

Subject Code	MM595
Subject Title	PSM Dissertation
Credit Value	9
Level	5
Normal Duration	2-semester
Pre-requisite/ Co-requisite/ Exclusion/ Consecutive Subjects (2 semesters)	Research Methods (MM501) ----- Practice of Public Sector Management (MM5951) ----- PSM Dissertation (MM595)
Role and Purposes	This subject is designed to integrate what the students have learned from the foundation and core subjects to conduct empirical research into a public sector management problem or issue.
Subject Learning Outcomes	Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to: a. identify and define an important and manageable research problem; b. carry out empirical research by employing vigorous research methods and techniques in collecting and analysing data; c. apply concepts and theories to analyse and explain the problem and develop recommendations; d. master the presentation skill to communicate effectively their viewpoints on public sector management issues.
Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus	<p>There are four elements in the completion of the dissertation:</p> <p>1. Research Proposal In consultation with the dissertation supervisor, the student works out a proposed research plan, which must show evidence of sound background research and state in specific terms: (a) aims and objectives; (b) review of literature and definition of the theoretical concepts to be used; (c) the basis for the research problem with reference to other such research; (d) methodology of the study, i.e. the ways in which data are to be collected, analyzed and reported; (e) a research schedule.</p> <p>The research plan is not a static model that needs to be followed rigidly.</p> <p>2. Progress After the initial research proposal, students are encouraged to seek advice from thesis supervisors on a regular basis and whenever necessary. The supervisor monitors and evaluates the student's performance, for example through verbal presentation and discussion of assigned readings; submitted draft chapters; annotated bibliographies; comprehension of the task in hand, planning, initiative, and thoroughness of investigation.</p> <p>3. The Research Report This is the written dissertation. In assessing the research report, the examiners will have regard to: (a) the extent to which the student has been able to meet the broad criteria laid down in</p>

the objectives of the dissertation subject;
 (b) the degree of originality;
 (c) the significance of the findings;
 (d) the way in which the student has drawn upon and integrated theories and techniques;
 (e) the overall quality of the written presentation.

4. Oral Examination
 Examiners will hold viva voce examinations. One purpose of the oral examination is to satisfy the panel of examiners that the work is the student's own. During these oral presentations, students will be required to answer queries relating to the dissertation and identify applications and future directions.

The mark for the oral examination will take into consideration:
 (a) the student's grasp of the problem;
 (b) the ability to answer queries; and
 (c) the student's presentation and communication skills.

Teaching/Learning Methodology
 Working under a supervisor, a student will develop a research proposal, and conduct empirical investigation of a problem of some academic or practical significance, and write a thesis. The supervisor will meet with the student regularly to keep track of the student's progress. The thesis is to be examined by two persons, the supervisor and a second reader.

Specific assessment methods/tasks	% weighting	Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)					
		a.	b.	c.	d.		
Continuous Assessment*	100%						
1. Proposal (supervisor)	5%	✓					
2. Progress (supervisor)	5%		✓	✓			
3. Oral examination (supervisor and second examiner)	20%	✓	✓	✓	✓		
4. Research report (supervisor and second examiner)	70%	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Total	100 %						

**Weighting of assessment methods/tasks in continuous assessment may be different, subject to each subject lecturer.*

To pass this subject, students are required to obtain Grade D or above in the Continuous Assessment components.

Explanation of the appropriateness of the assessment methods in assessing the intended learning outcomes:

1. The proposal is to assess study's ability to identify an important management topic for an in-depth research and on this basis, to prepare a viable proposal with the requirement of singling out the central research question, formulating an analytical framework, adopting appropriate research methodology and providing a plan of study. The various methods are designed to ensure that all students taking this subject meet the requirements as set out in the subject synopsis above.
2. The monitoring of the progress is important to make sure that the student sticks to the

	<p>plan of study.</p> <p>3. The oral examination is to assess the student's presentation skill and the ability to answer questions.</p> <p>4. The written report is to assess the student's research capacity, critical thinking, analytical ability, and written skill</p> <p>Feedback is given to students immediately following each stage of progress, the oral examination, and the submission of the first draft of the research report.</p>	
Student Study Effort Expected	Class contact:	
	▪ Supervision / consultation / oral examination	42 Hrs.
	Other student study effort:	
	▪ Preparation for supervision / consultation	42 Hrs.
	▪ Preparation for proposal / report / oral examination	84 Hrs.
	Total student study effort	168 Hrs.
Reading List and References	<p>References for research methodology are as per the subject MM501 Research Methods. For example: Sekaran, U. <i>Research Methods for Business: A Skill-Building Approach</i>, 3rd edition, New York: Wiley, chapter 13 'The research report', 2000.</p> <p>In addition, students may find it useful to refer to one of the standard style guides, for example: <i>Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association</i>, 4th edition, Washington: American Psychological Association.</p> <p>Supervisors will provide guidance on reading in the substantive field of research.</p>	