Module Number: BS3353

Module Title: IBE/EAM Final Year Project

Number of Aston Credits: 20

**Total Number of ECTS Credits:** 10

(European Credit Transfer)

## **Staff Member Responsible for the Module:**

**Dr Rakesh Bissoondeeal** Economics & Strategy Group

Please see office hours via Aston online appointment system: <a href="https://wass.aston.ac.uk/wass/pages/login.page.php">https://wass.aston.ac.uk/wass/pages/login.page.php</a>

Other Staff Contributing to the Module: TBC

Pre-Requisite(s) for the Module: Successful completion of

IBE/EAM Year 2

## **Module Learning Outcomes:**

This double module will provide an opportunity for individual students to research a topic of their choice related to International Business and/or Economics. The topic and methodology will be decided with consultation and guidance from the student's supervisor. The topic may be researched by one of the methods detailed below, and should build on the student's previous IBE/EAM classes. The module's aim is to develop the student's capacity for independent research, as well as allowing the student to pursue a particular International Business and/or Economics topic that they are interested in.

What Alternative Methodologies can be Employed?

- A literature-based review or analysis of a particular conceptual, historical, or empirical topic. This is a library-based study in which you are using the literature as an information or data base. You will also need to think about how you are going to impose your <u>own perspective</u> on the material you gather together.
- An empirical study in which you gather data in order to explore an area related to international business or economics and test particular hypotheses. In the normal course of events you would also need to conduct some library-

based work in order to set your empirical findings in an appropriate context. This type of study will probably require the use of the **econometric** techniques that were developed in the Introductory and Applied Econometrics modules.

 A case or event study which is a "mixture" of the above two kinds of dissertation, but which focuses on both the theoretical and empirical aspects of a particular issue.

Detailed advice on how to go about undertaking a research project will be made available to students at the beginning of the academic year.

#### Module Schedule and Deadlines:

- Week 2 Contact Dr. Rakesh Bissoondeeal for project planning via WASS
- Week 4 Confirm your supervisor and research topic; return the project proposal form to the <u>Undergraduate Office</u>
- Week 6 Project proposal to <u>supervisor</u>
  This is to consist of an initial review of the literature with some brief discussions of the scope, methodology and data, to be employed in the project.
- Week 11 Interim report to <u>coursework office</u>

  This is to consist of a report of the first semester's work on the project. It might contain a completed literature review, and discussion of the data set collected, with any potential difficulties noted.
- Week 25 Submission of final project to <u>coursework office</u>.

  This is the final project, which should be appropriately bound and contain a full bibliography, acknowledgements, etc.

A single copy of the interim report must be handed in to the Coursework Office by week 11.

In the unlikely event that students submit an interim report that does not receive a pass mark, it will be necessary to submit a revised interim report, for which the deadline will be determined at that time. The project supervisor will determine when the submitted report can be considered satisfactory to move on to the next phase of development of the project. This will require a completed review of the relevant literature and an adequate discussion of the data to be used in the analysis.

Two copies of the final project report must be handed in to the Coursework Office by the end of week 24.

Submissions of final project reports will not be accepted if the student has not previously submitted a satisfactory interim report.

# **Method of Learning and Teaching:**

a) Method of Teaching - In week 2, students will be given the opportunity to choose from a list of topics which supervisors have expressed a willingness to supervise.

Alternatively, students who wish to pursue a topic of their own choosing will be allowed to pursue such topics, subject to the condition that a supervisor has agreed to supervise their chosen topic.

The project supervisor will then sign the student's project proposal form, indicating his/her willingness to supervise the student's chosen topic, and this form will be submitted to Undergraduate Office.

After the student, IBE/EAM project coordinator, and the project supervisor have all agreed to a student's topic, an initial meeting will take place to discuss the student's research plan. After this, the student will meet their supervisor on an individual basis during the course of the academic year to discuss literature, develop appropriate methodologies, examine previous research, discuss how to write the project up, et cetera.

b) Duration

6 hours
54 hours
100 hours
40 hours

Total 200 hours

### Links to Research:

This module provides an opportunity for individual students to research a topic of their choice related to International Business (IB) and/or Economics. My research on IB and Economics are highly relevant for this module. My research experience could not only help directing students to find a suitable supervisor for their suggested projects, but also help students to arrange and to conduct an independent research, if needed. My research experience in these areas for example, could help shaping of ideas on relevant research topics which are

interesting from a current research perspective or on a topic which is particularly important in the current economic discussion

# **Ethical Approval:**

The IBE/EAM project requires that you carry out some independent research. This may possibly include collection of primary data from organisations, in the form of interviews or questionnaires. Ethical procedures in applied research will be discussed with your project supervisor. Any primary data collection activities will need to be approved by your supervisor before being implemented. **Supervision and Assessment:** 

Members of staff are allocated a small number of hours per student per semester for project supervision. You should not expect more than six meetings throughout the year with your supervisor — *it is your project*. Do keep in contact with your supervisor through email.

The interim report, to be produced at the end of week 11, will be marked by the supervisor on a Pass/Fail basis.

The final report of approximately 8,000-10,000 words will be worth 100% of the mark. All final projects will be double-marked internally (including the supervisor) and may also be sent to an external examiner in the case of a third opinion being required.

# PROJECT PROPOSAL FORM

By now you should have discussed your proposed topic with a member of staff, and should have made some firm decisions about your dissertation. If you find it difficult to answer any of the questions below, please ensure that you speak to a member of staff before the deadline to hand in this form.

Please print clearly

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Name:
Topic:
Do you intend to do a library-based study, a piece of empirical research, or a combination of both?
Please give details:
Proposed Supervisor:
Dropood Cupor doors's signature.
Proposed Supervisors's signature:
Student's signature:

Please return this form to the Undergraduate Office by Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2011 at the latest