

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

Te Whare Wānanga o te Ūpoko o te Ika a Māui



SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTING & COMMERCIAL LAW

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ACCY 422: Research Project in Accounting

2nd Trimester 2005

Master of Commerce and Administration / Bachelor of Commerce and Administration (Hons)

Course Outline

Course Content

This special topic is a supervised research project that provides students with the opportunity to undertake independent research in a specific area of accounting or commercial law.

Lecturers

Staff from the School of Accounting & Commercial Law will be available to act as supervisors.

Course Coordinator

Professor Keitha Dunstan and Andrew Jackson

Course Objectives

1. To provide students with an opportunity to study in-depth a topic area of interest.
2. To provide students with the experience of completing a significant research paper, in an intellectually independent and largely self-directed fashion.
3. To demonstrate the application of knowledge of research methodology and methods gained through coursework in ACCY 401 and ACCY 421.
4. To develop students' skills of critical inquiry and ability to write an academic paper that demonstrates an in-depth understanding of an area of research.

Assessment

The assessment is 100% for the final submitted project.

Class Times

There is no formal class time but students are expected to meet regularly with their allocated supervisor.

Types of Research Projects Acceptable

A variety of different types of research projects are encouraged, subject to the availability of a supervisor. Examples include:

1. Empirical work within a particular research paradigm (e.g. content analysis of annual reports).
2. Theoretical work within a particular research paradigm (e.g. development of a key concept).
3. An in-depth review of the research literature on a particular topic (e.g. balanced scorecard).
4. An historical study on a particular topic (e.g. development of a specific accounting standard).
5. A critical comparison of different research approaches to a particular topic. E.g. TBLR, corporate governance, environmental accounting, business ethics. "Differences" explored might include differences in theories used, research methods and/or social/political philosophies.
6. Exploration of a public policy issue e.g. reviewing relevant conceptual and empirical literature and making policy recommendations.

In all cases you should demonstrate an understanding of how the methods you are using or ideas/concepts you are developing "fit" within the framework of research approaches introduced in ACCY 401 and/or ACCY 421.

General Guidelines

1. Students are responsible in the first instance for selecting a topic and approaching potential supervisors. Once agreement between a student and staff member is reached, the co-ordinator will be advised by the staff member. Should a student experience difficulty with selecting a topic and/or finding an appropriate supervisor they should advise the co-ordinator as soon as possible but certainly before the 9th July.
2. Word limit 15,000. This is a guideline only. Some types of work may be shorter or longer than this. Your supervisor will advise you on the appropriate length of your project.
3. Each student is required to adhere strictly to deadlines set. Extensions will only be granted in extenuating circumstances and can only be approved by the co-ordinator. Students must not request extensions from their supervisor.

DUE DATES

- Agreement reached on supervisor and topic area July 8
 - One page description of the project as agreed with the supervisor July 15
 - A first draft approximately 30% complete Sept 2
 - A second draft – a good draft with the project essentially complete Oct 14
 - Final version submitted for assessment Oct 28
4. Assessment. Evaluation criteria will be cascaded towards the end of July, however supervisors will be in a position to provide guidance in this area beforehand.
 5. Your supervisor will provide academic advice only. They will not edit your writing.

6. Your supervisor will read and provide comments on your two drafts. Individual supervisors may request other written work as you proceed.
5. You should expect to meet regularly with your supervisor, ie at least once a fortnight. You should expect these meetings to average approximately one half hour a week (i.e. fortnightly meetings would last approximately one hour). Individual supervisors may request you to attend meetings more often if they deem it necessary.

GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATUTES

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly those regarding assessment and course of study requirements, and formal academic grievance procedures contained in the statutes in the VUW website.

The University Statute on Student Conduct and Policy on Staff Conduct

The Statute on Student Conduct together with the Policy on Staff Conduct ensure that members of the University community are able to work, learn, study and participate in the academic and social aspects of the University's life in an atmosphere of safety and respect. The Statute on Student Conduct contains information on what conduct is prohibited and what steps can be taken if there is a complaint. For queries about complaint procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct, contact the Facilitator and Disputes Advisor. This Statute is available in the Faculty Student Administration Office or on the website at: www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/StudentConduct

The policy on Staff Conduct can be found on the VUW website at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/StaffConduct

Academic Grievances

If you have any academic problems with your paper you should talk to the tutor or lecturer concerned or, if you are not satisfied with the result of that meeting, see the Head of School or the Associate Dean (Students) of your Faculty. Class representatives are available to assist you with this process. If, after trying the above channels, you are still unsatisfied, formal grievance procedures can be invoked. These are set out in the Academic Grievances Statute which is published on the VUW website: www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/AcademicGrievances

Plagiarism

Victoria University defines plagiarism as the copying of ideas, organisation, wording or anything else from another source without appropriate reference or acknowledgement so that it appears to be one's own work. This includes published and unpublished work, the Internet and the work of other students and staff. Plagiarism is an example of misconduct in the Statute of Student Conduct. Students who have plagiarised are subject to a range of penalties under the Statute. See the website: www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/StudentConduct

Reasonable Accommodation Policy

The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities. The policy aims to give students with disabilities an equal opportunity with all other students to demonstrate their abilities. If you have a disability, impairment or chronic medical condition (temporary, permanent or recurring) that may impact on your ability to participate, learn and/or achieve in lectures and tutorials or in meeting the course requirements, then please contact the Course Coordinator as early in the course as possible. Alternatively you may wish to approach a Student Adviser from Disability Support Services to confidentially discuss your individual needs and the options and support that are available. Disability Support Services are located on Level 1, Robert Stout Building, or phoning 463-6070, email disability@vuw.ac.nz.

The name of your School's Disability Liaison Person can be obtained from the Administrative Assistant or the School Prospectus