EV7135 Module Specification

Module Title: M.Res Dissertation	**Module Code: EV7135** **Level: 7** **Credit: 120** **ECTS credit: 60**	**Module Leader**: Ruth Stevenson Jane Fisher John Leah Ivor Davies
Pre-requisite: none	**Pre-cursor:** **EV7132 Introduction to Sustainability and Adaptation** **EV7125 Applied Research Design**	
Co-requisite: none	**Excluded combinations: none**	**Suitable for incoming study abroad?** N

Location of delivery: CAT and online – blended delivery

Summary of module for applicants:

The research dissertation will comprise the main part of the programme for students, with an extended independent research project. You will learn how to lead and manage your own research project on a sustainability-related, discipline-relevant topic of your particular interest, and write an extended dissertation on the findings

The broad nature of potential sustainability projects could adopt a quantitative, qualitative or mixed methods research design and will enable you to make use of the research skills and critical ability you have acquired in previous modules and /or prior experience

To demonstrate student's ability to develop and explore a relevant research topic in depth, using appropriate research methodology, displaying creativity and skills in critical analysis. The research topic/process may involve a design element.

To appreciate and apply procedures and conventions of academic leadership, scholarship, integrity and enquiry.

Extended dissertation students will take a larger degree of responsibility and management of the completion of the design and research investigation. Work independently within agreed guidelines, accessing appropriate levels of supervision and support as required and use advanced time management skills for the timely submission of a research dissertation. It will be an option to undertake the research within a workplace environment.

Students will be required to deliver a presentation which highlights the findings from your research project to their peers, and the final submission which can be a dissertation and/ or an artefact, will be supported with a viva voce assessment of the students research.

Main topics of study:

Students will apply their knowledge of research and/or design to carry out an extended independent project. Students are required to have gained approval for a Research Proposal (RP) on a subject from within the study focus area of their Programme, in consultation with one or more members of the teaching teams. The RP will be developed following a compulsory 15-credit module (See Applied Research Design module for details of RP process), which will cover research philosophy, approaches, strategy, design methods and analysis techniques.

This module will be able to demonstrate at least one of the following examples/ exposures

Live, applied project ☒
Company/engagement visits ☐

Company/industry sector endorsement/badging/sponsorship/award ☐

Learning Outcomes for the module

Where a LO meets one of the UEL core competencies, please put a code next to the LO that links to the competence.

- *Digital Proficiency - Code = (DP)*
- *Industry Connections - Code = (IC)*
- *Social & Emotional Intelligence - Code = (SEI)*
- *Physical Intelligence - Code = (PI)*
- *Cultural Intelligence - Code = (CI)*
- *Community Connections & UEL Give Back - Code = (CC)*
- *Cognitive Intelligence – Code = (COI)*
- *Enterprise and Entrepreneurship (EE)*

Knowledge

1. Demonstrate knowledge of research philosophy and methods in relation to a deep and systematic understanding, within the specialised field of their chosen research area and its interrelationship with the wider concepts of environment and sustainability. (COI)

Thinking skills

2. Competently identify, set and justify the focus for the investigation and select, apply and evaluate appropriate research methods and tools for data collection and analysis, which may include an element of design and/or construction; (COI) (PI) (DP)
3. Critically interpret elements of the research process and the research outcomes in relation to current research and advanced scholarship and draw valid conclusions from the evidence generated in order to suggest new, or alternative, concepts or approaches from congruent argument that can add to current knowledge. (COI)

Subject-based practical skills

4. Plan and undertake an extended independent piece of original research based upon a critical evaluation of current research. (COI)

Skills for life and work (general skills)

5. Demonstrate the self-confidence and skills to lead and manage the research in a way that is consistent with both continuing professional practice and the normal principles of research ethics. (SEI)
6. Demonstrate clarity, fluency, and coherence in a variety of written forms and expression. (COI) (DP)
7. Demonstrate the ability to develop the time management and organisational skills to conduct a successful 'real world' independent research project

Teaching/ learning methods/strategies used to enable the achievement of learning outcomes:
For students studying onsite and by distance learning:

The individual project work is supported by a specified tutor, who provides formative feedback and academic support throughout the individual project stage.

