

DBA Module 1 – Research Objectives

This module focuses on the establishment of the research objectives. Initially, the student will be expected to identify the research issue, to problematise the research and to formulate a corresponding research question. Crucially, the student will be expected to engage with the extant business and management literature so as to discover related studies. This will allow understanding of what is known about the research problem, what remains unknown, as well as particular methods used in such related studies and the import of findings. This will inform the approach to be adopted in the student's selected research project.

Module 1 consists of three study units:

1. An advanced course on "Issue Identification, Problematizing and Research Question Framing" of 8 weeks duration that will be completed over the first two months. The course is available from: https://www.doctoratehub.com/advanced_courses/142
2. A two-month club journey period geared at self-directed learning where the student will be expected to engage with the literature so to discover related studies, to understand what is known about the research problem and what remains to be unknown, as well as what methods have been used in such related studies, how these worked out, and what could be taken further into the student's own research project.
3. A conference where the student presents the results and outcomes of the module to two expert academics.

Research scoping lectures and supervisor identification

During Module 1, students will receive a number of research 'scoping' lectures to provide perspective in the alternative directions they may wish to adopt in their research. The following module specific research scoping lectures will be provided:

1. Introduction to business and management research.
2. Doctoral research? Why & how & where - choosing your best fit.
3. Finding your doctoral research topic - and where does it come from?
4. Clarifying your literature review search area and finding information.
5. Formulating Research Questions - some basics, techniques and practical examples.
6. Inductive versus deductive approaches.
7. Why are journal articles preferred for the literature review?
8. Action research and the role of the researcher.

In addition to this, the DoctorateHub faculty members will run research scoping lectures where they introduce their research fields to provide students with a perspective on how to develop their

research. The lectures will also serve as a mean for students and faculty members to get to know each other and therefore to support the matching of students and future supervisors.

a) Knowledge gained through Module 1

At the end of the module/unit the learner will:

- a) Acquire a systematic understanding of a highly specialised field of study which builds upon specialised or multi-disciplinary knowledge in business and management and related areas including organisational theory;
- b) Develop critical knowledge of doctoral research processes in appreciating practice-based issues and/or challenges and their resolution through selection of (a) method(s) intended to elicit quantitative and/or qualitative data;
- c) Show understanding of diverse scholarly sources in business and management to present theoretical underpinning to justify doctoral research;
- d) Demonstrate appreciation of the basis of management theory and business models and frameworks, as well as appropriate methodologies necessary to provide remedy to contemporary research issues;
- e) Extend, redefine, and/or make an original contribution to existing practice and/or established knowledge in the area of research in business and management by appreciating the role of the researcher in the process.

b) Skills gained through Module 1

At the end of the module/unit the learner will have acquired the following skills to:

- a) Demonstrate mastery in business and management skills such as the selection of a research topic, analysis of extant research literature and, in writing, planning and design of research project using logical and systematic argumentation to justify and present innovative scholarly research;
- b) Consider and respond to workplace, technological, social, cultural, as well as ethical issues in organisations in pursuit of a knowledge-based society to attain collective advantage in using 'action' to engender change;
- c) Autonomously acquire data and information from a variety of sources of evidence within business and management and appropriately synthesise with reference to a unique research project including communication and dissemination to diverse audiences including peers and the general public;

Demonstrate expertise in creatively applying the knowledge learned in the module to develop critical and original solutions for doctoral research in the selected research topic with reference to business and management.

c) Competencies gained through Module 1

At the end of the module/unit the learner will have acquired the responsibility and autonomy to:

- a) Demonstrate expertise and authority in articulating contemporary business and management topics in a specialised area of study through formulation of apposite questions, in the ability to make selective judgements involving a multitude of interacting and potentially complex factors;
- b) Justify through problematisation and conceptualisation, how the selected topic based on a workplace-based business and management issue will contribute to and promote social, scientific and ethical advancement;
- c) Provide evidence showing how sustained commitment in the development of new ideas and contextualised solutions in the selected specialised field of study in business and management has been achieved;
- d) Autonomously identify, present and justify research issues in business and management, including organisational theory, related to doctoral research;

Conduct planning and organisation of a doctoral research project-based within business and management and achieve success through integration of proposed solutions as a reflective practitioner in professional and private life.

