

Module code: MOD009776	Version: 1 Date Amended: 01/Aug/2024
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1. Module Title
Dissertation (Agriculture)

2a. Module Leader
Anya Perera

2b. School
Writtle School of Agriculture, Animal and Environmental Sciences

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Science and Engineering

3a. Level
6

3b. Module Type
Project or dissertation (fine graded)

4a. Credits
30

4b. Study Hours
300

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisite:	MOD009775	Academic and Professional Development (SSE)	Compulsory
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:			

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description
The dissertation is designed to enable students gain experience in research by undertaking a substantive project, in a subject of their choice. It allows students to gain specialist knowledge, demonstrate scholarship and academic maturity to explore specific issues in greater depth than is possible elsewhere in the programme. It is a major opportunity for students to demonstrate that they have met the level 6 descriptors for Bachelor Degrees with Honours as detailed in the QAA's FHEQ. Students will also be expected to critically analyse and evaluate information and data from a wide range of sources, justify their choice of topic whether through a process of primary or secondary investigation, effectively interpret and synthesise findings in a structured and logical narrative. Dissertation topics can be laboratory and/or field based investigative studies, business projects or literature reviews, with tutor help and guidance supporting the final project approval. The dissertation is also designed to develop independent learning, self-reliance, work planning skills and a professional approach to study. Students are expected to take responsibility for the direction and management of their work through to submission. It is also intended to encourage interdisciplinary and systems-thinking approaches to researching situations and problems encountered in industry and sector to allow students to focus on a specialist subject of their choosing that is often linked to their experience in the sector and their future career aspirations. The following opportunities for academic and professional skills development exist: • Presentation: To deliver a relevant presentation making full use of visual aids. • Dissertation: To set-up and follow a personal action plan which involves time management. • Apply research, investigative and analytical skills to a specific issue. • Make full use of information technology in researching and formulating relevant data.
6b. Outline Content
LECTURES: A series of lectures to build on concepts established in previous modules to provide general aid and guidance to the ongoing process/problems encountered with methods, literature searches, data handling, compilation and presentation. TUTORIALS: Subject specific tutors will meet students individually, or in small groups, on a regular basis to advise on content, sources of reference, deal with practical problems, review progress and suggest new areas of investigation. Students will normally produce a written document of no more than 10,000 words. However, other formats, appropriate to their subject area, are equally acceptable. The Dissertation must show evidence of original work given in an academic context, though not always the collection of primary research data.

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: <https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/>

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

None

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)

No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Select, define and present an appropriate, scientifically sound approach to a research question that has currency and can be justified as a relevant and independent research project
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Apply research, investigative and analytical skills to plan and execute a selected project from concept through to completion
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Critically research, discuss, present and evaluate findings in an appropriate academic format to demonstrate discipline specific concepts and / or a research mindset
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Demonstrate expertise, autonomy and self-motivation in an area of academic study.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers

Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	30	1-4	Lectures and Tutorials (group and individual). To agree the structure and format of the dissertation and review process. Supervisors are allocated a maximum of 6 hours supervision per student including draft reading, Tutorial records are recommended.
Other teacher managed learning	0	None	None
Student managed learning	270	1-4	Reading, experimentation (some cases) analysis, interpretation, compilation and presentation.
TOTAL:	300		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-4	100 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Project (3 Components): Component 1 - Thesis (5000 Words), Component 2 - PDP, Component 3 - Presentation/ Poster					

Assessment components for Element 010				
Component No.	Assessment Title	Submission Method	Weighting (%)	Components needed for Mark Calculation?
010/1	Thesis (5000 words)	Canvas	85 (%)	All
010/2	PDP	Canvas	5 (%)	
010/3	Presentation/ Poster	Canvas	10 (%)	

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:

(a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above

(b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]