Assessment methods which enable students to demonstrate the learning outcomes for the module; please define as necessary:	**Weighting:**	**Learning Outcomes demonstrated:**

Research Presentation (Poster / Oral) 1800 words equivalent (eg 15 min presentation plus poster equivalent to 1800 words, or 30 min presentation)	10% 10%	**1, 6,7** **1,2,3,4,5,6,7**
Oral examination of dissertation (36 minutes max)	80%	**1,2,3,4,5,6,7**
Dissertation or an alternative equivalent design focused portfolio (28,800 words max or artefact)		

Reading and resources for the module:

Core

Murray, R. (2017) *How to write a Thesis (Open Up Study Skills)*. 4th edition. Maidenhead: Open University Press, Berkshire.

Pears R. and Shields G. (2019). *Cite Them Rite: The Essential Referencing Guide*. 11th edition. PalgraveMacmillan, Basingstoke.

Recommended

Anderson, J. (2002). *Thesis and Assignment Writing.* John Wiley and Sons

Biggam, J. (2017) Succeeding with Your Master's Dissertation: A Step-by-step Handbook

Chichester.Bell, J. (2010) *Doing Your Research Project.* Open University Project, Buckingham

Denscombe, M. (2014), *The Good Research Guide for Small Scale Research Projects.* 5th edition, Maidenhead: Open University Press

Dye, A. and Samuel, F. (2015) *Demystifying architectural research*. Newcastle: RIBA Publishing.

Gray, D (2017) *Doing Research in the Real World* Sage Publications Ltd (a good review of all types of methods and analysis)

Farrell, P (2016) Writing Built Environment Dissertations and Projects: Practical Guidance and Examples, 2nd Edition. Wiley. Blackwell

Hart, C. (2018) *Doing a Literature Review: Releasing the Research Imagination.* SAGE Study Skills Series, Thousand Oaks and London.

Rudestan K.E. and Newton R.R. (2014). *Surviving Your Dissertation: A Comprehensive Guide To Content And Process*. 4th Edition. Sage Publications, Thousand Oaks and London.

Sharp, J. A., Howard, K and Peters, J. (2017). *The Management Of A Student Research Project*. 4th Edition. Routledge, London.

Silyn-Roberts H. (2012) *Writing for science and engineering: papers, projects & proposals: a practical handbook for postgraduates in science, engineering and technology*. Butterworth-Heinemann, Oxford.

Smith, L.T., and ProQuest. (1999) Decolonizing Methodologies Research and Indigenous Peoples. Second ed. London ; New York : Dunedin, N.Z. : New York: Zed ; U of Otago ; Distributed in the USA Exclusively by St. Martin's.

Provide evidence of how this module will be able to demonstrate at least one of the following examples/ exposures

Live, applied project

Dissertation projects will be various but all will be both live and applied ***Company/engagement visits*** ***Company/industry sector endorsement/badging/sponsorship/award***	
Indicative learning and teaching time (10 hrs per credit):	**Activity**
1. Student/tutor interaction: 30 hours	Activity (supervision tutorials) Supervision interactions, normally tutorials and formative feedback, provide an environment in which ongoing project work can be discussed in a focused manner with a tutor.
2. Student learning time: 1170 hours	Activity (planning, literature, research, active application of methods, writing) These activities are common to all modes of study Students will be expected to undertake activities necessary to produce a dissertation or equivalent artefact which is assessed in terms of the following activities: Critical use of literature to support the investigation. Actively use appropriate research methodologies and/or design approaches and techniques relevant to the subject under research. Sampling and acquisition of primary evidence; appropriate use of secondary data with sufficient breadth and depth to enable relevant findings to be drawn; or use of facilities within a studio or workshop to produce artefact. Develop, coherent and supported discussions and conclusions based upon a critical approach to the research process, methodology employed, findings and analysis of data. Quality of academic writing and presentation. Accuracy and completeness of citations within the text and references.
Total hours (1 and 2):	1200

For office use only. (Not required for Programme Handbook)

Assessment Pattern for Unistats KIS (Key Information Sets)	**Weighting:**
Coursework *(written assignment, dissertation, portfolio, project output)*	
Practical Exam *(oral assessment, presentation, practical skills assessment)*	
Written Exam	

HECoS Code:	
UEL Department:	