

# FP055-30 Inquiry and Research Skills for Business

**22/23**

**Department**

Warwick Foundation Studies

**Level**

Foundation

**Module leader**

Upama Ghosh

**Credit value**

30

**Module duration**

24 weeks

**Assessment**

100% coursework

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

---

## Description

### Introductory description

The IRS for Business module aims to ensure that students develop the necessary competencies and skills to succeed in Business, Finance and related courses. It will provide bespoke skills training and support for students aiming to progress to an undergraduate degree in the United Kingdom. It will provide training in reflective and critical thinking, team-working, and raising the awareness of self to develop greater ability in learners to engage with academic debate and take responsibility to critically inquire and evaluate issues in Business and Finance. The module aims to ensure that students become independent learners and researchers who are equipped to think for themselves.

[Module web page](#)

### Module aims

1. To develop students (inter)independent learning skills and confidence through inquiry based learning into current issues that affect businesses
2. Introduce students to, and raise their understanding of, academic research within business related fields- including the language and methods used.

3. To develop students' transferable research skills that will help them become more effective learners in their undergraduate studies

## Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

1. What is research? Learning about what research is and the information literacy skills that support research including asking relevant questions, evaluating sources, document analysis, formulating search strategies, effective searching, reflection and developing coherent lines of argument.
2. Introduction to Problem Based learning – taking part in group based tasks in which students utilise, develop and practise research skills whilst investigating interdisciplinary issues in Business and Finance.
3. Research Project – students will be taught about different research methods, including quantitative and qualitative methods used, research ethics, question design and analysis. They will propose, design, plan and carry out their own research study leading to a presentation in which they will answer questions about their research.

## Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Utilise inquiry skills to investigate and analyse a range of issues facing global businesses today
- Effectively reflect and critically consider their approach their academic study and group learning
- Demonstrate a range of transferable skills including project planning, data analysis and relevant digital literacy skills as applicable to research in business related fields
- Analyse and evaluate research undertaken by others within the field, drawing comparisons with research done in Business related fields

## Indicative reading list

Saunders et al (2019) Research Methods for Business Students

Cottrell S (2008) The Study Skills Handbook (3rd edition) Palgrave Macmillan

Cottrell S (2011) Critical Thinking Skills: Developing Effective Analysis and Argument (2nd edition) Palgrave Macmillan

Cottrell S (2014) Dissertations and project reports : a step by step guide Palgrave MacMillan

Dane, C (2018 ) Evaluating research : methodology for people who need to read research (2nd edition) SAGE

Harvard Business Review

Financial Times

[View reading list on Talis Aspire](#)

## Research element

Research project

## Interdisciplinary

Students undertake study of different problem based learning tasks from an interdisciplinary basis.

## International

Students are to be assessed on contribution of research globally in the subject area.

## Subject specific skills

- Information literacy skills - library skills, effective internet searching, use of databases.
- Inquiry Skills - asking questions, seeking and analysing different answers, coming to your own conclusion
- Group work skills
- Independent learning skills - planning, time management
- Research skills - e.g. how to undertake questionnaires, interviews
- Reflective thinking/ writing
- Critical thinking

## Transferable skills

- Information literacy skills - library skills, effective internet searching, use of databases.
- Inquiry Skills - asking questions, seeking and analysing different answers, coming to your own conclusion
- Group work skills
- Independent learning skills - planning, time management
- Research skills - e.g. how to undertake questionnaires, interviews
- Reflective thinking/ writing
- Critical thinking

---

## Study

## Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	72 sessions of 1 hour (25%)
Online learning (independent)	6 sessions of 45 minutes (1%)
Total	290 hours

Type	Required
Private study	123 hours 30 minutes (42%)
Assessment	90 hours (31%)
Total	290 hours

## Private study description

Reading, practising of ideas taught in class. Preparation for seminars.

## Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

---

## Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

### Assessment group A3

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Foundations of Research	10%	10 hours	Yes (extension)
Selection of information literacy moodle modules and research ethics module.			
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
Teamwork Reflection	20%	20 hours	Yes (extension)
Reflective writing or Vlog on teamwork.			
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
Logbook	30%	20 hours	Yes (extension)

	<b>Weighting</b>	<b>Study time</b>	<b>Eligible for self-certification</b>
Planning and preparation for Research Project			

#### Reassessment component

Reflection on research process			Yes (extension)
Students submit a short reflection on a specific skill that their logbook did not demonstrate sufficiently			

#### Assessment component

Business Research Project	40%	40 hours	Yes (extension)
Presentation of Research Project to include both an academic poster AND discussion of the research.			

#### Reassessment component

Interview			No
Interview about the students' research			

### Feedback on assessment

Written comments via tabula; tutorials for students who wish to have further guidance

## Availability

### Courses

This module is Core for:

- FIOE Warwick International Foundation Programme
  - Year 1 of FP14 Warwick International Foundation Programme - Business Management
  - Year 1 of FP15 Warwick International Foundation Programme - Finance