



## Research Design Course Descriptor

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Course Title	Research Design	Faculty	Economics
Course code	NCHEC670	Course Leader	Dr Mike Peacey
Credit points	10	Teaching Period	Michaelmas & Hilary
FHEQ level	6	Date Approved	June 2020
Compulsory/ Optional	Optional		
Pre-requisites	None		
Co-requisites	Dissertation (Economics)		

### COURSE SUMMARY

The Research Design course is intended to support students toward writing an Economics Dissertation (NCHEC661). It is intended to ensure that students choose a Dissertation topic by a suitable point in the academic year, and have done some research and a literature search in that topic, bringing them to an informed point from which to deepen their research into a Dissertation.

This course is intended to continue seamlessly into the Dissertation (Economics) course under the guidance of the same supervisor.

### COURSE AIMS

- To give students the opportunity to prepare for writing their Dissertation in a structured way.
- To give students the opportunity to write a detailed Research Proposal before embarking on the process of writing the full Dissertation.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

#### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

- K1c Show knowledge of the academic literature in their chosen topic

## SUBJECT SPECIFIC SKILLS

- S1c identify a relevant research question not yet addressed adequately in the existing literature

## TRANSFERABLE AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- T1c author an informed and clear research proposal

## TEACHING AND LEARNING

Students will have the opportunity to engage with:

- 1 x virtual learning environment (VLE)
- 1.5 x tutorial hours (individual tutorial)
- Weekly office hours

Students are required to attend and participate in all timetabled sessions for this course and, with the ongoing support available, to manage their directed learning and independent study.

Total study hours for this course are: 100.

## EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

- For success in this course, students are expected to identify a topic area independently, which develops their ability to consider options and commit to choices.
- Students are also expected to agree the specific topic with a supervisor, which develops the ability to work on a team with specific roles.

## ASSESSMENT

### FORMATIVE

Formative assessment on this course consists of a supervisor's feedback on a student's research progress, as well as discussion between the student and supervisor about ideas relevant to the dissertation. This should occur mainly in timetabled Dissertation supervision meetings.

### SUMMATIVE

Assessment will be in one form:

AE:	Assessment Activity	Weighting (%)	Online submission	Duration	Length
1	Written Assignment	100%	Yes	N/A	1,000 words

## FEEDBACK

Students will receive formal feedback in timetabled Dissertation supervision meetings, and written feedback on the Dissertation Proposal once submitted.

## INDICATIVE READING

Note: Comprehensive and current reading lists for courses are produced annually in the Course Syllabus or other documentation provided to students; the indicative reading list provided below is used as part of the approval/modification process only.

Although supervisors might provide readings for a given topic, generally the student is expected to learn how to identify important readings in the process. Readings should include a variety of types of sources, including but not limited to academic journal articles.

## BOOKS

Students are recommended to consult one of the many books in the market about writing a successful dissertation, such as one of the following:

Walliman, N. (2004), *Your Undergraduate Dissertation: The Essential Guide for Success*, London: Sage.

Swetnam, D. (2001), *Writing Your Dissertation: How to Plan, Prepare and Present Your Work Successfully*, Begbroke: How To Books Ltd.

## ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Students are encouraged to consult relevant websites on the dissertation writing process, for example: <http://www.studyingeconomics.ac.uk/dissertation/>

## INDICATIVE TOPICS

Students might develop research proposals on topics such as the following:

- Is there a relationship between a country's external debt and its growth rate?
- An empirical analysis of returns to university education for UK graduates
- An economic theory of Internet piracy, and why it should (not) be outlawed
- Does institutional development lead to better healthcare outcomes?

<b>Title: NCHEC670 Research Design Course Descriptor</b>					
<b>Approved by: Academic Board</b>					
Version number	Date approved	Date published	Owner	Location	Proposed next review date
2.0	June 2021	June 2021	Marianna Koli	1 Academic Handbook > Course Descriptors 2 VLE	April 2025
1.0	June 2020	June 2020	Marianna Koli	1 Academic Handbook > Course Descriptors 2 VLE	April 2025
<b>Modifications (As per AQF4)</b>					
Version number	Date approved	Date published	Modification (including category number)		
2.0	June 2021	June 2021	Category 2: Change to 'Teaching and Learning Strategy'		