The University of Southern Queensland

Course Specification

Description: Research Project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Cat-Nbr</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Campus</th>
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<tr>
<td>MKT</td>
<td>3004</td>
<td>24207</td>
<td>2, 2003</td>
<td>ONC</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>TW MBA</td>
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Academic Group: FOBUS
Academic Org: FOB004
HECS Band: 2
ASCED Code: 080599

STAFFING
Examiner: Michael Gardiner
Moderator: Jane Summers

PRE-REQUISITES
Pre-requisite: MKT3001 or MKT2011 and MKT3002

RATIONALE
Business professionals are required to contribute to the total organisational effort through the development, implementation and evaluation of various strategies. In this process, the key functional area is decision-making, and decisions must be based on the best information available. Students wishing to be effective managers must have the ability to plan and carry through research projects to generate, analyse and interpret the required information. This course applies the skills developed in MKT3002 Business Strategy and MKT3001 Business Research Methods or MKT2011 Tourism Research Methods to a real world business or tourism problem.

SYNOPSIS
This course is based on participation in a major research project. Students will be expected to apply their business and marketing skills to a particular organisational related problem or opportunity by developing a research proposal, planning the research, undertaking the research, analysing and interpreting the results, and presenting the findings. The findings from the research will be used to prepare for the firm an appropriate strategic plan in the area that the research was undertaken. A major professional report suitable for management will be presented at the end of the semester. Students should note that although this course is a single course, it will use the information developed in the course MKT3002 Business Strategy offered in semester 1. Please note that this course will only be available to students who have completed MKT3002 Business Strategy and MKT2011 Tourism Research Methods or MKT3001 Business Research Methods.
OBJECTIVES
On successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- apply appropriate analytical (both quantitative and qualitative) and research techniques to a tourism related business problem;
- coordinate the activities of specialist contributors to the planning and implementation of a research project;
- demonstrate an understanding of the relationships between research and other discipline areas included in the Tourism program;
- demonstrate a working knowledge of the major management skills as they apply to tourism;
- demonstrate an ability to devise creative solutions to the business needs of organisations;
- present a research report containing solution(s) to a tourism business problem; and
- integrate the solution(s) into a strategic plan.

TOPICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Applications of research methodology to tourism/business problems</td>
<td>10.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Applications of quantitative and qualitative analysis techniques</td>
<td>20.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Problem identification and setting of research objectives</td>
<td>10.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Development of the Research Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Conduct necessary secondary data collection and analysis</td>
<td>10.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Undertaking exploratory research and subsequent field work-material of personnel, resources, budgets</td>
<td>15.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Data analysis and interpretation</td>
<td>15.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Preparation and presentation of the completed report</td>
<td>10.00</td>
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TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED:
Books can be ordered by fax or telephone. For costs and further details use the 'Book Search' facility at http://bookshop.usq.edu.au by entering the author or title of the text.
Students will draw on texts used in courses MKT2011, MKT2007 and MKT3002.
MKT3004 study package available from the USQ Bookshop.

REFERENCE MATERIALS
Reference materials are materials that, if accessed by students, may improve their knowledge and understanding of the material in the course and enrich their learning experience.

Web sites of World Tourism Organisation; Bureau of Tourism Research (Aust); Commonwealth Government; Queensland and other State Governments.


**STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directed Study</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Study</td>
<td>60</td>
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**ASSESSMENT DETAILS**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Marks Out of</th>
<th>Wtg(%)</th>
<th>Required</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>PROPOSAL</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>30 Jul 2003</td>
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<tr>
<td>PROGRESS REPORT</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<td>27 Aug 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINAL REPORT (WRITTEN)</td>
<td>70.00</td>
<td>70.00</td>
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<td>29 Oct 2003</td>
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<tr>
<td>PRESENTATION</td>
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<td>15.00</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>29 Oct 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEER REVIEW</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>29 Oct 2003</td>
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(see note)
NOTES:

Presentations will be held after this date.

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

1 Attendance requirements:
   It is the students' responsibility to attend and participate appropriately in all activities
   (such as lectures, tutorials, laboratories and practical work) scheduled for them,
   and to study all material provided to them or required to be accessed by them to
   maximise their chance of meeting the objectives of the course and to be informed
   of course-related activities and administration. If you are an International student
   in Australia it is a requirement of your student visa that you attend all classes at
   your campus.

