

H9MALTDISS: Dissertation

Module Code:	H9MALTDISS
Long Title	Dissertation APPROVED
Title	Dissertation
Module Level:	LEVEL 9
EQF Level:	7
EHEA Level:	Second Cycle
Credits:	15
Module Coordinator:	Leo Casey
Module Author:	Stephanie Roe
Departments:	NCI Learning & Teaching
Specifications of the qualifications and experience required of staff	
Learning Outcomes	
<i>On successful completion of this module the learner will be able to:</i>	
#	Learning Outcome Description
LO1	Demonstrate an integrated understanding and appropriate critique of the scholarly literature relevant to the research question being asked.
LO2	State and defend the importance of an appropriate educational research question.
LO3	Demonstrate ability to conduct educational research in a competent, effective and ethically appropriate manner.
LO4	Demonstrate a capacity for self-directed enquiry, with support from an academic advisor, and an ability to manage a complex educational research project (i.e., plan, collect, and analyse data relevant to the research question).
LO5	Demonstrate an ability to present, both in writing and orally, the study and its findings and to answer questions on the theoretical and empirical context for the study, the importance of the research question, the appropriateness of the methodology and data analysis, and defend the reasonableness of the conclusions that were drawn from the study.
Dependencies	
Module Recommendations	
No recommendations listed	
Co-requisite Modules	
No Co-requisite modules listed	
Entry requirements	

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Module Content & Assessment			
Indicative Content			
Task Students are required to complete an individual educational dissertation project – this may be research based or practice-based. The topic or question must be selected by the student. Practice based dissertations must involve innovation in practice and/or learning design carried out in a structured, documented and evidenced based process (e.g. as Action Research or Design Based Research). Students must demonstrate achievement of all module learning outcomes in carrying out the dissertation project. The dissertation will be presented as a 20– 25,000 word thesis. In doing this, they must include - a statement of the research objectives, literature review, appropriate methodologies, data collection and analysis and findings and recommendations for future research.			
Supervision Each student will be assigned a supervisor. It is recommended to consult the supervisor on an ongoing basis both face-to-face as well as via email and other electronic communication media. Students are expected to make contact with their supervisor at least every three weeks. Students are expected to share their draft work in advance of meetings with their supervisor. Prior to their first meeting with their supervisor students are advised to send a copy of the research question and literature review papers submitted in semester one. In this way the supervisor can have an opportunity to read these in advance. The student can also indicate their current thinking which may have moved on from these submissions.			
Interim Checkpoint At about week 5 students are required to submit a short document on dissertation progress and intent. The document will be discussed at a meeting between the student and the examiners. The student does not make a presentation but is required to answer questions on the research topic and question, the research method, data gathering, expected results and timeline for completion. This review will be marked with a weighting of 10% of the dissertation mark (the marking scheme is at the end of this document). The Interim Check Point Document to be prepared by the student shall be about 2000 words and it will address the following issues: • Background to the project • Statement of the research question to be addressed • Brief description of methodology and approach including ethical considerations • Expected outcomes • Major implementation steps and timelines The student will receive written feedback from the examiners. This feedback should be taken on-board by the student during the substantive work of the dissertation.			
Draft Submission Students will submit two floppy bound printed versions of their thesis. Two members of the Programme Board will be appointed to mark each thesis.			
Presentation Students will furnish a demonstration / presentation of their dissertation. Two examiners will be present along with the supervisor – the supervisor shall not act as an examiner. The student presentation shall be 15 minutes followed by a question and answer session. Overall, the process should take about 30 -35 minutes. Subsequently the Programme Board will convene a meeting to review the examination results and to ensure consistency in the marking.			
Final Submission Students may be asked to make changes to their dissertation by the examiners. One examiner will undertake to review these changes. The examiners must be satisfied that the necessary changes have been carried out before a mark can be awarded. Once the changes have been completed to the satisfaction of the examiner students may prepare for final submission. Students will also be required to submit electronic versions in accordance with NCI Submission of Thesis Policy.			
Assessment Breakdown			%
Coursework			100.00%
Assessments			
Part Time			
Coursework			
Assessment Type:	Dissertation	% of total:	100
Assessment Date:	n/a	Outcome addressed:	1,2,3,4,5
Non-Marked:	No		
Assessment Description:	Dissertation		
No End of Module Assessment			
No Workplace Assessment			
Reassessment Requirement			
Repeat failed items <i>The student must repeat any item failed</i>			
Reassessment Description Students must pass all components of assessment on the module; a component fail leads to a component repeat.			

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Module Workload				
Module Target Workload Hours 0 Hours				
Workload: Part Time				
Workload Type	Workload Description	Hours	Frequency	Average Weekly Learner Workload
Lecture	Lecture	20	Per Semester	1.67
Lecturer Supervised Learning	Supervision	15	Per Semester	1.25
Independent Learning	Independent Learning	340	Per Semester	28.33
Total Weekly Contact Hours				2.92

Module Resources	
<i>Recommended Book Resources</i>	
Yvonne N. Bui. (2014), <i>How to Write a Master's Thesis</i> , SAGE, p.313, [ISBN: 9781452203515].	
<i>Supplementary Book Resources</i>	
J. S. Graustein. (2013), <i>How to Write an Exceptional Thesis or Dissertation</i> , Atlantic Publishing Group Inc, Florida, p.288, [ISBN: 9781601386038].	
<i>This module does not have any article/paper resources</i>	
<i>This module does not have any other resources</i>	
Discussion Note:	