

IM945-60 Final Project with optional Placement

26/27

Department

Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies

Level

Taught Postgraduate Level

Module leader

Cagatay Turkey

Credit value

60

Module duration

18 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

The Practical Final Project enables students to complete an individual research project by producing a substantial practice-based outcome, or series of outcomes, which will be the focus of an accompanying 5000-word written component. The final project is an exercise in independent study in which students pursue a topic of interest to them within the subject matter of their Masters programme. Whilst the dissertation's emphasis is not necessarily empirical or theoretical, the work should engage with theories, methodologies, empirical understanding and methods in relation to the research topic as appropriate and should present critical reflections on how the empirical and theoretical frameworks shape and guide the practice-based research process. As well as giving students the opportunity to develop skills in practice-based research, the module allows them to further develop a range of independent research skills, including literature search, researching previous work and bibliography construction, theoretical argument, and generation/appraisal of empirical evidence, and exploring links between theory and practice.

To develop their final project, students can follow two different routes:

Independent route: The issue/problem that the students work with will be developed by the student in dialogue with their supervisors and the relevant academic literature.

Placement route: The issue/problem that the students work with will be developed as a result of a dialogue between an external non-academic partner, the student and their academic supervisors

while also being in touch with the relevant academic literature

Irrespective of the route taken, the projects will be problem-driven and practice-based and will enable students to engage with real-world issues and problems and critically apply theories and methods.

Module aims

The principal aims of this final project module are:

to develop students' ability to develop and refine a substantial practical project related to current developments, and academic or methodological debates;

to develop experience of practice-based research in terms of design, development, deployment and evaluation;

to develop experience of researching, documenting and reporting a practice based research project in terms of outcomes, methodology and stakeholders;

to undertake an independent programme of practice based research of direct relevance to the core themes of the students' postgraduate course of study;

to expose students to in-depth practice based research in relation to key issues of relevance to their course;

to enable students to work practically with a variety of research and design methods, to be able to build a research project using selected methods of their choice;

to develop student understanding of practice based research, research methods, principles and applications;

to enable students to critically reflect on how empirical and theoretical frameworks shape their research practice, and on how the practice informs empirical and theoretical frameworks as evidenced in their project

to enable students to develop specific in-depth knowledge on methods and topics of interest to future work or research while identifying appropriate methods to analyse and present such a topic;

to enable students to develop technical, organisational and creative skills for the exploration and analysis of research topics;

to develop student skills in conceiving, managing and completing a substantial practice based research project.

to develop students in engaging with real-world problems and develop suitable outcomes in response.

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.

The module will start with a lecture laying out the requirements and explaining standards and

stages of work in the final project. To give students more time and support, the module leader will give the first lecture prior to the summer term, during term two. For students on the placement route, a list of problem statements provided by external partners will be made available also in term two and students will express their interest in working with the external partners. Students will also be able to source their own placement providers and projects as long as this is approved by the department. Students will also complete a 'Statement of research interest' document before the Summer term, which will be used to allocate supervisors but also to encourage students to begin thinking about the final project in advance of the Summer term. Students will commence work on dissertations at the start of the third term. They will be advised to maintain regular contact with their supervisor, and to meet with them at least three times over the period of study. Students on the “placement route” will work closely with a mentor from the placement provider. The mentor will also make working arrangements that are best suited to the project. The work could take place either remotely with potential visits to the provider’s workplace or the student could be based at the provider’s workplace more routinely. The supervisor will advise on specific aspects of the final project process (topic selection, research design, methodology and techniques, literature review and due diligence, managing large practice-based projects etc.).

The final project will be an original piece of problem-driven, practice-based research in the broad area of cultural, political, social or natural phenomena using one or several concepts, methodologies and techniques presented during the students' course of study.

Learning outcomes

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

- Identify, put into use, and critically interpret different conceptual approaches and developments in the field of research.
- Produce independent research that demonstrates knowledge of a number of theoretical, practical and methodological perspectives studied during the degree.
- Articulate dissertation ideas orally (to supervisors) and to produce well-argued written material, supported by wide reading and advanced research.
- Formulate a sophisticated programme of research with an appropriate methodology.
- Develop a well-grounded, relevant outcome to respond to a real-world problem and/or issue.

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

Research element

An individual research project producing a substantial practice-based outcome, or series of outcomes.

Interdisciplinary

The module is assessed solely by the production of an independent practice based research project.

Subject specific skills

to develop a sophisticated understanding of one substantive topic of research;

to connect theoretical, conceptual, technical and practical knowledge in relation to a topic and a practice based outcome and to be able to locate specific examples in relation to these knowledges;

to develop practical skills to conduct practice based research by applying one or more suitable research methods.

demonstrate an ability to critically analyse, interpret and evaluate historical and current research in relation to a specific topic;

demonstrate the capacity to compare and contrast concepts from diverse disciplinary backgrounds and to identify a related methodological innovation;

develop the ability to synthesise and adopt interdisciplinary forms of knowledge and relate them to a contemporary research topic;

be able to formulate a sophisticated programme of research with an appropriate methodology.

Transferable skills

written and oral communication skills: to articulate dissertation ideas orally (to supervisors) and to produce well-argued written material, supported by wide reading and advanced research;

the ability to respond to and incorporate feedback and to revise the project as required during the various stages of feedback

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	3 sessions of 1 hour (0%)
Project supervision	3 sessions of 1 hour (0%)
Supervised practical classes	3 sessions of 3 hours (2%)
Private study	585 hours (98%)
Total	600 hours

Private study description

Students will be required to undertake independent research and project development, including formulating research questions (hypothesis), conducting reviews of literature and previous work,

conducting any empirical research (dataset development, fieldwork, surveys etc), conducting any practice-based research, developing final outcomes and writing and preparing to present their findings. Students on the placement route will need to dedicate time to work with the placement providers on understanding the problem context, getting feedback on intermediate results and presenting the final outcomes.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A1

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
5,000 word final project report	100%		No
Practice based research project and written component			
Reassessment component is the same			

Feedback on assessment

Formative feedback will be given on the final project proposal. Formative feedback will also be provided during supervision meetings with the project supervisors . Formative feedback will be given to the practice based outcome(s) along with written summative feedback provided for the written dissertation. Oral formative feedback will typically be via face-to-face meetings but may also be via phone or video conference. A detailed final project handbook will provide guidance on the final project procedures.

Availability

Courses

This module is Core for:

- TIMA-L995 Postgraduate Taught Data Visualisation

- Year 1 of L995 Data Visualisation
- Year 2 of L995 Data Visualisation