.

Other relevant resources

Access is also provided to further information sources that include the British Library and Open University UK catalogues, as well as providing a monthly current awareness service entitled, ***Knowledge Foundations*** - a compendium of news, research and resources relating to the educational sector and the Built Environment.

The module resource list is available on the module website and is updated regularly to ensure materials are relevant and current.