

Subject Code	AF5910		
Subject Title	AC Dissertation		
Credit Value	9		
Level	5		
Normal Duration	Two Semesters		
Pre-requisite / Co-requisite/ Exclusion	Pre-requisite: Applied Econometric Methods in Accounting and Finance Research (AF5908) OR Research Methods (MM501)		
Role and Purposes	This is among the most important learning activities of this programme for students choosing the Dissertation Option. In preparing their dissertations, students have an opportunity to draw upon particular themes of the course <u>showing the extent to which they have been able to integrate what they have learned of for some of the dominant themes and interesting areas in their course (Programme Outcome 3).</u> Students are expected to identify an area for study, explore this area in depth, collect and analyze relevant data if appropriate. The final report must be of publishable quality.		
Subject Learning Outcomes	Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to: a. Specify and gather the data or information needed to investigate the area or issue specified in their Proposals; b. Apply an appropriate research methodology to that data; c. Analyze and interpret their results; d. Report results in an effective manner; e. Link those results to relevant underlying theoretical and conceptual framework(s).		
Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus	It must be a topic relevant to accounting and / or related disciplines. Depending on the specific topic chosen, analytical, empirical, case study, and / or other approaches as seen appropriate are to be applied.		
Teaching/Learning Methodology	There are four stages in the preparation of the dissertation: (i) approval of the topic by the supervisor; (ii) approval of the outline of the proposed research plan; (iii) approval of the completed draft; and (iv) completion and handing in the dissertation.		
Assessment Methods in Alignment with	Specific assessment methods/tasks	% weighting	Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)

Intended Learning Outcomes		a	b	c	d	e		
	Research Proposal and Progress Report(s)	20%	√	√			√	
	Oral Examination	30%	√	√	√	√	√	
	Research Report	50%	√	√	√	√	√	
	Total	100%						

Explanation of the appropriateness of the assessment methods in assessing the intended learning outcomes:

(1) Research Proposal [to achieve (i) and (ii) described in the Teaching/Learning Methodology section]

In consultation with the dissertation supervisor, the student works out a proposed research plan which must show evidence of sound background research and state in specific terms:

- (a) aims and objectives;
- (b) review of literature and definition of the theoretical concepts to be used;
- (c) the basis for the research problem with reference to other such research;
- (d) methodology of the study, i.e. the ways in which data are to be collected, analyzed and reported;
- (e) a research schedule.

The research plan is not a static model that needs to be followed rigidly. After the initial research plan, students monitor their own progress throughout the preparation of the dissertation. They are encouraged to seek advice from thesis supervisors whenever necessary.

(2) Progress [to achieve (iii) described in the Teaching/Learning Methodology section]

Continuous assessment is made on students' performance during tutorials such as: verbal presentation and discussion of assigned readings; quality of submitted written assignments such as literature review; annotated bibliographies; comprehension of the task in hand, planning, initiative, and thoroughness of investigation.

(3) Oral Examination [to achieve (iii) described in the Teaching/Learning Methodology section]

	<p>Examiners will hold viva voce examinations and students will also be expected to present their research findings at a seminar. The main purpose of the dissertation is to satisfy the panel of examiners that the student's work is his/her own. During these oral presentations, students will be required to answer queries relating to the dissertation and identify applications and future directions.</p> <p>The mark for the oral examination will take into consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the student's grasp of the problem, (b) his/her ability to answer queries, and (c) his/her presentation and communication skills. <p>(4) The Research Report [to achieve (iv) described in the Teaching/Learning Methodology section]</p> <p>In assessing the research report, the examiners will have regard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) to the extent to which the student has been able to meet the broad criteria laid down in the aims and objectives of dissertation; (b) to the degree of originality; (c) to the significance of the findings; (d) to the way in which the student has drawn upon and integrated theories and techniques; (e) to the overall quality of the written presentation. <p>Each examiner marks independently, and the final mark will be the average of the two marks.</p> <p>Note: The minimum passing grade of this subject is D. In addition, the specific requirements on individual assessment components discussed above could be adjusted based on the pedagogical needs of subject lecturers.</p>	
Student Study Effort Expected	Class contact:	
	▪ Supervision meetings and feedback	30 Hrs.
	Other student study effort:	
	▪ Self-study	348 Hrs.
	Total student study effort	378 Hrs.
Reading List and References	<p>Madsen, D., <i>Successful Dissertations and Theses</i>, San Francisco, Jossey-Bass, 1983.</p> <p>Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 3rd Edition, Washington, American Psychological Association, 1983.</p>	

	<p>Chicago <i>Manual of Style: for authors, editors and copywriters</i>, 13th Edition, Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1982.</p>
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Winkler, A.C. and J.R. McCuen, *Writing the Research Paper: A Handbook*, New York, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1979.

Turabian, K. L., *A Manual for Writers on Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertation*, 4th Edition, Chicago, University of Chicago, 1973.