SYLLABUS 2025-2026
Dissertation

MODULE SPECIFICATION

Module Code	2526_REC_2_EN_008
Campus	Oxford
Department(s)	Research and Dissertation Methodology
Level / Semester	Masters Year 2 (M2); Equivalent to FHEQ level 7 Semester 10
Language of Instruction	English
Teaching Method	☒ In-person (face-to-face) ☐ Distance learning (live online) ☐ e-Learning (asynchronous) ☐ Hybrid: _____
Pre-requisite(s)?	M1 – Research Methodology; M2 – Research Methodology
ECTS *Reminder: 1 ECTS = between 20 and 30hr- student workload*	10
Equivalent FHEQ credits	20
Study Hours	300 independent learning hours and 1-on-1 supervision sessions

MODULE DESCRIPTION

Module Aims	This module enables students to undertake an independent dissertation that addresses a contemporary management question of significance to organisations. Under supervisory guidance, students will critically engage with theoretical concepts and relevant field data to investigate their chosen research problem. The module emphasises methodological rigour, ethical awareness, and the capacity to synthesise complex information into coherent analysis. Students are expected to demonstrate autonomy in planning, conducting, and

	writing up their research, while making explicit connections between theory and practice. The dissertation should provide a rigorous answer to the research question and, where appropriate, propose relevant and well-justified recommendations.
Teaching Arrangement	The module will be delivered through tutoring provided by an EM Normandie professor.
Learning Outcomes	By the end of this module, students should be able to: 1. Critically formulate and defend a relevant and contemporary research question within the field of management. 2. Systematically critique and integrate theoretical frameworks and empirical literature to strategically position an original research study. 3. Independently design and execute an ethically robust and methodologically rigorous research strategy, selecting and justifying the use of appropriate qualitative and/or quantitative approaches. 4. Analytically interpret and critically evaluate primary data in relation to established theoretical concepts, demonstrating intellectual insight and originality. 5. Communicate complex research findings compellingly in a dissertation that provides a definitive answer to the research question and, where applicable, presents well-argued recommendations for practice and scholarship.
Competency Goals *(Knowledge, expertise and interpersonal skills)*	PGE_M_CG01 - To be equipped with efficient business skills
Alignment with Programme Learning Goals	PGE_M_CG01_LO05 - To identify the appropriate methodology to solve a problem
	PGE_M_CG01_LO05_I02 - To select the appropriate methodological approach and data processing

SESSION TOPICS / MODULE SCHEDULE
(Please note, a session/sequence may be more than one scheduled class)

Session 1: Draft Dissertation
Content:
- The student will regularly meet with their dissertation supervisor who will help them to:
    1. Define the theme, problem, key words, and references of their research
    2. Structure ideas and the literature review
    3. Choose and implement a methodological approach (including establishing a feasible timeline)
- The 12-15-page (excluding cover sheet, abstract, table of contents, and references) draft

dissertation must include:
1. An introduction
2. A literature review/critical review of the available academic literature (minimum 10 academic articles)
3. Description of the empirical study (proposed methodology and methods of data collection/analysis)
4. Research timeline of key stages
5. Bibliography (Harvard format)

Assignments:
- The document must be submitted on Upward and will be corrected by the dissertation supervisor.
  - See the "Final Year Dissertation Handbook" for more details

Session 2: Final Dissertation
Content:
- After the draft dissertation, the student must produce the final document
  - The supervisor helps the student in:
    1. Data collection and processing results
    2. Interpretation of results and connection back to the literature
    3. Drafting managerial recommendations
  - The final 50-70-page dissertation includes the following main elements:
    1. An introduction
    2. A literature review (can be supplemented/amended from the draft)
    3. An empirical study (includes methodology and results)
    4. Discussion and conclusion (with managerial contributions)

Assignments:
- The document must be submitted on Upward and will be corrected by the dissertation supervisor.
  - See the "Final Year Dissertation Handbook" for more details

RECOMMENDED READINGS

1. Saunders, M.N.K., Lewis, P. and Thornhill, A. (2023) *Research methods for business students*. 9th edn. Harlow, United Kingdom: Pearson.
2. Navarro, D.J. and Foxcroft, D. (2025) *Learning statistics with jamovi: A tutorial for beginners in statistical analysis*. Cambridge, United Kingdom: Open Book Publishers.
3. Sánchez, C. (2023) *Descriptive and inferential statistics with JAMOVI*. Lambert Academic Publishing.
4. Creswell, J.W. and Poth, C.N. (2024) *Qualitative inquiry and research design: Choosing among five approaches*. 5th edn. SAGE Publications.
5. Tracy, S.J. (2024) *Qualitative research methods: Collecting evidence, crafting analysis, communicating impact*. 3rd edn. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.
6. Braun, V. and Clarke, V. (2021) *Thematic analysis: A practical guide*. SAGE Publications.
7. Clark, T., Foster, L., Sloan, L. and Bryman, A. (2021) *Bryman's social research methods*. 6th edn. Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press.

Last reviewed: 03/02/2026

MODES OF ASSESSMENT

Continuous Assessment (30%)	Draft dissertation
Final Assessment (70%)	Final dissertation

MODULE DESIGN TEAM

- Author: *L'Hocine Houanti*
- Reviewer: *Ezechias Azokly*
- External Reviewer: *TBA*