Module 15: Research Dissertation – Industry-Based

Module title			
Research Dissertation – Industry-Based			
Module NFQ level	**Module number / reference**	**ECTS Value**	**Duration**
9	MSC-PBM-ISD	**30**	**14 Weeks**
Parent programme(s)		**Stage of parent programme**	**Semester No.**
Master of Science in Pharmaceutical Business Management		2	3
Teaching and Learning modes	**Proportion** (% of Total Directed Learning)		
Classroom / Face to Face			
Workplace			
Online			
Other (Identify)	Supervision – 100%		
Entry requirements (statement of knowledge, skill and competence)			
Learners should normally hold an honours (NFQ Level 8) degree in a cognate or non-cognate discipline or equivalent qualification, from an approved tertiary/or professional institution. In addition, learners will have completed all taught modules on stage 1 of this MSc programme.			
Maximum number of learners per instance of the module	**100**		
Average (over the duration of the module) of the contact hours per week	**1.5**		
Pre-requisite module title(s) (if any)	**Business Research Methods**		
Co-requisite module title(s) (if any)	**N/A**		
Is this a capstone module? (Yes or No)	**Yes**		
Module-specific physical resources and support required per centre (or instance of the module)			
Moodle Area. Zoom Access. Meeting Room.			
Specification of the qualifications (academic, pedagogical and professional/occupational) and experience required of staff working in this module.			
Role e.g. Tutor, Mentor etc	**Qualifications & experience required:**		**# of Staff with this profile (WTEs)**
Lecturer	Lecturing staff are required to hold at least a master's degree in in Business, Engineering, Management or Leadership or an equivalent professional qualification. Industry experience is beneficial but not a requirement. Ideally, they would also hold a third level teaching qualification (e.g. the Griffith College Certificate in Education, Learning and Development).		1

Analysis of required learning effort		
*Effort while in contact with staff	**Minimum ratio teacher / learner**	**Hours**
Classroom and demonstrations		
Mentoring and small-group teaching	1:1	20
Other (specify)		
Independent Learning		
Directed e-learning (hours)		-
Independent Learning (hours)		730
Other hours (specify)		-
Work-based learning hours of learning effort		-
Total Effort (hours)		750

Allocation of Marks					
	Continuous Assessment	**Supervised Project**	**Proctored Practical Exam**	**Proctored Written Exam**	**Total**
Percentage Contribution	-	100%	-	-	**100%**

1.1.1 Module aims and objectives

The dissertation involves an in-depth exploration of a specialised area or issue central to pharmaceutical business management. Drawing on substantial relevant research, literature, concepts and techniques learners will seek to combine management theory and practice to address real-world workplace research questions. These research projects will be performed on behalf of, and in conjunction with, Industry. Industry may opt to have learners complete the dissertation externally, or on an employed basis where the learner carries out the project in the workplace itself. These research questions and project will generally be sourced by the school but, in cases where prior approval is sought, can also be sourced by the learner.

Learners will be supported as they devise the research question, design and apply an appropriate methodology, critically review relevant literature and draw up the dissertation report. The Dissertation offers learners the opportunity to advance their research and business communication skills, and make a significant contribution to their chosen field through enquiry.

This module aims:

- To provide an opportunity to apply business management skills and knowledge to a real-world research project, to make a significant contribution to the workplace, and to the chosen field of enquiry.
- To provide an opportunity to develop strategic questions, source relevant information, and sharpen the analytical and critical thinking processes through a systematic approach to problem solving.
- To provide an opportunity to carry out "real-world" research, develop a stronger understanding of the application of the course to the workplace, and to develop an employment-based network.
- To significantly advance learners' presentation and communication skills.

1.1.2 Minimum intended module learning outcomes

On successful completion of this module, the learner will be able to:

MIMLO 15.1 Display a critical awareness and conceptual understanding of current relevant issues.

MIMLO 15.2 Devise and investigate an original and complex problem in international business management by drawing on an extensive and deep knowledge of primary and secondary sources.

MIMLO 15.3 Inter-relate theory and practice to the formulation of an original and pertinent research question/hypothesis.

MIMLO 15.4 Successfully apply appropriate research techniques, methodologies, practical research skills, data analysis approaches.

MIMLO 15.5 Analyse and interpret data, draw conclusions and understand the implications of the findings.

MIMLO 15.6 Critically evaluate and interpret relevant literature and data, and appraise current results in light of previous findings.

MIMLO 15.7 Devise, direct, and produce to deadline a substantial piece of business research.

MIMLO 15.8 Interpret and communicate the results of their research clearly, concisely and professionally to colleagues and peers and present research findings in a form suitable for publication.

1.1.3 Rationale for inclusion of the module in the programme and its contribution to the overall MIPLOs

There is a strong rationale in including a research dissertation stage in this programme. It seeks to build upon knowledge developed in Stage 1, and to facilitate learners in applying all of their learning in real world contexts. The stage facilitates learners in reaching many of the NFQ Level 9 award level indicators, such as "Demonstrate a range of standard and specialised research or equivalent tools and techniques of enquiry" and "Take significant responsibility for the work of individuals and groups; lead and initiate activity".

This module aims to build upon Stage 1 of the programme, developing learners' knowledge and skills in research. Learners will be supported by a research supervisor as they develop the research question and design from Business Research Methods further, apply an appropriate methodology, critically review relevant literature and draw up the dissertation report, and advance their research and communication skills.

In that context this module supports the achievement of MIPLOs 3, 9, 13 and 15.

1.1.4 Information provided to learners about the module

This module aims to build upon Stage 1 of the programme, developing learners' knowledge and skills in research. Learners will be supported by a research supervisor as they develop the research question and design from Business Research Methods further, apply an appropriate methodology, critically review relevant literature and draw up the dissertation report. The Dissertation offers learners the opportunity to advance their research and business communication skills, and make a significant contribution to their chosen field through enquiry.

