Students in Public exemplar details

Faculty, School and Subject Area: Humanities, SEED, Manchester Institute of Education

Course Unit/activity: EDUC30252 Applied Study Period with EDUC30262 Research Project

Course Unit Director/activity leader: Lesley Warr

What is the assignment/knowledge product?
Dissertation/research report/consultancy related to applied study period host organisation

Why was it introduced?
Live project

Where is/could it be published?
The host organisation

What are the challenges (e.g. copyright)?
Sensitive material

What are the student perceptions/responses/attainment?

If published, how do you monitor use of the resource/s?

Any other comments

EDUC30252 Applied Study Period

Overview

Up to ten weeks experience placement (in Semester II) in a leisure amenity or services industry. Please refer to the ASP course book for further details.

Aims

This unit aims to:

- Pprovide in-depth hands-on experience, through placement and a directed research project, of the work environment in a Leisure organisation.
- Provide practical experience to support the theoretical elements of the course.
- Broaden individual skills and knowledge through targeted application and practice within an industrial setting
- Act as a basis for further career development

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding
- Have made an informed decision to select and secure a 10 week industrial placement
- Have appraised and evaluated the nature of the work in the host agency and their own experience
- Have identified an original research area related to the placement experience
- Have applied learning from the Career Management unit through identifying and practising additional vocational/transferable skills

Transferable skills and personal qualities
- Have practised the skills of: critical enquiry into, and analysis of, the work of an organisation, conducting a research project, making an oral presentation and report writing

Teaching and learning methods

Students to consult with their year tutor who will assign a tutor, with whom they will consult and agree the area of study with them before starting on the Applied Study Period before the Christmas break. Students are expected to be in contact with their tutor during the course of their research project and to consult with them at regular intervals for guidance in the process of planning and writing the project. Previous experience indicates that the student will arrange their project well in advance of undertaking the Applied Study Period. The project provides an opportunity for students to synthesise knowledge gained throughout the course and to make connections between and within the course modules. The project allows students to apply their information accessing skills developed throughout the course. Further information is available in the ASP handbook and the Research project guidelines booklet.

Assessment methods

Criteria and Marking Scheme: Applied Study Period Report:

The evaluation report on the host agency and your experiences of the ASP. This represents 15% of the total mark for the final year and is in two parts, a written report and an oral presentation. Oral Presentation of 20 minutes (weighted 40%) and Written Evaluation Report of 3,000 words (weighted 60%).The written report of 3,000 words will be marked as follows:

- Introduction and background: 10%
ie the nature and ownership of the organisation and what you did

- Operations, Policy, Management structure and style: 30%
i.e. An analysis of what they do and how well they do it; how they deliver; why they chose the way they operate; their structure and why they have that structure. This critical analysis must be supported by reference to appropriate theory

- Evaluation of the experience: 40% i.e. A critical examination of your own experience on the ASP and completion of the proforma from the ASP handbook regarding skills development

- Presentation, Grammar, Structure and Style: 10%

- Conclusion: 10%

The report will include both description and evidence of analysis and critical evaluation. Included in the descriptive elements might be: Business objectives, staff structures, tasks undertaken, policies, targets, etc of the host organisation.
The evaluation is evidence that you have critically evaluated the observations that you have made, the experience you have had, the information you have obtained and the organisation itself.
Any recommendations as a result will form part of your conclusions.

EDUC30262 Research Project

Aims

This unit aims to:

- To give students the opportunity to identify and explore a topic in depth which cannot be achieved within the taught part of the course.
- To develop students' ability to summarise and synthesise primary research evidence
- To develop students' capacity for independent thinking and critical judgement
- To give students the opportunity to reach a good standard of written expression in terms of organisation, fluency and presentation
- To develop students' capacity for original research, utilising information from a variety of primary and secondary sources.

