

IS6911: DISSERTATION

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Dissertation

Subject Code

IS - Information Systems

Course Number

6911

Academic Unit

Information Systems (IS)

College/School

College of Business (CB)

Course Duration

Two Semesters

Credit Units

0-9

Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

IS6912 Information Systems Project, IS6914 Information Analytics Management Project, IS6915 Dissertation

Part II Course Details

Abstract

The aim of the dissertation is to develop expertise in a chosen subject area directly related to the programme, through the application of knowledge and skills provided by other courses in the programme to a specific information systems

problem. In undertaking the dissertation the student should demonstrate a clear grasp of the chosen subject matter, a full understanding of the principles being applied, and the ability to manage and present the dissertation in a coherent and precise manner.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if DEC-A1 DEC-A2 DEC-A3 app.)			
1	Plan, schedule, monitor and control a substantial piece of research or research and development work	10	x	x	x
2	Identify a research-based topic of local interest which is also important in the field of information systems	20			
3	Select and critically assess material relevant to the chosen problem area	30			
4	Apply some of the methods, tools and techniques developed during the programme to analyse systematically the problem area	30	x	x	x
5	Communicate effectively, orally and in writing (in the form of a dissertation), a programme of applied research or research and development work in information systems	10	x	x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	LTA1: Literature Review	Students conduct supervised reading to deepen their knowledge in the chosen research topic.	1, 2, 3, 4
2	LTA2: Discussion	Students discuss the research framework and subject contents with peer, internal/external supervisors to improve their knowledge of the chosen research topic.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

3	LTA3: Presentation	Students conduct formal and informal presentations to disseminate their ideas and collect feedback regarding their chosen research topic.	2, 3, 4, 5	
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Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	AT1. Presentation: Students demonstrate their deep knowledge in the chosen research topic by communicating their findings to the peer and their supervisors.	2, 3, 4, 5	20	-	No
2	AT2. Dissertation#: Students communicate the full details of the chosen research topic by developing a comprehensive dissertation.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	80	-	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Minimum Continuous Assessment Passing Requirement (%)

70

Additional Information for ATs

The dissertation will have a maximum of 20,000 words of main text. In keeping with the aim of coherent, concise and precise reporting work in excess of 20,000 words will be discouraged and may be penalised. The main text may be supplemented by appendices, bibliography, etc.

The written dissertation will be marked independently by the supervisor and by a second assessor, who will also be a member of academic staff of the department. The two assessors will each mark to a maximum of 40%, giving a total maximum mark of 80% for the written dissertation. Of the remaining 20% mark for the dissertation course, the quality and timeliness of the interim report will account for 10% and continuous assessment by the supervisor will account for 10%.

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

AT1. Presentation (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Ability to plan, schedule, monitor and control a substantial piece of research or research and development work

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) High

Good

(B+, B, B-) Significant

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Moderate

Marginal

(D) Basic

Failure

(F) Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

AT1. Presentation (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Ability to identify a research-based topic of local interest which is also important in the field of information systems

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) High

Good

(B+, B, B-) Significant

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Moderate

Marginal

(D) Basic

Failure

(F) Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

AT1. Presentation (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Ability to select and critically assess material relevant to the chosen problem area

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) High

Good

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Fair

(C+, C, C-) Moderate

Marginal

(D) Basic

Failure

(F) Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

AT1. Presentation (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Capability to apply some of the methods, tools and techniques developed during the programme to analyse systematically the problem area

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) High

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(B+, B, B-) Significant

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Assessment Task

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Criterion

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Good

(B+, B, B-) Significant

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(C+, C, C-) Moderate

Marginal

(D) Basic

Failure

(F) Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

AT2. Dissertation (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Ability to plan, schedule, monitor and control a substantial piece of research or research and development work

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) High

Good

(B+, B, B-) Significant

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Moderate

Marginal

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Assessment Task

AT1. Presentation (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Ability to plan, schedule, monitor and control a substantial piece of research or research and development work

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(A+, A, A-) High

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Part III Other Information**Keyword Syllabus**

Students are required to undertake an individual piece of work which uses the subject matter and skills developed in the course. As a general rule the dissertation covers an area of applied research in information systems, resulting in some form of product (which may be a software product or a management report embodying the result of research) of use or relevance to the employment of the student or to the consulting or research activities of the academic staff.

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	Nil

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Saunders, M.N.K., Lewis, P. and Thornhill, A. (2019) Research Methods for Business Students, Eighth Edition, Pearson Education