Industry sponsorship of research is a key aspect of this dissertation route, and learners will meet regularly with Industry representatives in identifying research projects, planning approaches, and conducting their research.

Moodle will be the main platform for distributing this series of documents providing principle subject knowledge. Further reading from a range of sources supplements core information and contributes towards the achievement of all module aims.

Learners should use this time to plan, critically analyse and reflect on their learning, undertake extensive further research through private study and engage in the online library resources (SAGE Journals, Emerald Insight, ERIC, Business Source Premier etc.) through wider direct and indirect reading. Developing these skills as independent learners will allow for the enhancement of graduate skills and contribute towards future employability.

In addition to the learning from Business Research Methods on conducting research, Learners will be provided with templates and handbooks to assist in their work. The learner will be supported by a supervisor, who, through regular contact with the learner will monitor and review the learner's progress at each of the key stages of the research process. There is also a dedicated Dissertation coordinator whom will also play a crucial role in the smooth running of this stage.

The module is assessed via 100% continuous assessment.

1.1.5   Module content, organisation and structure

This module requires the learner, based on the research concepts, methodologies, and techniques covered in the Business Research Methods module, to produce and present a dissertation following an in-depth exploration of a specialised area or issue central to international business management.

The learner will be supported by a supervisor, who, through regular contact with the learner will monitor and review the learner's progress at each of the key stages of the research process. There is also a dedicated Dissertation coordinator whom will also play a crucial role in the smooth running of this stage.

Throughout this stage learners will, optionally, be able to attend workshops and sessions to introduce them to further aspects of research design, data manipulation, and presentation methods in a "just-in-time" manner. These sessions will also provide a period of intensive consultation with dissertation supervisors to map out in detail the learners work schedule for their dissertation.

1.1.6   Module teaching and learning (including formative assessment) strategy

A wide variety of teaching and learning strategies is used across the programme to motivate learners, facilitate skills development, and foster independent learning. Within this module learners are expected to take responsibility for their own learning. Learners are advised, and supported, to use this time to extend themselves as independent learners. This module is based around active learning principles. The learner will be supported by a supervisor, who, through regular contact with the learner will monitor and review the learner's progress at each of the key stages of the research process. The supervisor will provide advice and feedback on decisions and written submissions throughout the process prior to summative assessment. Supervision sessions will also provide a period of intensive consultation with dissertation supervisors to map out in detail the learners work schedule for their dissertation.

The Business Research Methods module during Stage 1 is designed to provide learners with the key skills and knowledge required to carry out their dissertation. In addition to supervision support, learners in Stage 2 will, optionally, be able to attend workshops and sessions to introduce them to further aspects of research design, data manipulation, and presentation methods in a "just-in-time" manner.

1.1.7 Work-based learning and practice-placement

Although completed in conjunction with, and on behalf of, industry this module does not include a practice work placement as a part of the module. However, organisations may request, where appropriate, that learners work on projects which require them to be within the workplace while conducting the research. In those cases, it is expected that the organisation employs the learner during the period. However, this is not a requirement for this module, and industry placement-based work experience is not a learning outcome.

1.1.8 E-learning

Griffith College uses Moodle, a virtual learning environment, to support its delivery of e-learning activities in the form of peer-to-peer support based around activities where learners give and receive feedback, forums where learners must contribute, formative quizzes and video links.

1.1.9 Module physical resource requirements

There are no special requirements for this module beyond a standard classroom set up. All learners have access to an extensive range of "actual" and "remote access" library resources. The library monitors and updates its resources on an ongoing basis, in line with the College's Library Acquisition Policy.

1.1.10 Reading lists and other information resources

The required and recommended reading for the Business Research Methods module will assist learners in the completion of their Dissertation. There is no required additional reading for this module other than, of course, the required review of literature needed to complete the Dissertation. This will require consultation of a range of sources that can be accessed through the Griffith College Library.

The Griffith College Library provides off campus access to electronic journals and databases via Moodle. The main databases used by learners and staff of the Graduate Business School include Business Source Premier and Sage. Where we do not have remote access to materials we use the document supply and inter-library loan facilities of the British Library and Trinity College Dublin Information Service. We do not charge any fees to learners for document supply or inter-library loan.

1.1.11 Specifications for module staffing requirements

Lecturer and other personnel should hold a Masters Level (Level 9) qualification in in Business, Engineering, Management or Leadership or an equivalent professional qualification. Industry experience is beneficial but not a requirement.

Ideally, they would also hold a third level teaching qualification (e.g. the Griffith College Certificate in Education, Learning and Development).

1.1.12 Module summative assessment strategy

Depending on the subject matter of the proposed dissertation, each learner will be allocated a supervisor with whom they will maintain regular contact through the research process. Regular progress reports will be submitted to the MSc. Dissertation coordinator from both supervisor and learner. Poor learner dissertation planning and management will be noted by the supervisor, and may be considered in determining the final mark. Learner work will be assessed separately by two members of the dissertation supervision team.

Marking Scheme Marking Scheme

Element No	Weighting	Type	Description	Learning outcomes assessed
1	75%	Written Dissertation	Learners will complete a detailed dissertation. The indicative marking distribution is noted in the table below.	All MIMLOs
2	10%	Presentation	Learners will give a Viva Voce Presentation on their topic.	All MIMLOs
3	15%	Business Report	Learners will complete a Written Report designed for the sponsoring industry partner.	All MIMLOs

Element 1 Dissertation (Total 75%)			
Introduction	5%	Data Analysis	15%
Literature Review	20%	Findings, Discussion, and Conclusions	15%
Research Design	15%	Presentation and Layout	5%