**Module Description**

This module provides an opportunity to the student to learn about research methods, develop a research proposal, and develop the skills to critically assess academic and/or professional literature. This endeavour will require critical assessment and evaluation of sources, and will equip students to complete an academic research paper in their particular field or topic.

**Learning Outcomes**

On completion of this module the learner will/should be able to:

1. Analyse and evaluate in detail the issues associated with a particular work-based project.
2. Identify, analyse and evaluate appropriate research methods for research project proposal development.
3. Develop a research proposal and undertake necessary research.
4. Critically analyse and evaluate current literature, using appropriate tools and techniques.
5. Demonstrate the synthesis and integration of knowledge.
6. Produce an academic research paper.

**Indicative Syllabus**

The project involves the specification and analysis of a ‘work-based problem’. The problem will involve primary and/or secondary research. Although the student may focus on a specific design or technical project, their work must show an appropriate level of academic research, rigour, analysis, investigation and implementation. The output of the module will be a research proposal and an academic paper. The student will work through some or all of the following activities:

- Introduction to academic research
- Development of project specification and scope
- Research design and proposal development
- Literature review
- Development of research sources, narrowing of research scope
- Field/practical/laboratory research and development work
- Analysis of research results
- Conclusions and recommendations
- Structure and academic writing

The proposed word count for the research paper will be in the region of 6,000 words.

Workshop 1 – Introduction to Research Project, Time Management, Moving from an idea to a Research Proposal, Library Session on the Introduction to GMIT Resources and Undertaking a Literature Review.


Workshop 3 – Critical revaluation of research methodologies – breakout groups undertaking activities depending on methodologies selected i.e. case studies, questionnaires, interviews etc.
Teaching and Learning Strategy

Blended Learning Strategy

The blended teaching and learning strategy for the module aims to create a flexible and accessible learning environment for students. A combination of participative face-to-face interactive workshops and innovative online resources will inform a learner-centred and subject-led approach to all elements of the module.

The module is structured such that the learner can attend the workshops or access the workshop resources online.

Assessment Strategy

The Research Skills blended assessment strategy will employ both formative and summative face-to-face and online assessment approaches (critical reflection, research proposal and academic papers), which clearly focus on individual learning reinforcement, collaborative learning and industry-relevant competences. The assigned authentic assessments tasks with be clearly aligned with in-class and online activities and their associated learning outcomes.

The assessment details for blended delivery are outlined below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Form</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>LO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Critical Reflection</td>
<td>Project</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(3No.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Research Project</td>
<td>Project</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proposal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Academic Paper</td>
<td>Project</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>1, 4-6</td>
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Repeat Assessment Strategies

The student will be required to resubmit the academic paper following detailed feedback in relation to original submission.

Indicative Coursework and Continuous Assessment:

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<th>Week (Indicative)</th>
<th>Learning Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Written Report</td>
<td>Critical Reflection</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>OnGoing</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(3No.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written Report</td>
<td>Research Proposal</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written Report</td>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>Week 26</td>
<td>1, 4, 5, 6</td>
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Full Time Delivery Mode Average Weekly Workload: 0.50 Hours

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<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<th>Hours</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Weekly Avg</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supervision</td>
<td>Supervision (0.5hr/week)</td>
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<td>Weekly</td>
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Online Learning Delivery Mode Average Weekly Workload: 0.58 Hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Weekly Avg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online Learning</td>
<td>4 Unit Research Design &amp; Methodologies (Week 0-9)</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Once Per Module</td>
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</table>

Blended Delivery Mode Average Weekly Workload: 0.46 Hours

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
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<th>Location</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Weekly Avg</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Workshops (4No.)</td>
<td>Flat Classroom</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Once Per Module</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Required Reading Book List


### Recommended Reading Book List


### Journal Resources

Examples of journal research papers will be provided to students.

### Online Resources

Online resources will be provided to students on Moodle.

- [https://library.gmit.ie/support/academic-writing-centre/](https://library.gmit.ie/support/academic-writing-centre/)
- [https://www-citethemrightonline-com.ezproxy.gmit.ie/](https://www-citethemrightonline-com.ezproxy.gmit.ie/)
- [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html)
- [https://www.monash.edu/rlo](https://www.monash.edu/rlo)

### Programme Membership