

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: Dissertation
Status: Definitive but changes made
Code: **7500CATSCI** (125274)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2020

Owning School/Faculty: Natural Sciences & Psychology
Teaching School/Faculty: Centre for Alternative Technology

| Team | Leader |
|-----------|--------|
| Colm Bowe | Y |

Academic Level: FHEQ7
Credit Value: 60
Total Delivered Hours: 45
Total Learning Hours: 600
Private Study: 555

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Non Standard Year Long

| Component | Contact Hours |
|-----------|---------------|
| Lecture | 7 |
| Tutorial | 33 |
| Workshop | 5 |

Grading Basis: 50 %

Assessment Details

| Category | Short Description | Description | Weighting (%) | Exam Duration |
|--------------|-------------------|---|---------------|---------------|
| Report | Proposal | Research Design Proposal (1,500 words max.) | 10 | |
| Dissertation | Diss | Dissertation (15,000 words advisory, 16500 words max) | 90 | |

Aims

- To demonstrate students' ability to explore a relevant research topic in depth, with appropriate research methods, displaying creativity and analytical skills.
- For students to become familiar with the procedures and conventions of academic scholarship.

c) Time manage the completion of the research investigation, and the submission of a research dissertation

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Plan and undertake an extended independent piece of original research and writing upon a topic of their choosing within the field of food and natural resources, sustainable ecology and behaviour change
- 2 Competently choose appropriate research methods and tools for data collection and analysis.
- 3 Critically interpret the results in relation to existing knowledge.
- 4 Critically evaluate the methodologies, analysis, conclusions and relevance, and where appropriate, propose new hypotheses from congruent argument, of current research and advanced scholarship.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| Research Design Proposal | 1 | 2 | | |
| Dissertation | 1 | 3 | 4 | |

Outline Syllabus

This is the Dissertation Module, which culminates the work on the MSc programme. Teaching and learning is by tutorial-supported student work on the preparation of this major academic study. After an initial seminar group meeting involving other students, tuition is mainly on an individual basis. Students submit their Research Design Proposal and must have tutor approval before proceeding to work on their dissertation.

Learning Activities

This module will comprise a dissertation workshop comprising lectures and interactive activities to help students prepare, plan and undertake an extended period of independent research.

The dissertation workshop teaching and learning materials will be available to distance learners via the VLE and supported by seminars over skype.

All students are required to plan their research, consider ethical and health and safety implications before starting. Once students are able to undertake their research they do so at distance and within a study area or site(s), where appropriate, to develop project and work-based skills, whilst being supported by tutorials with a supervisor at distance.

Notes

The Research Design Proposal is submitted for marking before the formal dissertation period starts, whereupon is it allocated 10% of the dissertation portfolio mark. This RDP forms the basis of communication between the student and supervisor for preparation for the study proper. The student may only begin formal research as part of the dissertation once the supervisor gives permission to go ahead (permissions is based on the RDP quality, the ethics approval and risk assessment).