

Victoria Management School

**BTM (Hons)/MTM**

**TOUR 410: Dissertation**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester 2006**

Preparation of the dissertation is primarily an educational exercise in research. It provides an opportunity to follow up a topic of personal interest and to develop experience and demonstrate competence in all phases of undertaking tourism research. The dissertation may investigate a topic in any field of tourism but should not incorporate work that has been or will be submitted for credit in any other course.

Dissertations should be based essentially on primary data sources and should demonstrate:

- 1) the ability to formulate a clear problem statement and an appreciation of the academic context of the work and/or its practical implications;
- 2) an appropriate research design and appropriate research methods;
- 3) a critical appraisal of the data used;
- 4) accurate and effective analysis and presentation of the data collected;
- 5) clear and logical interpretation of the results obtained;
- 6) the ability to produce a well-written and structured report.

The dissertation should be 8-10,000 words long and follow the conventions outlined in the style guide.

A formal proposal (an oral presentation of 5-10 minutes and a written proposal not exceeding 2 pages) will be presented by each student to members of the Tourism Group on **Tuesday July 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:40pm**. The proposal should emphasize points 1 and 2 above and outline clearly the nature of the problem being addressed and the methods to be used. Following presentation of the proposals, students will be allocated a supervisor with whom they will be expected to maintain regular contact during the preparation of the dissertation.

A ten minute report outlining progress to date, problems encountered and work yet to be completed, will be given by each student at a seminar to be held before the August-September mid-trimester break (date to be advised). A second progress report will be given after the break. A formal oral presentation of the research findings (20 minutes plus 10 minutes of questions) will be made on the afternoon of Monday October 10<sup>th</sup>. The dissertation is due by **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2006**.

In planning your research timetable be sure to allow time for HEC approval to be processed.

20% of the final grade will be based on the oral presentation and 80% on the written report.

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