

ROSE BRUFORD COLLEGE

Module Specification

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Title	Independent Research Project (Practice Research)
Module code	DMT621LT
Credit rating	40
Level	6
Indicative scheduled learning and teaching activities	20 hours
Pre-requisite modules	N/A
Co-requisite modules	N/A
School responsible	Design, Management and Technical Arts
Member of staff responsible	Hansjorg Schmidt
ECT*	20
Notional hours of Learning**	400

2. AIMS

The module aims to:

- Enable you to carry out an extended independent enquiry into a chosen aspect of your discipline
- Enable you to utilise a variety of practice research methods, including – where appropriate – technical, craft and field-research techniques
- Enable you to present your research and ideas as a documented practice research process, with accompanying critical commentary

3. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE MODULE

You will undertake either module DMT621LT (practice research) or module DMT622LT (dissertation). The nature of your research topic will determine which type of Independent Research Project you undertake, according to your interest in self-inquiry (practice research) or external inquiry (dissertation). DMT62LT enables you to interrogate and contextualise your own practice, DMT622LT enables you to interrogate the practice of others against an appropriate contextual framing.

You will discuss with the module leader and your programme tutors which module would be best for your proposed research topic. You will be expected to take the lead in determining which would be the most appropriate mode of research, but the final decision rests with the College.

Tutor-led seminars in both Levels 4 and 5 will have introduced different fields of enquiry and developed your critical, evaluative and research skills. This module represents the

* ECT (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System): There are 2 UK credits for every 1 ECT credit, in accordance with the Credit Framework (QAA). Therefore if a module is worth 20 UK credits, this will equate to 10 ECT.

** Notional hours of learning: The number of hours which it is expected that a learner (at a particular level) will spend, on average, to achieve the specified learning outcomes at that level. It is expected that there will be 10 hours of notional study associated with every 1 credit achieved. Therefore if a module is worth 20 credits, this will equate to 200 notional study hours, in accordance with the Credit Framework (QAA).

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consolidation of those skills but now places the responsibility for setting research questions, sources and strategies with you as the learner.

In DMT511 *The Sustainable Practitioner* you will have selected a topic and developed a research methodology and timeline for your independent research project. Module DMT621 allows you a sustained period of time to research and disseminate this critical practice research project with associated written critical commentary.

Research in this module should include academic research using both primary and secondary attributed sources. You should make use of practice based activities (such as observing professional practitioners and workplaces, practical investigations, or creating your own artefacts, installations or performances) which may be more appropriate to the investigation of questions related to performance and craft.

Your submission for assessment will be the practice, a 4000 - 5000 word (or equivalent) critical commentary and a 20-minute viva-voce (oral exam) as a conclusion to the entire project.

PRACTICE RESEARCH

Practice research may be undertaken in one of three ways:

1. As a carefully documented experiment/presentation or series of experiments/presentations during the process of research, with findings and documentation included in the critical commentary,

OR

2. As documented Field Research, undertaken in a professional or educational environment where you can investigate the work of others or undertake your own research-led practice, with findings and documentation included in the critical commentary,

OR

3. As a Presentation/Performance/Artefact/Installation following the submission of the critical commentary, as an illustration and embodiment of the findings from the research.

In all three instances, documentation of the practice process must be submitted alongside the practice. This documentation can be any appropriate media e.g. sketches, notes, audio/video files, photographs, samples, surveys, journals, e-journals etc.

In all instances your examiners must be able to examine the practice. You will enable this through either an invitation to view the practice at a negotiated stage in the research process (mid-way or end) and/or a presentation display of the documentation, at the point of the viva-voce.

Alongside the practice, a critical commentary contextualises your research, summarises your research findings and follows academic conventions in terms of bibliography, referencing and language.

When presenting your practice or documentation display at the end of the process, you must submit your critical commentary one week before the date when examiners attend the event

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or presentation, allowing them to familiarise themselves with your research questions and argument, viewing the work in its true research context.

Directly following your presentation, you will be assessed through a 20-minute viva-voce (oral exam) demonstrating your understanding of your chosen topic of enquiry and analysis. You will be expected to be confidently familiar with your arguments and research material. You will have had at least one week after you submit the critical commentary and any other elements (presentation, artefact, or event) for time to reflect and form any final conclusions in your findings.

4. INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Your success in this module will depend on you developing your ability to...	Weighting
1. Creativity ...make, create, invent, innovate, develop, improvise, be resourceful, problem-solve	10%
2. Organisation & collaboration ...organise, plan, prioritise, decide, take responsibility, motivate yourself and others, negotiate, collaborate, value difference, lead others, create value for others	10%
3. Communication ...articulate (verbally, in writing, and in visual and other forms) according to the needs of the situation and audience, listen and respond to others.	20%
4. Professional practice & competences ...show knowledge of and apply technologies, materials, processes, practices, techniques, regulations, protocols	10%
5. Research & knowledge skills ...investigate, identify, analyse, evaluate, debate, justify, critique, conceptualise, embrace different perspectives	20%
6. Understanding Context ...recognise and adapt to relevant contexts - historical, current and future - across societal, cultural, professional, economic, environmental, artistic and ethical domains	20%
7. Reflection & learning ...show curiosity, reflect, show self-awareness, evaluate, respond, learn, adapt (to unfamiliar, changing and ambiguous circumstances), plan future action based on past experience, be responsible for your own learning	10%

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5. LEARNING AND TEACHING PROCESSES

The proposal for the project is developed and agreed as part of module DMT511 *The Sustainable Practitioner*. The module is student-centred and largely self-directed, supported by individual tutorials, briefings and open-access support sessions. Seminars offer guidance on methods of research, presentation, writing structure and referencing. These are supported by regular tutorials with an assigned supervising tutor.

6. ASSESSMENT (INCLUDING THE USE OF E-LEARNING)

Assessment task	Length	Learning themes assessed
Final Submission – Critical Commentary	4,000 – 5,000 words or equivalent	1,2,3,4,5,6 (50%)
Final Submission – Practice and Viva-Voce	Presentation by negotiation and 20-minute viva-voce	1,2,3,4,5,6,7 (50%)

Date of current version	July 2020
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