



**Assessment Brief -**  
**M506 Research Methods and Scientific Work**

Semester 2025

## Part I: General Information

Module	M506 Research Methods and Scientific Work
Term	2025
Primary Assignment Title	Mini Research Paper (Group Project)
Weighting	Written draft. 50% Group Presentations 20%
Distributed on:	28 <sup>th</sup> April 2025
To be submitted on:	<b>July 4th 2025 by 18:00</b>
Submission Method	<p>The Research Paper must be submitted electronically to the submission folder indicated on Canvas.</p> <p>The Research Paper must be submitted electronically to the submission folder indicated on Canvas. You must submit your work accompanied by an Assessment.</p> <p>All presentations will be recorded, and attendance is mandatory. Students who fail to present or do not inform both the instructor and the registry department of their absence in advance will receive a grade of zero for the presentation component.</p> <p>Furthermore, both the presentation slides and the written draft must be compiled into a single PDF file and submitted via Canvas by the designated submission deadline.</p>
Length	The submitted essay should have 3,000 words with +/- 10%
Additional Assessment Components	<p>GISMA University reward a) in class attendance and b) engagement with asynchronous content together at a rate of 30% per module.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students who actively participate in their scheduled synchronous classes, according to their designated mode of delivery, will earn up to 15% of their final module mark. The awarded percentage is proportional to their participation rate.</li> <li>Students who successfully engage with asynchronous materials and complete all required summative assessments will earn an additional 15% of their final module mark. Asynchronous tasks must be completed by the specific deadlines set by the tutors. Each student has five attempts to complete each quiz. The average grade of the attempts taken will count into the overall module grade with a weight of 15%.</li> </ol>

	<p>All assigned tasks must be submitted by the final deadline associated with the principal assessment.</p> <p>Students who do not actively participate in synchronous sessions will still be allowed to submit their assessments. However, their final module mark will be reduced by up to 15%. Likewise, failing to engage with asynchronous materials and complete the required short summative assessments will result in a deduction of up to 15% from the final module mark.</p>
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## Part II: Assessment Details

Assessment Topic	<p>Students need to submit a Mini Research Paper which is a research paper in the academic tradition, but in miniature i.e., smaller in scope, a more specific topic, fewer words (max. 3,000 +/- 10%), therefore fewer pages.</p> <p><b>Overview:</b></p> <p>For this assignment, you will conduct a Group (Maximum 4 students) mini research study and submit on a topic of your choice related to your field of study. Choose a topic that is of interest to you and is relevant to your field of study. The topic should be narrow enough to allow for a mini research study, but broad enough to provide opportunities for exploration and analysis.</p> <p>You will be required to submit a research paper that outlines the following three sections/chapters:</p> <p><b>Requirements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Submission Form</b></li> <li>• <b>Table of contents</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Section 1. Introduction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a clear background of the research</li> <li>• Highlight the specific research problem</li> <li>• research questions,</li> <li>• objectives</li> <li>• Hypothesis of your research, Conceptual framework.</li> <li>• rationale justify why the research is important</li> </ul> <p><b>Section 2. Literature Review</b></p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review relevant literature and provide context for your research.</li> <li>• Discuss key theories and concepts related to the topic.</li> <li>• Summarise the theoretical framework for answering your questions.</li> </ul> <p><b>Section 3. Methodology and Method</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the research approach (quantitative, qualitative or mixed method) and their appropriateness, and the conceptual framework of your research</li> <li>• Describe the specific research method to collect and analyse your data.</li> <li>• Ensure validity, reliability and feasibility of the method</li> </ul> <p><b>Section 4. Results and Conclusion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyse the data and represent the results through the tables or graphs or bar charts ,...etc</li> <li>• Summarise the outcome of the research</li> </ul> <p><b>(Analysing the data &amp; REPRESENTING THE RESULTS will give you the opportunity to score the better grad, and it's not mandatory, If you are not willing to analyze the data, then you should include a paragraph on the expected results based on findings from previous research papers relevant to your study.)</b></p>
Assessment Guidelines	<p>Students should draw from the knowledge gain in the lectures and content from the module and other <i>academic sources</i> (in EBSCO, Google Scholar etc.) and your own research from the internet to prepare the mini research paper.</p> <p>Use Harvard reference system to cite and reference your work. This should be an original piece of work and ensure that you do not plagiarise other's work.</p>
Links to module intended learning outcomes	<p>The assignment relates to the following intended learning outcomes for the module:</p> <p><b>LO.1:</b> Critically analyse research-based concepts and methods relating to business and related disciplines</p> <p><b>LO.2:</b> Specify problem areas that are relevant to organisations and develop a meaningful problem statement and research proposal.</p>

