Module Specification

Module Summary Information

1	**Module Title**	Independent Research Project
2	**Module Credits**	40
3	**Module Level**	6
4	**Module Code**	SPX6000

5	**Module Overview**

This module provides you with the opportunity to design and carry out a substantive piece of independent research which is focused on an area of interest related to your programme of study. This in-depth, self-managed study will encourage you to examine a critical issue from your sector or discipline. You will undertake a piece of novel empirical/evaluation/action research, and/or challenge or critique primary research and/or secondary citations, relevant to your area of interest. The module is underpinned by everything that you have undertaken until this point in your degree programme, your various experiences and modules to date will have equipped you with an idea of the area in which you wish to undertake your research; and the skills, knowledge and experience that you have gained from Level 4 and Level 5 research facing modules will have been particularly important in furnishing you with necessary skill sets.

This module will comprise of a number of approaches to learning. Due to the nature of the module, the core learning mode will involve independent work and this will be supported by regular tutorial sessions with your project supervisor. As appropriate you will have the opportunity to make use of some of the state-of-the-art facilities housed in the department, there may be the opportunity to work with selected important external partners. There will also be keynote lectures and workshops on the key aspects of the research process and you will be expected to follow these up and consider them within your own project in conjunction with your supervisor.

By the end of this module you should have developed a substantive written report which you should be truly proud of, and you will defend your work at a departmental academic conference event.

6	**Indicative Content**

The major learning mode for this module will be supported independent study and the precise nature of support will be dependent upon the final research questions that you set out to answer. Other, more conventional sessions shall provide content considering:
- Preparation and planning for your research project
- Practical and theoretical issues
- Critical thinking and critical analysis
- Ethical issues
- Data collection
- Data analysis
- Presentation of work
- Manuscript preparation

7	Module Learning Outcomes
	On successful completion of the module, students will be able to:
1	Demonstrate research and investigative skills to enable them to select, understand, analyse, synthesise and evaluate information on a chosen topic.
2	Engage critically and creatively with academic and sector-based knowledge in order to offer a sustained piece of scholarly writing.
3	Demonstrate a critical awareness of the research process when communicating and reporting knowledge.
4	Articulate their understanding of the research process and disseminate the outcomes of your project to an academic audience.

8	Module Assessment		
Learning Outcome			
	Coursework	**Exam**	**In-Person**
1, 2, 3	X		
4			X

9	Breakdown Learning and Teaching Activities	
Learning Activities	**Hours**	
Scheduled Learning (SL) includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, peer group learning, Graduate+, as specified in timetable	16.5	
Directed Learning (DL) includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning, as directed on VLE	84	
Private Study (PS) includes preparation for exams	299.5	
Total Study Hours:	400	