



Assessment Brief

Module Code

CIS7016

Module Title

Research Methods for Technology Dissertations

Academic Year

2022/23

Semester

1

Module Leader email

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Assessment Details

Assessment title	Abr.	Weighting
Research Proposal	WRIT1	100%
Pass marks are 40% for undergraduate work and 50% for postgraduate work unless stated otherwise.		

Task/assessment brief:

Produce a research proposal that describes the intended area of dissertation study. The proposal should have the following **sections**:

1. Introduction (Task 1)

The introduction should explain the background of the issue you are studying. You should seek to explain the motivation of the project (why the project is important) and outline the definitions and foundations of your chosen subject.

2. Aims, Objectives and Research Questions (Task 2)

In this section, specify the aim of the dissertation and the related objectives. You may also include research questions to further define the aim of your study.

[Approximately 1000 Words for both Sections 1 and 2 combined]

3. Literature review (Task 3)

You should provide a review of the key literature in the field. Your literature review should be critical in nature. The review should not provide a tutorial on the topic. The literature review should consider the important issues in your field of study and should examine existing academic evidence relevant to your research aim.

[Approximately 2000 Words for Section 3]

4. Methodology (Task 4)

This section should provide a clear research methodology for your study. You should specify your research philosophy, approach, strategy, method, time horizon, and techniques and procedures (data collection). You should also consider the design of any research materials needed e.g., simulations, experiments, questionnaires, interviews, etc.

[Approximately 1000 Words for Section 4]

5. Plan (Task 5)

You should provide a detailed Gantt Chart that presents your plan and breaks your dissertation down into tasks with estimated completion times. Spread the duration over 12 weeks and only include the tasks relevant to the expected dissertation work. Include parallel tasks.

References (Task 6)

Note: The report must be well formatted and outlined (**Task 7**)

Word count (or equivalent):

4000

This reflects the effort required for the assessment. Word counts will normally include any text, tables, calculations, figures, subtitles, and citations. Reference lists are excluded from the word count. **This specified count must not be exceeded.**

Academic or technical terms explained:

Comprehension “refers to a type of understanding or apprehension such that the individual knows what is being communicated and can make use of the material or idea being communicated without necessarily relating it to other material or seeing its fullest implications.”

Application refers to the “use of abstractions in particular and concrete situations.”

Analysis represents the “breakdown of a communication into its constituent elements or parts such that the relative hierarchy of ideas is made clear and/or the relations between ideas expressed are made explicit.”

Synthesis involves the “putting together of elements and parts so as to form a whole.”

Evaluation engenders “judgments about the value of material and methods for given purposes.”

Submission Details

Submission Deadline:

This will be provided on the Moodle submission point.

Estimated Feedback Return Date

This will normally be 4 working weeks after initial submission.

Submission Time:

By 4.00 pm on the deadline day.

Moodle/Turnitin:

Any assessments submitted after the deadline will not be marked and will be recorded as a non-attempt unless you have had an extension request agreed upon or have approved mitigating circumstances. See the School Moodle pages for more information on extensions and mitigating circumstances.

File Format:

The assessment must be submitted as an MS WORD or PDF document (save the document as a pdf in your software) and submit through the Turnitin submission point in Moodle.

Your assessment should be titled with your:

**student ID number, module code and assessment ID,
e.g. st12345678 CIS7016 WRIT1**

Feedback

Feedback for the assessment will be provided electronically via Moodle. Feedback will be provided with comments on your strengths and the areas in which you can improve. View the [guidance](#) on how to access your feedback.

All marks are provisional and are subject to [quality assurance processes](#) and confirmation at the programme Examination Board.

Assessment Criteria

Learning outcomes assessed

Learning Outcomes
[LO1] Synthesize aims and objectives.
[LO2] Critically evaluate relevant academic literature.
[LO3] Critically review appropriate research or development methodologies.
[LO4] Produce a detailed project plan for a dissertation.

Assessment Criteria	100%
Task 1 (LO1, LO2)	10%
Task 2 (LO1)	20%
Task 3 (LO2)	30%
Task 4 (LO3)	25%
Task 5 (LO4)	5%
Task 6 (LO2, LO3)	5%
Task 7 (LO4)	5%

Other skills/attributes developed

This includes elements of the Cardiff Met EDGE (Ethical, Digital, Global and Entrepreneurial skills) and other attributes developed in students through the completion of the module and assessment. These will also be highlighted in the module guidance, which should be read by all students completing the module. Assessments are not just a way of auditing student knowledge. They are a process which provides additional learning and development through the preparation for and completion of the assessment.

- **Ethical:** Demonstrate understanding of ethical issues related to research and development.
- **Digital:** Use digital tools for proposal development including planning, literature survey, illustration, and documentation.
- **Global:** Demonstrate understanding of the impact of the proposed research in a global context.
- **Entrepreneurial:** Demonstrate understanding of recent innovations in the technology industry.

Marking/Assessment Criteria

WRIT1: Research Proposal	100%
Introduction	10%
Aims, Objectives and Research Questions	20%
Literature Review	30%
Methodology	25%
References	5%
Plan (Gantt Chart)	5%
Overall Presentation and Layout	5%

70 – 100% (Distinction)	A comprehensive submission. The aims and objectives are focused, achievable and appropriate for a Masters level dissertation. The literature review is focused appropriately, heavily cited and has a critical narrative. The methodology is systematically explained with appropriate selection and justification of techniques. The Gantt chart breaks the dissertation down into appropriate subtasks with realistic completion times and identifies parallel tasks. The overall presentation and layout are excellent.
60-69% (Merit)	A good-quality submission. The aims and objectives are focused, achievable and appropriate for a Masters level dissertation. The literature review is focused appropriately, cites relevant literature, and has some critical comments. The methodology is systematically explained with an appropriate selection of techniques. The Gantt chart breaks the dissertation down into appropriate subtasks with realistic completion times. The overall presentation and layout are good.
55-59% Pass	A reasonable submission. The aims and objectives have some focus and are achievable and appropriate for a Masters level dissertation. The literature review is focused but is mostly descriptive with little critical comment. The methodology is considered with some explanation of choices. The Gantt chart breaks the dissertation down into appropriate subtasks with realistic completion times. The overall presentation and layout are adequate.
50-54%	A passable submission. The aims and objectives have some focus and are achievable and appropriate for a Masters level dissertation. The literature review is unfocussed and descriptive, lacking critical comments. The methodology is considered but with little justification of techniques. The Gantt chart breaks the dissertation down into appropriate subtasks with realistic completion times. The overall presentation and layout are somewhat adequate.
<50%	The submission fails to achieve the minimum criteria described in the 50-54 grade

Further Information on assessment, referencing and grading can be found in the Module Handbook (on Moodle)

An abstract graphic design featuring a dark blue background with a complex, light blue circuit-like pattern. The pattern consists of numerous thin, parallel lines that branch out and connect to various circular nodes of different sizes. The lines and nodes are arranged in a way that suggests a network or a digital circuit, with some lines running vertically and others branching out horizontally or diagonally. The overall effect is a sense of connectivity and technology.

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