	<p><b>LO.3:</b> Demonstrate ability to compose a research design and apply research skills in order to evaluate, inform and advance business management</p> <p><b>LO.4:</b> Deploy techniques of analysis and enquiry in order to critically evaluate research strategies and findings.</p> <p><b>LO.5:</b> Produce a research proposal, and plan and execute a piece of independent research using primary and/or secondary data sources</p>
Special Instructions	<p>The timely and consistent participation throughout this module with the asynchronous and synchronous tasks is essential for the successful completion of this module, due to the project-driven approach to teaching and learning in this module (“flipped classroom”).</p> <p>Submission Guide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Your assessment should be submitted as a single Word (MS Word) or PDF file. For more information, please see the GISMA assignment guide.</li> <li>• You must ensure that the submitted assignment is your own work and that all sources used are correctly attributed.</li> <li>• Submit your work on the GISMA portal within the submission deadline.</li> </ul> <p>Your work will not be graded and you will receive a zero grade if you submit your assignment after the submission deadline, case of academic unfair practice is found or your work is not submitted in MS word or PDF file.</p> <p>Your mini research paper will be assessed based on the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Clarity and coherence of writing</b></li> <li>• <b>Relevance and significance of research question</b></li> <li>• <b>Appropriateness of research design and methodology</b></li> <li>• <b>Quality of research</b></li> <li>• <b>Appropriateness of conclusions and implications</b></li> </ul>
Additional Assessment Components	<p>At Gisma University of Applied Sciences, in-class participation and engagement with asynchronous content contribute 30% of the total module grade.</p> <p>Students who actively participate in their scheduled synchronous classes, according to their designated mode of delivery, will earn up</p>

	<p>to 15% of their final module mark. The awarded percentage is proportional to their participation rate.</p> <p>Students who successfully engage with asynchronous materials and complete all required summative assessments will earn an additional 15% of their final module mark. Asynchronous tasks must be completed by the specific deadlines set by the tutors. All assigned tasks must be submitted by the final deadline associated with the principal assessment.</p> <p>Students who do not actively participate in synchronous sessions will still be allowed to submit their assessments. However, their final module mark will be reduced by up to 15%. Likewise, failing to engage with asynchronous materials and complete the required short summative assessments will result in a deduction of up to 15% from the final module mark</p>
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## Part III: Marking Criteria / Assessment Criteria

Mark Weight	Fail (0 - 49%)	Sufficient (50 – 59%)	Satisfactory (60 – 74%)	Good (75-89%)	Very Good (90-100%)
100%	5,0	4,0 - 3,7	2,7-3,3	1,7-2,3	1,0-1,3
Marking Criteria	Does not fulfil the requirements of the assessment.	Demonstrates acceptable knowledge and understanding of the subject-matter and achievement of learning outcomes at low to average level of performance.	Demonstrates substantial knowledge and understanding of the subject-matter and achievement of learning outcomes at average to above average performance levels.	Demonstrates a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the subject-matter and achievement of learning outcomes at well above average levels of performance.	Demonstrates a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the subject-matter and achievement of learning outcomes at high (highest) levels of performance.

Assessment Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your written essay will be assessed based on the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group Presentations (20%)</li> <li>Depth of analysis and description of issue or problem to be researched (10%).</li> <li>The quality of your literature review and development of the appropriate conceptual model for the research (15%)</li> <li>Clear outline of the research approach and method relevant for answering your research questions (25%).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Notes about Marking	Marking will be based on the originality of the individual work submitted

## Part IV: Tips for Successfully Engaging with this Assessment

Answer the Question	It may seem obvious, but make sure you are answering the question you have been set, not the question you would prefer to answer. If the brief has a number of tasks or parts, answer all of them. Parts that involve evaluation or analysis are usually longer and worth more marks than parts that ask for description or explanation. Keep the brief in front of you and check it regularly.
How to use Assessment Criteria	The assessment criteria document is not usually a guide to the structure of your assignment. Each section of the criteria is not a separate paragraph in your assignment, but qualities that you need to demonstrate throughout. Treat the assessment criteria as a checklist at the end not as a plan at the beginning. Also, the criteria document often tells you what to demonstrate (e.g., critical analysis) but not

	<p>necessarily how to do it. For how to do it, look back at the skills and activities you have covered in the rest of the module.</p> <p>Above all, remember this is not a test of how much you know or how much you have read about the topic. It is a test of how well you can use your knowledge to answer the specific question set.</p>
Planning and Preparation	<p>Make sure you attend the lectures where we will be 'unpacking' this assignment in greater detail.</p> <p>Start thinking about your assignment and prepare early. Do clarify any doubt you have with your tutor.</p> <p>We recommend that you spend approximately 40 hours researching, writing, proofing and editing this assignment.</p>
Referencing	<p>GISMA University requires that students use Harvard Referencing.</p>
Plagiarism and Cheating	<p>Your attention is drawn to the University's stated position on plagiarism. THE WORK OF OTHERS THAT IS INCLUDED IN THE ASSIGNMENT MUST BE ATTRIBUTED TO ITS SOURCE (a list of references and bibliography must be submitted).</p> <p>Please note that this is intended to be an individual piece of work. Ensure that you read through your work prior to submission. Action will be taken where a student is suspected of having cheated or engaged in any dishonest practice. Students are referred to the University regulations on plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct. Students must not copy or collude with one another or present any information that they themselves have not generated.</p> <p>For more information on Plagiarism, please see the relevant section in your Program Handbook.</p>