2 Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:
   To complete the assignments satisfactorily, students must obtain at least 50% of
   the marks available for the assignments in aggregate.

3 Penalties for late submission of required work:
   Late submissions will not be accepted.

4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
   To be assured of receiving a passing grade a student must attempt all of the
   summative assessment items and achieve at least 50% of the available weighted
   marks for the summative assessment items.

5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
   The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the weighted aggregate
   of the marks (or grades) obtained for each of the summative assessment items in
   the course.

6 Examination information:
   There is no examination in this course.

7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
   Not applicable.

8 University Regulations:
   Students should read USQ Regulations 5.1 Definitions, 5.6 Assessment, and 5.10
   Academic Misconduct for further information and to avoid actions which might
   contravene University Regulations. These regulations can be found at the URL:
   http://www.usq.edu.au/SECARIAT/calendar/Part5/ or in the printed version of the
   current USQ Handbook. Students should also read The Guide to Policies and
   Procedures of the Faculty which can be found at the URL:
   http://www.usq.edu.au/handbook/2003/title663.html or in the printed version of
   the current USQ Handbook.

ASSESSMENT NOTES

1 Assignments: (i) The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student
   must despatch the assignment to the USQ. The onus is on the student to provide
   proof of the despatch date, if requested by the Examiner. (ii) Students must retain
   a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be produced within 24
hours if required by the Examiner. (iii) The Examiner may grant an extension of
the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances. Applications for
extensions should be in writing and must include supporting documentary evidence.
Extensions are only granted in unforeseen and uncontrollable circumstances. The
Examiner shall consider all documentary evidence (including statement from a
doctor, employer, counsellor or independent member of the community as
appropriate) accompanying an application for extension and decide on the outcome.
Length of extensions: Up to one week's extension (five working days) may be
granted if a signed statement with supporting documentation is sent with the
assignment, proving that an unforeseen and uncontrollable circumstance caused
the delay, for example unusual and unpredictable work or family commitments. If
the signed statement and supporting documentation does not show that unforeseen
and uncontrollable circumstances were present for the days claimed, then the normal
reduction in marks for a late assignment of 20% per working day will apply. (iv)
Extensions beyond one week are not allowed unless express permission is obtained
from the Examiner. Extensions beyond one week are only granted in extreme
circumstance because model answers may be distributed after this time. If you are
likely to require an extension for a longer period than one week, you must contact
the Examiner for advice. In most cases, you will be required to complete an
alternative make-up assignment. However, make-up assignments are only granted
if you have passed all other pieces of assessment for the course. Medical extensions:
In the case of an application for extension for medical reasons, the documentation
should include a statement from a doctor stating: the date the medical condition
began or changed; how the condition affected the student's ability to study; when
it became apparent that the student could not submit the assignment. As a rule, you
will be granted an extension for the number of working days covered on a medical
certificate. In the case of a medical extension, you do not need to contact the
Examiner unless you require an extension of longer than one week. Extensions for
family/personal reasons: In the case of an application for extension for
family/personal reasons, the documentation should include a statement from a
doctor, counsellor or independent member of the community stating: the date the
student's personal circumstances began or changed; how the circumstances affected
the student's ability to complete the assignment; when it became apparent that the
student could not complete the assignment. In the case of an extension for
family/personal reasons you must contact the Examiner before the due date to
discuss the reason for the extension and to negotiate the length of an extension if
granted. Extensions for employment-related reasons: In the case of an application
for extension for employment-related reasons, the documentation should include
a statement from the student's employer stating: the date the student's employment
began or the conditions of employment changed; how this prevents the student
from completing the assignment. In the case of an extension for employment-related
reasons you must contact the Examiner before the due date to discuss the reason
for the extension and to negotiate the length of an extension if granted.

2 Text Books: Please note that it is the responsibility of the student to acquire a copy
of the textbook as soon as their enrolment in the course has been confirmed.
Extensions will not be granted on the basis of the student not having a copy of the
text, if the text is available from the USQ bookshop.
3 Word Count in Assignments: Students must put the 'word count' for their assignment on the front page of the assignment. The word count is the number of words in the body of the assignment report and does not include the title, executive summary, list of references or appendices. To grade an assignment a marker does not need to read more words than the word limit of the assignment.