GROUP 'B' DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

The majority of courses in this group are compulsory; some are optional depending on your discipline. Compulsory courses must be completed within 12 months of enrolment if you are a full-time student and within 24 months of enrolment if you are a part-time student.

To reserve a place on these courses please contact your relevant Faculty Office or Research Centre, unless otherwise stated.

Faculty of Art and Design

Students are required to attend a Faculty Induction session which will take place immediately after the generic Research Student Induction Event.

In addition to the following course you will also be required to attend Faculty Seminars as outlined in the Group C and Group D course descriptions.

Research Methods (REST7020)

Course Description:

This COMPULSORY course enables you to develop a range of conceptual and practical skills relevant to the range of research areas supported within the Faculty.

Exemptions
Requests for exemption will be considered.

Faculty of Business and Law

Research Methods Training Programme (REST7012)

Course Description:

Activity 1: Advanced Research Methodology

This COMPULSORY component of the Faculty's Research Methods Training Programme comprises a taught module with two formal assessments. It is undertaken by students at the early stages of their research (year 1).

The module runs for a full semester and students are assessed in relation to both quantitative and qualitative research skills. Students gain some grounding in the use of a range of relevant methods as well as insight to their philosophical implications.

The module introduces students to the paradigmatic nature of social science research, to the epistemological foundations of these paradigms, to the key issues relevant to the alternative approaches and to examples of the styles of research in practice.

- quantitative research paradigms in the social sciences (inc. measurement, validity, reliability, sampling theory, SPSS, etc.)
- qualitative research paradigms in the social sciences (inc. ethnography, grounded theory, participant observation, NVivo, etc.)
- principles of scientific research and methods (inc. objectivity, subjectivity, positivism etc.)
- research ethics , data protection and intellectual property rights

Activity 2: Research Seminars

Research degree students are expected to contribute to the Faculty's research culture through active participation in research student seminars.

These COMPULSORY seminars will normally take place during Research Training Days.

As well as attending and contributing to the discussions, towards the end of their investigation all research degree students are also expected to present a formal seminar based on their research, in particular the methods employed.

Activity 3: Research Days (Workshops/Lectures)

Research degree days consist of lectures, workshops and seminars which are COMPULSORY and where students are introduced to the range of research being conducted within the Faculty and, in particular, to the research methods used by such projects.

The lectures and workshops provide a means through which students can extend their grasp of research methodology beyond the scope of their own discipline and personal research project.

Research Training Days allow you the opportunity for networking and for the enhancement of a *research culture* within the Faculty: they provide an opportunity for part-time students to meet one another and to meet their full-time counterparts.

Also provide an opportunity for administrative *briefings and updates* to keep supervisors and students informed of national changes and amendments to the DMU regulations.

Exemptions
Requests for exemption will be considered.

Emerging Technologies Research Centre (EMTERC)

Research Methods (REST7051)

Course Requirements:

Students of the Emerging Technologies Research Centre will participate in the COMPULSORY research course of the Faculty of Technology:

REST7013: Research Methods

Please refer to the relevant course description for the above courses.

In addition to the above, EMTERC students will undertake discipline specific research training within their first twelve months of postgraduate degree within EMTERC.

The aims of the course are:

- to introduce research students to the research environment, activities, facilities and staff of EMTERC,
- to introduce students to research methods and research ethics specific to microelectronics via a series of case studies,
- to introduce methodologies to enable timely completion of degrees.

Depending on the subject topic, specific training is given outside of the courses for instrument handling, laboratory and safety issues. This provision ensures the needs identified by the TNA and lying outside the remit of the courses mentioned above are satisfied.

Exemptions
Requests for exemption will be considered.

Faculty of Health and Life Sciences

Health and Safety in Laboratories (REST7015)

Course Description:

This course is only COMPULSORY for students who will be working in the laboratory or similar setting during their research.

This course will introduce postgraduates to the concepts and up-to-date regulations concerning safe working in laboratories.

Exemptions
Requests for exemption will be considered.

Induction (REST7016)

Course Description:

This COMPULSORY course will provide an opportunity for you to meet your Head of Research Studies and to gain an understanding about the procedures of research within the Faculty.

This uses the “Amy” scenario to introduce students to problems and solutions.

Exemptions
Requests for exemption will NOT normally be considered.

Principles of Research in Health and Life Sciences (REST7028)

Course Description:

This COMPULSORY course will discuss the principle elements of hypothesis-driven research methods, appropriate methods of data gathering and data analysis and the ethical constraints on research in Health and Life Sciences.

Exemptions
Requests for exemption will be considered.

Research Ethics Workshop (REST7025)

Course Description:

This COMPULSORY course is delivered approximately two to three times a year and led by experienced members of the Faculty Research Ethics Committee.

Here students have the chance to consider, in the format of case studies, how they might approach a piece of research ethically.

Exemptions
Requests for exemption will be considered.

Faculty of Humanities

In addition to the following course you will also be required to attend further training sessions as outlined in the Group C and Group D course descriptions.

Research Methods – Introductory Block (REST7014)

Course Description:

The session will include the following sections:

- an introduction to the practice of research in the Humanities,
- recording and monitoring progress,
- research and information management.

This session will be run twice during the academic year in Term 1 and Term 2.

Exemptions
Exemptions based on prior experience and learning will be considered. Students should contact the Faculty to obtain an exemption form and to discuss with their first supervisor.

Institute of Creative Technologies (IOCT)

Students registered within IOCT will be required to undertake the relevant compulsory training from within the most relevant Faculty.

The Graduate School Office will advise accordingly.

Institute of Energy and Sustainable Development (IESD)

Research Methods (REST7052)

Course Description:

This COMPULSORY Research Methods course provides an opportunity to acquire skills in research methodology, data acquisition, qualitative and quantitative methods and can be taken in either attended mode or in distance learning mode.

The course has a credit value of 15 (150 hours study) and both delivery modes are run annually in January.

Exemptions
Requests for exemption will be considered.

Faculty of Technology

Research Methods (REST7013)

Course Description:

The aim of this COMPULSORY course is to prepare graduate students to undertake and fulfil the requirements for master and/or doctoral studies.

Selected topics will include:

General

- how to do research,
- how to theorise,
- carrying out a literature review,
- claims and disclaimers: knowledge, reflexivity and representation in computing and engineering research,
- deductive and inductive thinking,
- common errors made in research,
- defining the research problem,
- the evolution of research methodology,
- writing, presenting and disseminating research,
- the research process,
- on good research: persuasivability and generalisability**.**

Specific

- abduction? deduction? induction? is there a logic of exploratory data analysis?
- confounding variables and evaluation design
- general statistical concepts

Students will also be required to attend workshops on two or three talks from Active Researchers. Each module will consist of two full days with the appropriate number of lectures/workshops for this time scale. Selected topics will be given as lectures, each of 20-30 minutes duration. Teaching materials for the course will be made available for distance learning via Blackboard.

Each student will be asked to read a published paper and present his/her understanding of it and in particular the articulation of the research question and method of research conducted to obtain the result.

Exemptions
Requests for exemption will be considered.