d) Learning hour estimates – full time

Module Weekly learning hour distribution	Course / Mentoring	Clubs	Sum
A. Reading	15	15	240
B. Writing (assignments, drafts, etc.)	5	5	80
C. Practicing (training, presenting, data collection, etc.)	5	5	80
D. Peer work (group discussions, peer feedback, etc.)	5	1	48
E. Assessment (of assignments / drafts)	1	1	16
F. Live sessions	1	1	16
G. Formative Feedback (by supervisor, mentor, chairs)	1	1	16
Sum weekly hours	33	29	496
H. Research Scoping Lectures (90min per session)	6	6	12
I. End of module conference	0	4	4

Sum of hours per module*	270	242	512
Module total	512		
Contact (D, F, H)	76		
Supervised (G)	16		
Self-Study (A, B, C)	400		
Assessment (E, I)	20		
Average weekly learning hours	32		
* Considering 8 course/mentored weeks followed by 8 club weeks per module.			

e) Learning hour estimates – part time

Module Weekly learning hour distribution	Course / Mentoring	Clubs	Sum
A. Reading	15	7,5	300
B. Writing (assignments, drafts, etc.)	5	2,5	100
C. Practicing (Training, presenting, data collection, etc.)	5	2,5	100
D. Peer work (group discussions, peer feedback, etc.)	5	0,5	52
E. Assessment (of assignments / drafts)	1	0,5	20
F. Live sessions	1	0,5	20
G. Formative Feedback (by supervisor, mentor, chairs)	1	0,5	20
Sum weekly hours	33	14,5	612
H. Research Scoping Lectures (90min per session)	6	6	12
I. End of module conference	0	4	4
Sum hours per module*	270	358	628
Module total	628		
Contact (D, F, H)	84		
Supervised (G)	20		

Self-Study (A, B, C)	500
Assessment (E, I)	24
Average weekly learning hours	19,63
* Considering 8 course/mentored weeks followed by 24 club weeks per module	

f) Assessment grid

Module	<u>Weekly course assignments & mentoring drafts to be submitted for formative assessment and feedback</u>	<u>End of course / mentoring written and oral assessments</u>	<u>End of module conference assessments</u>
<p>Module 1: Research Objectives</p>	<p>Week 1 - Summary that outlines the exact issue you are facing in your organisation, as well as what you have already found about this issue from the literature and how it is impacting other organisations.</p> <p>Week 2 - Summary that outlines what the exact problematics within the current situation are, as well as what is it you have already found from the literature about the actual problem(s) and how it is impacting other organisations.</p> <p>Week 3 - A set of possible research questions that work wants to explore and that are derived from the research problem.</p> <p>Week 4 - Draft research plan that pinpoints the potential research methods and instruments that answer the research question.</p>	<p>A draft paper detailing the problem statement, research questions, and research methods that were applied in related research studies.</p> <p><i>Type:</i> Individual assignment.</p> <p><i>Weighting:</i> 20%.</p> <p><i>Written component:</i> Word count: 2,000 words (excluding table of content, figures, references).</p> <p><i>Oral component:</i> Presentation of 10 minutes.</p> <p><i>Submission:</i> on-line in the DoctorateHub system.</p> <p><i>Due date:</i> 1 week after the last lecture of the module.</p>	<p>Final draft of the research outline and its presentation.</p> <p><i>Type:</i> Individual assessment.</p> <p><i>Written component:</i> Word count: 4,000 words.</p> <p><i>Weighting:</i> 70%.</p> <p><i>Oral component:</i> Presentation of 5 minutes, followed by a 15 minutes Q/A session, and a final 10 minutes on the next development steps.</p> <p><i>Weighting:</i> 10%</p> <p><i>Submission:</i> on-line in the DoctorateHub system.</p> <p><i>Due date:</i> 1 week before the conference.</p>

	<p>Week 5 - Discussion of possible alterations to the draft research plan based on the results of the 'Problem Framing' activity carried out in this task.</p> <p>Week 6 - A critical analysis detailing how the Task 5 responses relate to the initial research question/s, research problem/s or the larger issue; or if they should be framed differently.</p> <p>Week 7 - Revision of the initially developed issue and problem statement/s and the research question/s based on the outcomes of your Task 6 analysis.</p> <p>Week 8 - Compilation of either (1) a poster, (2) a presentation, or (3) an abstract that provides an overview about your workplace-based issue, the underlying problem/s, the possible research question/s your work could explore, the available methods and instruments that could be used to answer the research question/s, as well as the key literature that has been guiding you through this course.</p>		
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