



**BUSINESS
COLLEGE
OF ATHENS**
— EST. 1971 —



**GREEK
INSTITUTE
OF MARITIME
EDUCATION**



Module Study Guide

Academic Year 2020–2021

Research Methods Online

Level: 7

Credits: 20

Academic Partner: BCA (Business College of Athens)

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1 Module overview

1.1 Introduction

The programme provides **Web-based learning using technologies and tools in a learning process**. The learner-student uses mainly computers to interact with the lecturer, other students and learning material. This form of learning **consists of technology that supports traditional classroom training and online learning environments**. BCA college technology provides and facilitates Web based instruction. This is delivered by a combination of static learning portals, hyperlinked pages, screen cam tutorials, streaming audio/video, and live Web broadcasts as well as by interactive methods such as discussions and chats. The programme adds value to the practical application of shipping management concepts and theories by inviting guest lectures. Video communication is available for the interaction of guest lectures with students, via our web-based technology.

1.2 Module summary content and aims

Module Aims:

The module aims to:

- enable students to carry out a significant piece of independent study from inception to completion;
- Allow students to design and support an articulate research proposal;
- Distinguish among the appropriate research paradigms, quantitative and qualitative research methods;
- Support articulation of a research question, sampling and research design, hypothesis testing, data collection;

Provide knowledge of qualitative and quantitative data analysis.

Module Content:

The module presents and analyses the criteria for defining good and bad dissertations, by underlining the differences between dissertation work and work for other modules. The research proposal and dissertation process are thoroughly presented with relevance to the roles of student and supervisor and dissertation management. The issues affecting the choice of dissertation topic, the identification and formulation of dissertation titles are thoroughly analysed. Special focus is placed upon the critical review of available literature and information resources, the use of On-line databases, CD-ROM based and paper based sources. Report styles are presented with working examples regarding the format of the standard dissertation. Particular emphasis is devoted to the analytical methods utilised in scientific research, addressing a review of basic methods of statistical analyses appropriate for dissertations and the association of different methods with different levels of analysis. Elements of questionnaire design and scaling systems for qualitative responses are analysed together with the potential problems of surveys research methods. Population configuration and sampling methods are analysed and variable types and quantitative data analysis with the proper statistical methods is demonstrated with the use of Ms Excel and SPSS. Learning outcomes to be assessed

At the end of the module the learner will be expected to be able to:

1. Prepare a research proposal;
2. Set a clear hypothesis and be capable of carrying out a programme of independent study within a given timescale;

3. Select appropriate techniques to explore and define a given problem;
4. Obtain, critically analyse and effectively use data from a range of sources;
- 5.

1.3 Present outcomes in a relevant format. **Indicative Contact Hours**

Teaching Contact Hours	36 hours
Independent Study Hours	164 hours
Total Learning Hours	200 hours

2 Assessment and feedback

2.1 Summative assessment grid

Type of Assessment	Word Count or equivalent	Threshold (if Professional Body-PSRB applies)	Weighting	Pass Mark	Indicative Submission week	Method of Submission & Date of Feedback (refer to BB)
<i>Written Assignment</i>	<i>Ca. 3,500 words</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>Week 14</i>	Online Shipping Education platform via Turnitin software Feedback will be provided within 15 working days after the end of the deadline

2.2 Assessment brief including criteria mapped to learning outcomes

This module is assessed with written assignment, which will be submitted online via Turnitin. The topic of the assignment covers the learning outcomes of the module and through a variety of formative assessments along with the summative assessment, students are expected to fulfill the aims of the module.

- Summative Assessment: Written assignment
- Formative Assessments: Case study analysis, round table discussion, self-assessments etc.

For guidance on online submission of assignments please refer to the BCA e-learning platform.

2.3 Learning materials

The reading list for this module is available on the online BCA e-platform in the module area.

Remember to log into the online e-platform daily to receive all the latest news and support available at your module sites!

Subject guides are also available to help you find relevant information for assignments, with contact details of the Academic Support Librarian for your School.

