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| Subject Code | LGT6530 |
| Subject Title | DISP Thesis I |
| Credit Value | 8 |
| Level | 6 |
| Normal Duration | 2 consecutive semesters |
| Pre- requisite/ Co- requisite/ Exclusion | None |
| Objectives | <p>This subject contributes to the following Intended Learning Outcomes for the doctoral programme: Doctor of International Shipping and Port (D.ISP):</p> <p>The subject objectives are to help students:</p> <p>#4 Applied Research and Create Knowledge in International Shipping and Port Administration.</p> |
| Intended Learning Outcomes | <p>Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. conduct a comprehensive and critical examination of a personally interesting topic within their field of study. B. enhance their self-awareness and social consciousness by recognizing their dual role as both a researcher and a manager. C. undertake research on a locally relevant topic that holds significance in the shipping and port industry. D. exhibit a thorough understanding of pertinent literature related to the chosen topic. E. formulate an extensive research proposal that aligns with the requirements of the D.ISP Thesis. |
| Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus | <p>The Thesis I is one of the most important components of the D.ISP study programme. In preparing for their theses, participants will have an opportunity to draw upon the particular themes of the programme. In addition, it is important that they show the extent to which they have been able to integrate the dominant themes and interest areas into the learning of their programme. Participants are expected to apply state-of-the-art research methodologies to study some important issues arising from shipping and port. This is necessary as the quality of their thesis makes an important contribution and/or provides innovative insights into the practice of their profession. The thesis proposal should normally be around 10,000-15,000 words.</p> |
| Teaching/ Learning Methodology | <p>The participant and the supervisor communicate on a one-to-one basis in the preparation of the research proposal.</p> <p>Assessment</p> |

The research proposal will be assessed by a panel of three to four academics. The participants will have to defend their proposal in front of the panel during the second residential workshop. After the defense, the panel will decide whether the participant:

- can proceed with the research as proposed; OR
- needs to make revisions to the proposal within a 3-month period and these must be approved by the supervisor(s) before the student begins conducting the research; OR may need approval from the academic review panel before he/she begins conducting research; OR
- Needs to revise and re-submit the proposal within a 3-to-6-month period, to be considered for re-presentation. The thesis proposal should be reviewed and agreed by the supervisor(s), and the Programme Director/Deputy Programme Director first, and then finally submitted to the panel members for approval before another session of thesis proposal presentation is arranged. If they do not approve the students' thesis proposal for re-presentation, the student will fail in the 3-credit LGT 6xxx "D.ISP Residential 2" and will need to withdraw from the 24-credit LGT 6xxx "D.ISP Thesis I". In such a case, the student needs to re-enroll in "D.ISP Residential 2" and "D.ISP Thesis I" and pay the relevant fees later.

If they approve the students' thesis proposal for a re-presentation and re-presentation is carried out, there will be two outcomes: be graded "Pass" in both "D.ISP Residential 2" and "D.ISP Thesis I" or be graded "Fail" in both "D.ISP Residential 2" and "D.ISP Thesis I". In the latter case, the student will be asked to withdraw from the programme.

There are four stages in the preparation of the thesis: (i) approval of the topic by the supervisor; (ii) approval of the outline of the proposed research plan; (iii) approval of the completed draft; and (iv) completion and submission. Thesis I includes the first two stages of the thesis process.

Research Proposal

After consultation with the thesis supervisor, the participant works out a proposed research plan which shows evidence of sound background research as stated by the following specific terms:

- Aims and objectives;
- Review of literature and definition of the theoretical concepts to be used;
- Basis for the research problem with reference to other such research;
- Conceptual framework for the research;
- Methodology of the study, i. e. the ways in which data are to be collected, analyzed and reported;
- Research schedule;
- References.

| Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes | Specific assessment methods/tasks | % weighting | Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate) | | | | |
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| | | | a | b | c | d. | e. |
| | Continuous Assessment* | 100% | | | | | |
| | 1. Research thesis proposal | 50% | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

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| 2. Presentation | 30% | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| 3. Revision of thesis proposal after presentation | 20% | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Total | 100 % | | | | | | | |

** Weighting of assessment methods/tasks in continuous assessment may be different, subject to each subject lecturer.*

Explanation of the appropriateness of the assessment methods in assessing the intended learning outcomes:

The thesis proposal will be assessed by a Board of Examiners which includes the supervisor and two Faculty of Business (FB) colleagues who are experts in the area of the student's thesis topic. One of the two FB colleagues will also serve as the panel reviewer in charge. The three review panel members will jointly assess the quality and the feasibility of the student's research proposal.

To pass this subject, students are required to obtain Pass in the Continuous Assessment components.

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| Student Study Effort Expected | Class contact: | |
| | ● Dissertation | 30 Hrs. |
| | Other student study effort: | |
| | ● Preparation for dissertation | 330 Hrs. |
| | Total student study effort | 360 Hrs. |
| Reading List and References | <p>Mishra, S. B., & Alok, S. (2022). Handbook of research methodology.</p> <p>Leong, F. T., & Austin, J. T. (Eds.). (2023). The psychology research handbook: A guide for graduate students and research assistants. SAGE publications.</p> <p>Pyrzczak, F. (2021). Completing Your Thesis or Dissertation: Professors Share Their Techniques & Strategies. Routledge.</p> <p>Remenyi, D., & Bannister, F. (2022). Writing up your research for a dissertation or thesis. UJ Press.</p> <p>Perry, J. A., Zambo, D., & Crow, R. (2020). The improvement science dissertation in practice: A guide for faculty, committee members, and their students. Myers Education Press.</p> <p>Terrell, S. R. (2022). Writing a proposal for your dissertation: Guidelines and examples. Guilford Publications.</p> <p>Phillips, E., & Johnson, C. (2022). Ebook: How to Get a PhD: A Handbook for Students and Their Supervisors 7e. McGraw-Hill Education (UK).</p> <p>Mewburn, I. (2020). How to tame your PhD. Thesiswhisperer Books.</p> | |