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding :
- have developed their skills in research project writing, have insight into the requirements of research project writing and have developed a proper respect for the task of research project writing
- have demonstrated their research and analytical skills through their experience of an in-depth enquiry
- have demonstrated a solid interest in a particular topic
- have improved their capacity for getting information from a variety of sources.
- have developed their capacity for time management and scheduling of work

Teaching and learning methods

Students to consult with their year tutor who will assign a tutor, with whom they will consult and agree the area of study with them before starting on the Applied Study Period before the Christmas break. Students are expected to be in contact with their tutor during the course of their research project and to consult with them at regular intervals for guidance in the process of planning and writing the project. Previous experience indicates that the student will arrange their project well in advance of undertaking the Applied Study Period. The project provides an opportunity for students to synthesise knowledge gained throughout the course and to make connections between and within the course modules. The project allows students to apply their information accessing skills developed throughout the course. Further information is available in the ASP handbook and the Research project guidelines booklet.

An Individual tutor will be assigned to each student

Assessment methods

A research project of up to 12,000 words related to the ten week leisure-based experience; to be submitted by a date to be specified but not later than the day on which University Examinations begin in the summer of the final year of attendance. Failure to meet this deadline is equivalent to being absent from an exam.

The project will be assessed by the supervisor and may be seen by another internal examiner. A sample will be sent to the external examiner.

The Research Project - 12,000 words, typescript and bound, forms 25% of the final year mark and will be assessed as follows:

- Abstract: 5%: No more than 300 words, a concise explanation of what the project report will cover
- Presentation, Style, Referencing, Grammar, Bibliography: 10%
- Introduction / Issues / Aims and Purpose: 10%
- Literature Search: 10%
- Research Methods and Design: 15%
- Results, Analysis and Discussion: 40%
- Conclusions, including suggestions for further research: 10%

Guidelines: Applied Study Research Project

1) Topics:
Research Project topics must be approved by the Year Tutor. They may be on any topic connected with the Applied Study Period. This may take the form of a research based study or an agency based theoretical study. It may be of any form approved of by the supervisor, and will be 12,000 words in length. Research Project topics must be handed in to the Year Tutor on a date to be notified by the end of November each year. After topics have been approved students will be allocated a supervisor. Students will need to consult with their supervisors before undertaking any work. It is the students responsibility to contact their supervisors before starting on their project/placement, and to arrange to contact them at least twice during the ASP

Please note: It is the responsibility of the student to contact their supervisor and to raise matters with them

If you undertake any research that involves other people (such as interviews, focus groups etc) you should obtain guidance from your programme director before you start the project to ensure the activity falls within the ethical guidance for research. See Undergraduate Handbook for initial guidance

2) Titles:
The Title will be decided after consultation with your supervisor. The title will be brief, usually not more than 15 words. It will be in good English, properly punctuated, without any unnecessary technical terms. It is seldom necessary to include such words as "A study of . . ." or "An investigation into . . ." at the beginning of the title or words near the end like "with special reference to . . . " Phrases such as "comparative study . . . " will be omitted unless the whole point of the title would otherwise be lost.
Normally a title which simply links two apparently unrelated concepts with the word "and" is unsatisfactory eg "Leisure and the school". The title will not attempt to describe the sample, the

design, the tests etc, but will indicate the area of study and the type of population or institutions studied.

3) Presentation:
Candidates are advised that examiners can and will reject a project if the quantity of typographical errors indicates careless proof-reading.

(i) Research projects must be about 12,000 WORDS IN LENGTH. All research projects must be written in English; quotations, however, may be given in the language in which they were written ONE copy must be submitted in typewritten/word processed form on paper of international standard size A4 (210 x 297 mm) and preferably white bond paper. No other paper size is acceptable for the main text of a research project. Normally one side of the paper will be used and this will appear as a right-hand page. Paper of a large size may be used for maps, plans, diagrams or other illustrations forming part of the project if the Supervisor agrees that this is desirable.