



Course information 2026-27

EM3000 Dissertation

General information

MODULE LEVEL: 6

CREDIT: 30

NOTIONAL STUDY TIME: 300 hours

MODE: Locally Taught (not available for Online Taught students or Independent Learners)

Summary

This course provides students with an opportunity to develop their research skills and to present a substantial piece of original work based on academic approaches applied within the chosen field of the student's EMFSS programme.

Students will work with a supervisor at their Recognised Teaching Centre to develop their topic, proposal, and ethics form, and during their research and writing of the dissertation.

This course is not subject-specific, but students are required to write their dissertation on a topic relevant to an area of study of their degree. As part of the proposal approval process, students will be required to specify a 200- or 300-level EMFSS course they have passed or are currently enrolled on, and they will write their dissertation on a topic related to that course.

Please refer to the EM3000 course page on the EMFSS Virtual Learning Environment for all relevant documents, and guidance on processes, deadlines and resources to aid your research and writing of the dissertation.

Please refer to the University of London Schedule of Fees for the module fee for this course.

Conditions

Please refer to the relevant programme structure in the EMFSS Programme Regulations to check:

- Where this course can be placed on your degree structure; and
- details of prerequisites and corequisites for this course.

You should also refer to the Exclusions list in the EMFSS Programme Regulations to check if any exclusions apply for this course.

Entry requirements

Students wishing to take the dissertation must satisfy the criteria below, before they are eligible to enrol in EM3000.

Standard Entry Route

- Students must be studying at a Recognised Teaching Centre (Locally Taught route) on a BSc programme that allows the dissertation to be taken on the programme structure.
- Students must have passed a minimum of 210 credits, which can include Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).
- Students must have achieved a weighted average of 65 (excluding Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)).

Graduate Entry Route

- Students must be studying at a Recognised Teaching Centre (Locally Taught route) on a BSc programme that allows the dissertation to be taken on the programme structure.
- Students must have passed a minimum of 120 credits (this may include 30 credits of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), which is excluded from the weighted average).
- Students must have achieved a weighted average of 65.

Approval of topic and ethical considerations

Students are required to submit a proposal and ethics form to LSE for review, before they are permitted to begin their research. Further information on this process and the relevant documents can be found on the EMFSS Virtual Learning Environment.

Aims and objectives

The aim of this course is to:

- Guide you in becoming an independent researcher, equipping you with skills to formulate a research question, conduct literature reviews, make methodological choices, and analyse data.
- Develop a research proposal on a topic from your studies, receive support from a supervisor and produce a final dissertation.
- Demonstrate proficiency in research ethics, data analysis and the ability to present well-reasoned conclusions at an academic level.

Learning outcomes

Knowledge

Students completing this module are expected to have knowledge and understanding of some of the key concepts and principles of their area of research. On completion of this module, you should be able to:

- Identify a research topic and write a feasible research proposal.
- Understand the ethical underpinnings of your research, respecting academic integrity and required protocols for data collection.
- Articulate and justify the research methods methodology used in your study.
- Demonstrate technical proficiency in the techniques of data acquisition and analysis.
- Develop and elaborate on your own arguments.

Skills

On completion of this module, you should be able to:

- Plan and manage your own learning.
- Identify and employ a broad range of sources relevant to your research.
- Critically engage with the relevant literature.
- Develop analytical skills while conducting quantitative and/or qualitative analyses such as an ability to interpret data, recognise patterns, test hypotheses, and derive meaningful insights from datasets containing numerical and/or non-numerical data.
- Construct conclusions in a clear, logically structured, analytical, and independently argued piece of work.
- Present your findings in an effective way.

Employability skills

Below are the three most relevant employability skills that students acquire by undertaking this course which can be conveyed to future prospective employers:

- Leadership skills: you will lead a research project
- Complex problem-solving skills: you will improve your ability to address challenges with a creative and positive attitude
- Emotional intelligence skills: you will improve your ability to discuss on different issues and reach an agreement

Essential reading

Creswell, J. W. (2014). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches*. London: Sage Publications.

Greetham, B. (2019). *How to write your undergraduate dissertation*. London: Red Globe Press.

Levin, P. (2005). *Excellent dissertations*. New York: Open University Press.

Phipps, A. (2016). Getting started on your dissertation. *Resources for researchers*. Retrieved 15 August 2024, from <https://phipps.space/resources-for-researchers/>

Assessment

This course is assessed by the individual's final submission of their dissertation (100%).

Syllabus

This course consists of an individual project undertaken by the student. The course is intended to develop students' knowledge and skills of how to conduct independent research.

In all cases a student will be expected to:

- Explore key aspects of the dissertation, equipping them with important information to help define research objective(s), formulate their research question, assess the feasibility of the project, narrow down the topic, develop their own critical voice, choose between a research paper or a policy report, understand the difference between qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches, and select an appropriate research design.
- Explore relevant and up to date academic research literature following guidance and recommendations in the subject guide and from their supervisor.
- Identify and explicitly formulate a relevant research question.
- Collect and analyse relevant data, according to a recognised conceptual framework, in order to address the identified research question.
- Explore academic integrity and the ethical framework of research, ensuring that their project is conducted responsibly, transparently, and with a commitment to producing truthful, respectful, and reliable results.
- Identify and demonstrate effective study skills for dissertation writing.
- Submit a final dissertation or policy report of between 8,000 and 10,000 words.