

Seminar & Dissertation

7.1 Module Overview									
Module Number		Module Title	Seminar & Dissertation						
Stage of Principal Programme			3	Semester	1 & 2	Duration (Weeks F/T)	24	ECTS	10
Mandatory / Elective (M/E)	E	Hours of Learner Effort / Week	2						
Analysis of required hours of learning effort									
Teaching and Learning Modalities					✓if relevant to this module	Approx. proportion of total (hours)			
Contact Hours									
In person face-to-face					✓	26			
Synchronous									
Indirect/Non-Contact Hours									
Asynchronous									
Work Based									
Other:									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> independent reading and learning 					✓	132			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation and Completion of assignments 					✓	92			
Total							250		

Pre-Requisite Module, if any. Module # and Title	N/A
Co-Requisite Module, if any. Module # and Title	N/A
Maximum number of learners per instance of the module	120
Specification of the qualifications (academic, pedagogical and professional/occupational) and experience required of staff working in this module.	
Role e.g., Tutor, Mentor, Lecturer, Research Supervisor, etc.	Qualifications & experience required
Lecturer	A minimum level 9 qualification in any Arts subject or closely cognate area
Dissertation Supervisor	A minimum level 9 qualification in any Arts subject or closely cognate area
Staff - Learner Ratio X:Y	
	1:120
	1:5

Assessment Techniques – percentage contribution				
Continuous Assessment	100%	Proctored Exam – in person		Practical Skills Based
Project		Proctored Exam - online		Work Based
Capstone (Y/N)?	Y	If Yes, describe	The capstone is a large piece of assessment that allows the learner to demonstrate the range of skills and knowledge they have developed in the subject over the course of the programme. It provides scope for the learner to showcase their own research and ideas on the topic.	

7.2 Minimum Intended Module Learning Outcomes (MIMLOs)

MIMLO On completion of this module a learner will be able to:	Related MIPLO #
1. Locate and synthesise theoretical and empirical sources to develop an appropriate research question.	1, 2, 5
2. Identify and apply appropriate research methods.	4, 5
3. Analyse, interpret and evaluate findings.	1, 2
4. Examine critically, strategically and in depth, a topic of interest arising from the degree programme.	2, 3, 4
5. Synthesise findings and present a coherent verbal and written account of the entire research.	3, 5

7.3 Indicative Module Content, Organisation and Structure

This module will provide learners with the opportunity to use the skills they have developed over the course of the programme. Through seminars and one-to-one guidance with their assigned Supervisor, learners will undertake a large piece of writing, and present their work to learners and lecturers in a formal Oral Presentation.

Learners will be expected to identify an area for investigation at the end of year 2. At the beginning of year 3, they will attend lectures and workshops which will provide a general overview of how to write up and present their work. Examples of topics to be covered are Presentation Skills, the use of PowerPoint, responding to questions, how to structure and format their final document. While this module requires a lot of self-directed study from the learner, they will be supported through the regular lectures and their assigned Supervisor.

7.4 Work-based learning and practice-placement *(if applicable)*

N/A

7.5 Specific module resources required *(if applicable)*

N/A

7.6 Application of programme teaching, learning and assessment strategies to this module

At the beginning of semester 1, stage 3, learners will rewrite the proposal they submitted at the end of year two. They will attend seminar workshops and arrange regular meetings with their supervisor.

Learners will receive feedback on their performance in the following ways throughout the academic year: Learners develop their research and write their dissertation in consultation with a supervisor. The one-to-one supervision along with the scheduled workshops will provide learners with regular formative feedback throughout the module. Learners proposing to conduct interview research may need to submit a completed ethics form to the research ethics committee. While there is no grade awarded for this component it should enable learners to consider the implications of personal research. Learners will also create a paper, and can supplement this with visual material, to give a twenty-minute verbal presentation to their peers and a minimum of two lecturers. Formative assessment will be provided in lecturer feedback prior to the presentation. There will also be a ten-minute question and answer component at the end of the presentation. Learners will receive a grade of up to 20% for their presentation. Learners will be assessed for this component following the Dissertation Oral Presentation Criteria.

7.7 Summative Assessment Strategy for this module		
MIMLOs	Technique(s)	Weighting
1, 2	Written Proposal: This will be a revised version of what was submitted to the Dissertation Coordinator initially in third year. The learner will work on this with their Supervisor and submit at the end of September.	10%
1- 5	Presentation: 20-minute PowerPoint presentation with 10 minutes of questions at the end. It will be assessed using the Carlow College Oral Dissertation Presentation Criteria	20%
1- 5	Written Dissertation (8,000 words) Assessed using the Carlow College Band Descriptors	70%

7.8 Sample Assessment Materials	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Learners will submit a written proposal to the Dissertation co-ordinator at the end of year two, and from this, Supervisors will be allocated. At the beginning of year three, learners will revise their written proposal with advice from their Supervisor. This revised Proposal will be worth 10%. 2. Learners will give a twenty-minute verbal presentation to their peers and a minimum of two lecturers on their Dissertation topic. Formative assessment will be provided by their Supervisor prior to the presentation. There will also be a ten-minute question and answer component at the end of the presentation which will provide formative feedback to the learner in relation to the final write-up of their Dissertation. Learners will receive a grade of 20% for their presentation. Learners will be assessed for this component following the Dissertation Oral Presentation Criteria 3. Learners develop their research and write their dissertation in consultation with a supervisor. The one-to-one supervision along with the scheduled workshops will provide learners with regular formative feedback throughout the module. Learners proposing to conduct interview research may need to submit a completed ethics form to the research ethics committee. While there is no grade awarded for this component it should enable learners to consider the implications of personal research. The Dissertation will be assessed using the Carlow College Dissertation Marking Criteria Guidelines, and the requirements of their respective subject area, (e.g. a Literature review for History and Psychology Dissertations) as outlined in the Dissertation Handbook. https://carlowcollege.ie/media/DissertationHandbook_ArtsAndHumanities.pdf 4. Learners will write a 300 – 500 word Abstract summarising the Dissertation. 	<p>The Dissertation Handbook provides all the instructions and rubrics for this module.</p>

7.9 Indicative reading lists and other information resources
<p>Indicative Core Reading:</p> <p>Murray, R., <i>How to write a thesis</i>, 3rd edn (Maidenhead: Open University Press and McGraw-Hill, 2011) Available from: http://millennium.qmu.ac.uk/record=b1515670~S0</p> <p>Pears, Richard and Graham Shields, <i>Cite Them Right</i>, 12th edn (London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2022)</p> <p>Thody, A., <i>Writing and presenting research</i> (London: Sage, 2007)</p>