

Module Details	
Module Title:	Research Design and Philosophy
Module Code:	MAL7040-B
Academic Year:	2019-20
Credit Rating:	20
School:	School of Management
Subject Area:	Management and Law
FHEQ Level:	FHEQ Level 7 (Masters)
Pre-requisites:	
Co-requisites:	

Contact Hours	
Type	Hours
Lectures	20
Tutorials	20
Directed Study	160

Availability	
Occurrence	Location / Period
BDA	University of Bradford / Semester 1 (Sep - Jan)

Module Aims
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To develop your systematic and critical knowledge of research methods in business and management studies at doctoral level, and build on your experience of research at masters level, and to develop and practise broad-ranging and advanced research skills; 2. To enable you to understand the philosophical framework that inform research methods and methodologies facilitating the critical analysis of the assumptions and methods of research; 3. To apply advanced understanding of research methodologies in business and management studies more generally.

Outline Syllabus
The research process;

quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods at doctoral level;
 research philosophy;
 research design;
 designing research objectives and questions;
 ethics in research;
 writing an advanced and comprehensive research report.

Learning Outcomes

1	Develop a comprehensive understanding of research design and methods in business and management studies
2	Critically assess the philosophical presumptions that underpin research into business and management studies
3	Design a research project with clear and specific research objectives and questions to critically examine contemporary business and management challenges and locate this in a specific philosophical or epistemological framework
4	Develop a systematic and advanced understanding of current literature and debates at the forefront of the discipline
5	Critically evaluate current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline
6	Write a reflexive account of what they have learned in undertaking the study and what knowledge and skills may need to develop in subsequent research methods modules
7	Identify the philosophical and epistemological presumptions that underpin how they approach their research project
8	Write a detailed research paper that situates their own research plans within an existing field of academic knowledge

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

Teaching is in intensive study blocks of 3-5 days, and after each study block, you have 6-8 weeks in which to undertake the coursework required by the module.

During this period you focus on self-directed study, in liaison with (in the first year) the module tutor and (in the second year) your supervisor. Directed study will encourage you to draw on advanced research methods literature and learn how to apply the methods discussed in practice (1 to 5, 7 & 8). Directed study encourages students to develop advanced knowledge about philosophical perspectives (1a 2, 3, 5, 5b, & 7).

Lectures will be used to introduce concepts, principles, theories and practices of research and philosophical approaches (learning outcomes 1, 2, 3, 5 & 7, achieving to Aim 1). These will be supported by seminars and practical research skill exercises on research objectives and questions, methods and how philosophical perspectives inform their approach to understanding organisations (1, 2, 4, 5, 6 & 7 achieving Aim 2). Seminars will aid the development of the capacity to formulate clear and concise research aims and objectives (1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 2a, 2b, 8).

Oral and informal feedback and advice will be given in seminars and small group exercises.

The assessment for the module encourages students to situate their own research plans within an existing field of academic knowledge and apply a philosophical perspective to understanding their own research (1 to 8 achieving Aim 3).

Assessment is in the form of a research paper that includes a brief literature review and a critical and detailed evaluation of research methodologies in order to design your own DBA research project (1 to 8). All outcomes therefore contribute to achieving the module's over-arching aims.

You will write a 4,000 word research paper that situates your own research plans within an existing field of academic knowledge. The paper must include a review of current literature, an evaluation of two distinct research methods employed in the field, and the development of an advanced research methodology and design to inform your DBA research project.

Mode of Assessment

Type	Method	Description	Length	Weighting
Summative	Coursework	Individual Assignment	-4000 words	100%

Reading List

To access the reading list for this module, please visit <https://bradford.rl.talis.com/index.html>.

Please note:

This module descriptor has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but minor changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Upon commencement of the module, students will receive a handbook with further detail about the module and any changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.