

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Subject Description Form

Subject Code	FSN6604
Subject Title	DFSM Thesis II
Credit Value	16
Level	6
Pre-requisite/ Co-requisite/ Exclusion	FSN6603DFSM Thesis I
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 research-based thesis 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. demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of relevant literature in the chosen research area; b. develop appropriate research models and hypotheses that align with the selected topic; c. systematically collect and analyse research data to meet professional standards; d. engage in and conduct a research-based thesis in a significant topic area that contributes to real-world practice; 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 represents one of the most crucial learning activities in the DFSM programme. When crafting their theses, students are encouraged to incorporate specific themes that demonstrate their proficiency in integrating essential concepts and compelling areas within the programme. Under the guidance of research advisors, students have the opportunity to employ various methodologies to investigate issues derived from their real-world management experience and derive conclusions. The thesis is expected to make substantial contributions and offer innovative insights to the professional practice in food science and management. As a general guideline, the thesis should have a word count of around 50,000 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 II covers the last two stages of the process. Upon the approval of the research proposal, students are responsible for monitoring their progress throughout the thesis preparation process. They are encouraged to seek guidance and support from their research advisors as needed. The thesis typically includes, but is not limited to, the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ background and literature review; ▪ research questions and hypotheses; ▪ project aims and objectives; ▪ methodology; ▪ results and discussion; and ▪ cited references. <p>The thesis is examined through an oral defence, conducted by a panel comprising two examiners and the research advisor. The examiners are academics or research scientists who are familiar with the thesis topic. The primary purpose of the oral defence is to assess the authenticity and professional quality of the thesis. During the oral defence, students are expected to respond to queries related to their thesis, demonstrating their understanding of the research topic, its implications and applications, as well as the future directions arising from their work.</p> <p>The thesis is also evaluated by the examiners and research advisor based on its potential for publication, taking into consideration the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the extent to which the research objectives have been achieved; ▪ the level of originality demonstrated in the research work; ▪ the theoretical and practical significance of the findings; and ▪ the clarity and adherence to academic standards. <p>The panel will make one of the following decisions regarding the DFSM research thesis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the thesis is approved; ▪ revisions are required, and the revised thesis needs to be approved by the research advisor; ▪ significant revisions are necessary, and the revised thesis needs to be reconsidered by the panel; or that ▪ the thesis is not approved.
---	---

Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes	Specific assessment methods/tasks	Percentage weighting	Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)				
			a	b	c	d	e
	Thesis	70%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Oral defence	30%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Total	100 %					
<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 is assessed by a panel of examiners who possess expertise in the field relevant to the student's thesis topic. Together, they evaluate the quality of the thesis with the aim of determining if it meets the expected standards for a doctoral degree.</p>							
Student Study Effort Expected	Class contact:						
	▪ Thesis advising and assessment	30 Hours					
	Other student study effort:						
	▪ Preparation for the thesis	690 Hours					
	Total student study effort		720 Hours				
Reading List and References	Reading materials will be provided by research advisors.						