

## Module 9 – Viva Preparation

This module focuses on preparation for the viva voce examination. The module commences with an advanced course designed to prepare students in focusing on critical reflection and familiarising themselves on how to interpret and respond to critics within an academic discourse which will be expected in their Viva. The course will allow students to appreciate the strengths and potential weaknesses of their work and, importantly, prepare to discuss both.

Module 9 consists of three study units:

1. An advanced course on “The Viva Preparation – Getting Ready for the Viva!” of 8 weeks duration that will be completed over the first two months. The course is available from: [https://www.doctoratehub.com/advanced\\_courses/135](https://www.doctoratehub.com/advanced_courses/135)
2. A two-month club journey period geared at self-directed learning where the student will be expected to further prepare for the Viva and to improve those areas that had been identified in the previous course.
3. A conference where the student presents the results and outcomes of the module to two expert academics.

Research scoping lectures

Alongside the module students will be provided with a number of research scoping lectures to gain perspectives on how to further develop their research and publish their research findings.

### ***a) Knowledge gained through Module 9***

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

- a) Develop an understanding of the way in which knowledge pertaining to a highly specialised field of study/discipline of business and management is systematically acquired through critical thinking, analysis, interpretation, and communication;
- b) Demonstrate a systematic understanding of a highly specialised field of study/discipline is based upon critical appraisal of extant published sources in management and business including, for example, organisational theory, strategy, operations management and finance;
- c) Demonstrate confidence and expertise in interpretation, reaction to and answering critical and probing questions using concrete, specific, concise, precise, clear and constructive language with relevance to management and business administration;
- d) Extend, redefine, and/or make an original contribution to existing practice and/or knowledge in the area of research in business and management.

## ***b) Skills gained through Module 9***

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

- a) Demonstrate expertise and authority in contemporary topics in a specialised area of study, and to make judgements based on appreciating the significance multitude of interacting and complex factors that have been identified in literature and empirical data relating to business administration and management of organisations;
- b) Demonstrate how research results and findings have relevance to academic literature and will contribute to social, scientific and ethical advancement in business and management;
- c) Show, through reasoned and logically formulated argument, the ability to communicate key research themes, their relationship to the empirical data that has been collected in order to advance the understanding and enhance organisational practice in business and management;
- d) Demonstrate authority in explaining the logic of and justification for the different components of the thesis in a way that provides evidence of the ability to clearly, concisely, and in an engaging manner, present and communicate the research findings and their contribution to improved theory and practice in business and management, through making judgements involving a multitude of interacting factors;
- e) Demonstrate mastery in skills such as the discussion of findings and their significance, contribution, uniqueness and novelty considering current business and management literature, and to make judgements involving a multitude of interacting factors using scientific argumentation to justify and present innovative scholarly research;
- f) Show confidence in consideration of and willingness to respond to workplace, technological, social, cultural, and ethical issues in business administration and management in order to address the transition to a knowledge-based society;
- g) Autonomously communicate research findings using a variety of sources of evidence and synthesise them in a unique research project as well as successfully presenting the outcomes to different audiences including peers and professionals working in business and management as well as the general public;
- h) Creatively and responsibly apply knowledge acquired and learned in the module to develop critical and original contributions in the selected research area of business and management;
- i) Demonstrate expertise in presenting a range of research arguments stemming from a body of personal research and sustain a logical and reasoned argument despite incomplete or limited information in order to solve work-based management and/or business problems in new or unfamiliar work environments using original research;
- j) Demonstrate development of skills and expertise in the field of business and management research in order to provide evidence of the ability to contribute to social and ethical issues on a national and international level through debate and discussion in a range of fora;

- k) Demonstrate autonomy in critical thinking, post-doctoral study engagement and reflection, and mature sense of a personal growth as a researcher in the disciplines of business and/or management;

Provide evidence of personal development, and expertise and authority in selecting alternatives for publishing, relevant to target audiences in business and management in academia and professional practice with cognisance to quality of the outlet, impact measures, review process, and other relevant factors.

### ***c) Competencies gained through Module 9***

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

- a) Demonstrate expertise and authority in contemporary topics in a specialised area of study based on a selected workplace-based problem of business or management, and to make judgements involving a multitude of interacting and complex factors;
- b) Show how the research results and findings will contribute to social, scientific and ethical advancement in business and/or management;
- c) Act autonomously in identifying, presenting, justifying, and discussing the synthesis of the key research findings and outcomes of the study related to doctoral research into the student's chosen workplace-based problem, and in answering questions with reference to academic concepts language and willingness to enthusiastically engage in stimulating discussion;
- d) Plan and organise a doctoral research project based on an issue/problem with relevance to business and management and integration of solutions derived in academic, professional and private life;
- e) Promote social, scientific and ethical advancement through engagement and action to achieve personal and organisational development and improvement;
- f) Show evidence of sustained commitment in the development of novel and innovative ideas and contextualised solutions in the selected specialised field of study in business and management;
- g) Demonstrate expertise and authority in selecting alternatives for publishing, considering the target audience, quality of the outlet, impact measures, review process, and other relevant factors;
- h) Confidently contribute to social, scientific, and ethical advancement in the field of business and management academically and professionally.

**d) Learning hour estimates – full time**

<b>Module Weekly learning hour distribution</b>	<b>Course / Mentoring</b>	<b>Clubs</b>	<b>Sum</b>
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
<b>Sum weekly hours</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>496</b>
H. Research Scoping Lectures (90min per session)	6	6	12
I. End of module conference	0	4	4
<b>Sum of hours per module*</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>512</b>
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**

<b>Module Weekly learning hour distribution</b>	<b>Course / Mentoring</b>	<b>Clubs</b>	<b>Sum</b>
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
<b>Sum weekly hours</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>14,5</b>	<b>612</b>
H. Research Scoping Lectures (90min per session)	6	6	12
I. End of module conference	0	4	4
<b>Sum hours per module*</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>628</b>
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**

<b>Module</b>	<b><u>Weekly course assignments &amp; mentoring drafts to be submitted for formative assessment and feedback</u></b>	<b><u>End of course / mentoring written and oral assessments</u></b>	<b><u>End of module conference assessments</u></b>
<p><b>Module 9: Viva Preparation</b></p>	<p>Oral defence of the thesis to a set of questions focusing on:</p> <p>Week 1 - Thesis Introduction.</p> <p>Week 2 - Literature Review.</p> <p>Week 3 - Methodology.</p> <p>Week 4 - Data and Findings</p> <p>Week 5 - Analysis and Evaluation</p> <p>Week 6 - Conclusions, recommendations, and future research.</p> <p>Week 7 - Impact, actionability and personal development.</p> <p>Week 8 - Mini Mock Viva – Speed navigation through the thesis.</p>	<p>Mock Viva defence.</p> <p><i>Type:</i> Individual assessment.</p> <p><i>Weighting:</i> 20%.</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> 3 days after the Week 7 lecture of the module.</p>	<p>Doctoral thesis defence pitch.</p> <p><i>Type:</i> Individual assessment.</p> <p><i>Weighting:</i> 80%.</p> <p><i>Oral component:</i> 60 Minutes Mock Viva session</p> <p><i>Submission:</i> on-line in the DoctorateHub system.</p> <p><i>Due date:</i> 1 week before the conference.</p>