

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Subject Description Form

Subject Code	FSN6603
Subject Title	DFSM Thesis I
Credit Value	8
Level	6
Pre-requisite/ Co-requisite/ Exclusion	Completion of at least six of the required taught subjects
Objectives	This subject helps students to achieve the Doctor of Food Science and Management (DFSM) programme learning outcomes by enhancing their ability to conduct original applied research, fostering ethical awareness, and preparing them to develop a formal research proposal specifically within the field of food science and management.
Intended Learning Outcomes	Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. critically analyse a topic of interest within their chosen research area; b. demonstrate an in-depth understanding of relevant literature; c. undertake a research-based topic that holds significance in real-world practice; d. develop a comprehensive research proposal suitable for their DFSM thesis; and e. enhance their self-awareness and social awareness, recognising the dual roles they have as both a researcher and a manager.
Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus	This subject offers one of the most essential learning activities within the DFSM programme. During the thesis preparation phase, students incorporate specific research themes that showcase their ability to synthesise and apply the knowledge acquired from the class. They have the opportunity to explore the use of state-of-the-art research methodologies to address essential issues derived from their real-world management experience. The thesis is expected to make substantial contributions and provide innovative insights to the professional practice in food science and management. Typically, the length of the thesis proposal should be around 15,000 words.

<p>Teaching/Learning Methodology</p>	<p>Students collaborate individually with research advisors to prepare both the research proposal (DFSM Thesis I) and research thesis (DFSM Thesis II). The process consists of four stages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ initial approval of the topic by the research advisor; ▪ approval of the research proposal; ▪ approval of the completed draft; and ▪ completion and submission of the thesis. <p>DFSM Thesis I covers the first two stages of the process. Under the guidance of the research advisor, each student develops a research proposal that typically includes the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ background and literature review; ▪ research questions and hypotheses; ▪ project aims and objectives; ▪ methodology; ▪ preliminary results; ▪ research schedule; and ▪ cited references. <p>The research proposal is evaluated by a panel comprising three academics. Students are required to present their proposals through an oral presentation during the workshops in DFSM Residential II. The panel will make one of the following decisions regarding the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the proposal is approved, and research can proceed as proposed; ▪ revisions are required, and the revised proposal needs to be approved by the research advisor; ▪ significant revisions are necessary, and the revised proposal needs to be reconsidered by the panel; or that ▪ the proposal is not approved. 																																	
<p>Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes</p>	<table border="1" data-bbox="512 1335 1390 1597"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Specific assessment methods/tasks</th> <th rowspan="2">Percentage weighting</th> <th colspan="5">Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>a</th> <th>b</th> <th>c</th> <th>d</th> <th>e</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Thesis proposal</td> <td>50%</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oral presentation</td> <td>50%</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>100 %</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Weighting of assessment methods/ tasks in continuous assessment may be different, subject to each subject lecturer</i></p> <p>Explanation of the appropriateness of the assessment methods in assessing the intended learning outcomes</p> <p>The thesis proposal is evaluated by a panel consisting of the research advisor and two academics who are experts in the field related to the student's thesis topic. The panel will collaboratively assess the quality and feasibility of the student's research proposal.</p>	Specific assessment methods/tasks	Percentage weighting	Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)					a	b	c	d	e	Thesis proposal	50%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Oral presentation	50%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Total	100 %					
Specific assessment methods/tasks	Percentage weighting			Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)																														
		a	b	c	d	e																												
Thesis proposal	50%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																												
Oral presentation	50%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																												
Total	100 %																																	

Student Study Effort Expected	Class contact:	
	▪ Thesis proposal advising and assessment	30 Hours
	Other student study effort:	
	▪ Preparation for the proposal	330 Hours
	Total student study effort	360 Hours
Reading List and References	Reading materials will be provided by research advisors.	