

Subject Code	MM6994
Subject Title	DBA Thesis I
Credit Value	8
Level	6
Normal Duration	1-semester
Pre-requisite/ Co-requisite/ Exclusion	Completion of at least 6 of the required taught subjects (including 1 compulsory, 2 core and 3 elective subjects)
Role and Purposes	This subject contributes to the achievement of the DBA outcome by sharpening students' ability to conduct original applied research and ethical awareness in business administration (Outcome 3).
Subject Learning Outcomes	Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to: a. examine a topic of interest arising from their chosen area in a critically manner; b. deepen their self- and social-awareness by becoming sensitised to their dual role as researcher and manager; c. pursue a research-based topic that is important to the real world practice; d. demonstrate an in-depth understanding of relevant literature in the selected topic area; e. prepare an extended research proposal appropriate for the DBA thesis.
Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus	This is among the most important DBA learning activities. In preparing their theses, participants have an opportunity to draw upon particular themes to illustrate the extent to which they have been able to integrate what have been some of the dominant themes and interesting areas in their programme. Participants are expected to apply state-of-the-art research methodologies to study some important issues arising from their real world management experience. It is a requirement that the thesis will make important contributions and/or provide innovative insights to the practice of the profession. The thesis proposal should normally be around 10,000 – 15,000 words.
Teaching/Learning Methodology	The participant works with the supervisor on a one to one basis in the preparation of the research proposal. Assessment The research proposal will be assessed by a panel of three to four academics. The participants will have to defend the proposal in front of the panel during the second residential workshop. After the defense, the panel will decide that the proposal : a. may proceed with the research as proposed; or b. needs to make major revisions within a 3-month period and these must be approved by i) the supervisor(s) before the student begins conducting the thesis (research), OR ii) the chairman and supervisor(s) before the student begins conducting the research, OR iii) the academic review panel before the student begins conducting the research, OR c. needs to revise and re-submit the proposal for re-presentation within a 3 to 6 month period. The thesis proposal should be reviewed and agreed by supervisor(s), and the Programme Director/Deputy Programme Director first, and then finally submitted for panel members' approval before another session of thesis proposal presentation is arranged. If any of them does not approve the student's thesis proposal for a re-presentation, the student will fail in Residential 2 and will need to withdraw from Thesis I. If the re-presentation is not approved by panel members, 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 represents the first two stages of the thesis process.

Research Proposal
 In consultation with the thesis supervisor, the participant works out a proposed research plan which must show evidence of sound background research and state in the following specific terms:

- a. research aims and objectives;
- b. review of literature and definition of the theoretical concepts to be used;
- c. the basis for the research problem with reference to other such research;
- d. the conceptual framework for the research;
- e. the methodology of the study, i.e. the ways in which data are to be collected, analyzed and reported;
- f. the tentative research schedule;
- g. references.

Specific assessment methods/tasks	% weighting	Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)				
		a.	b.	c.	d.	e.
Continuous Assessment*	100%					
1. Research proposal and thesis	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Total	100 %					

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

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

Student Study Effort Expected	Class contact:	
	▪ Dissertation	30 Hrs.
	Other student study effort:	
	▪ Preparation for dissertation	530 Hrs.
	Total student study effort	560 Hrs.