

FP055-30 Inquiry and Research Skills for Business & Finance

24/25

Department

Warwick Foundation Studies

Level

Foundation

Module leader

Upama Ghosh

Credit value

30

Module duration

25 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, 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:

- Identify and select relevant academic sources relating to a range of issues facing business and finance today.
- Demonstrate a range of transferable skills including project planning, data analysis, relevant digital literacy skills and presentation skills as applicable to research in related fields.
- Plan, undertake and reflect on self-directed research using methodologies appropriate to business and finance.
- Present analysis, evaluate and draw conclusions based on a self-directed research project.

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
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Study

Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	72 sessions of 1 hour (24%)
Private study	168 hours (56%)
Assessment	60 hours (20%)
Total	300 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 A5

	Weighting	Study time
IRS Project Proposal	25%	15 hours
1150 word project proposal to include: proposed question with detailed rationale on the back of reading that has been conducted; methodology explanation and project plan. Students will also be asked to explain how they plan to make use of digital tools (including AI) as part of their project.		
Log book of progress and reflection on the research project.		
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Log book of progress and reflection on the research project.		
Log book of progress and reflection on the research project.		
Academic Poster Conference Presentation	40%	24 hours
This presentation of academic poster with Research Project outcomes at an academic conference.		
Academic Poster	35%	21 hours
Creation of academic poster of research project undertaken.		

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