Postgraduate Project

Module Descriptor

Module Code: PRJ7PRA/PRJ7PRS

Version: 10.00

Status: Final

Date: 25/07/2022

Summary Module Details

Module details

Module Title: Postgraduate Project

Module Leader: Dr Graeme Whitehall

Module Mode: Supported online learning

Semester: Autumn (UK) and Spring (UK)

Level: 7

Credits: 40

Learning Hours: 400

Contact & Study Hours

Directed Study Time: 120hrs (30%)

Self-directed Study Time: 140hrs (35%)

Assessment Study Time: 140hrs (35%)

Assessment Type

Coursework: 100%

Computer Marked Assessment: 0%

Self-directed Research Project: 0%

Portfolio: 0%

Module summary

This module requires students to develop their research skills within the context of the built environment and is a key part of their wider professional development.

It provides them with an opportunity to conduct a self-directed research project that reflects the culmination of their studies in the relevant programme. The topics selected are expected to reflect the current and critical issues that concern the built environment.

For many students the development of case study research, often emanating within their own workplace or arising from their professional activity, will be an appropriate approach to demonstrate research and expertise in a specific area.

Taken on which Programmes

MBA Construction & Real Estate (C)

MSc Building Surveying (C)

MSc Construction Management (C)

MSc Quantity Surveying (C)

MSc Real Estate (C)

Core (C) or Elective (E)

Module Aims

In relation to programme requirements, this module aims to:

- Refine students' knowledge and understanding of the role of research and their ability to both critically evaluate literature and select and critique appropriate research methodologies and techniques.
- Encourage students' reflection on their programme of study in such a way as to inform and develop a critical understanding of their subject.
- Provide an opportunity for structured in-depth investigation and analysis of a topical problem, issue or controversy related to their field of study.

Module Learning Outcomes

LO1. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of picking a research topic, structure and processes involved in a research dissertation.

LO2. Demonstrate thorough knowledge of and undertake a critical appraisal of research concepts and methodologies.

LO3. Systematically select, synthesise and critique academic literature and funnel toward the research topic at hand.

LO4. Justify, defend and critique primary and secondary research deployed or developed and undertake systematic and sustained analysis and reflection.

LO5. Work autonomously to identify, design and conduct a structured research dissertation and articulate research findings and the significance of those findings in a structured and logical manner.

Indicative Module Content

Module topics

- **Preparing a research proposal**

  Finding a topic, scoping a topic, development of research aim/question and objectives.

- **Research Skills**

  How to research, theory of research, report writing, research ethics, writing a dissertation, embedding critical thinking, research validity and reliability, generalisability and transferability.

- **Literature review**

  The research funnel, searching for literature, understanding research terminologies, mapping the trend of the research area, research catalogues. Applying critical thinking strategies to analysis and evaluation of the literature review.

- **Research methodology**

  Data Collection techniques: Case study research; Archival research and libraries of last resort; Questionnaire, survey & interview design; Action research, ethnographic and observational research; Data analysis: quantitative & qualitative analysis, statistical

analysis, thematic analysis, triangulation. Applying critical thinking to the evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the methodology employed.

- **Production and submission of the research dissertation**

  Submission of the dissertation containing introduction, literature review, methodology, case study/thematic analysis, discussion and conclusion chapters.

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, LO2, LO3	**Assessment 1** Coursework	2,500	25%
LO1, LO2, LO3, LO4, LO5	**Assessment 2** Coursework	10,000	75%

Module Pass Mark (as a weighted average of all assessments): 50%

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 have access to study materials, dedicated academic support, student forums, and learning activities via an online learning platform (VLE).

The module page on the VLE is broken down into structured study weeks to help students plan their time, with each week containing a mixture of reading, case studies, videos/recordings and interactive activities to go through. Online webinars/seminars led by the Module Leader can be attended in real time and provide opportunities to consolidate knowledge, ask questions, discuss topics and work through learning activities together. These sessions are recorded to support students who cannot attend and to enable students to recap the session and work through it at their own pace. Module forums on the VLE provide further opportunities to discuss topics with other students, complete collaborative work and get extra help from the module team.

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.