- Suggested relevant bibliography can be found in the module record bibliography section (textbooks, journals, etc.)
- Online access to BIMCO
- Online access to Clarksons Shipping Intelligence Network (SIN) data base

3. Things you need to know

3.1 Engagement

Teaching at BCA during the academic year 2020-21 will be conducted on site, and at the same time a live stream will be offered to students who cannot attend (please refer to the Absenteeism Policy for further information regarding attendance). Whether you are engaging teaching and learning activities on site or via live streaming, we expect the same level of commitment and engagement from you. If you are unable to attend scheduled on site or online activities or complete activities in the time frames set out, you should let your tutors know. You should aim to stick to assessment deadlines; if you are concerned that you will not be able to complete your assessments on time, you should talk to your tutors. Your engagement, whether online or on site, will be tracked and if we see that you are not engaging, we will get in contact with you. However, we encourage you to let us know if you are struggling so we can work with you to find solutions and get you back on track as soon as possible. Give yourself the best possible chance to succeed by engaging with the full range of learning and teaching activities available to you.

3.2 Need help, just ask

The University recognises that there are times when you may encounter difficulties during your course of study and provisions are made to help you. If you are struggling with meeting deadlines please talk to us, whether it's your course/module leader, personal tutor or any member of staff, speak to them so they can get you the support you need to succeed. You can extend your deadline if you have a good reason why you are not able to submit a piece of coursework on time, apply for an extension before your deadline. An extension will allow you an extra 10 working days. If an extension is not sufficient and circumstances beyond your control are preventing you from completing your assessment, then you can, apply for mitigation.

Please remember late submission without extension or mitigation will result in penalties depending on how late it is, see University [Academic Regulations](#).

You are reminded that the University applies penalties to students who commit an academic offence, in which case the [Academic Offences Regulations](#) will be used to deal with any cases of academic misconduct including examination offences, plagiarism and other means of cheating to obtain an advantage.

You are expected to behave in line with BCA and UWL expectations, irrespective of whether your interactions with staff and other students are in person or online. As you will be engaging with others online and a range of online materials, it is important to consider how to stay safe online and ensure your communications are secure and appropriate. If you have any questions about how to manage your online BCA activities, please contact your module leader.

If you have an issue about the module, you should speak to your Module Leader or Course Leader informally in the first instance. Your Course Representative can also raise your concerns at Course Committees, which take place each semester. If you are unable to resolve it informally, you should refer to the [Complaints Procedure](#). The University aims to ensure that issues are resolved informally as quickly as possible to have minimum impact on your studies.

3.3 Getting support for your studies

Throughout your course of study, you will have access to a wide variety of sources of support

depending on your individual circumstances and needs. Your first point of call for getting general academic support is your Personal Tutor. As well as approaching your Module Leader with any questions specifically related to your module and your Course Leader with questions on your Course, do contact your Personal Tutor for academic advice in relation to your studies and your academic development.

Apart from the University-wide support framework, which encompasses the Module Leaders, Course Leader, the Subject Librarian, and your Course Administrator, you will also have at your disposal the Academic Support Services Team. The Academic Support Services Team offers One-to-One Academic Support opportunities and Academic Skills Workshops throughout the year, helping you to develop skills relevant to your degree. Workshops include for instance Essay Planning and Writing; Critical Thinking; Reflective Writing; Group Work and Presentation Skills. Maths Support and English Language Support opportunities are available too. For more information or to book an appointment email library@bca.edu.gr.

3.4 Student support

In addition to the support listed in the previous section, there is also more help offered by the BCA Career Office regarding your employability and transferable Skills.

Contact the Career Office for more information at ethoukididi@bca.edu.gr.

3.5 Module evaluation – have your say!

Towards the end of the module you will be invited to provide some anonymous feedback to the Module Leader through an online survey. This is your opportunity to give some direct feedback about the module through a series of questions and free text. Your constructive feedback will help the Module Leader and teaching team to understand the module experience from your perspective and helps inform the development of the module.



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