

Module Code:	7500CATSCI	Version No:	1
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Module Title:	Dissertation	Authorisation:	
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School:	NSP	Archived Date:	
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Module Leader

Name: Dr RUTH STEVENSON and Dr JANE FISHER

E-mail: ruth.stevenson@cat.org.ukjane.fisher@cat.org.ukLevel: 7Credit Rating: 60Indicative Time Allowances (hours):

Lec	Tut	Sem	Prt	Wrk	Fld	Other	Deliv. Tot	Exam	Private Study	Tot. Learning Hours
7	33	0	0	5	0	0	45	0	555	600

Semester Delivery: (Select one only)Semester 1 Semester 2 Runs twice (S1 & S2) Year Long Summer Other Pre-requisites:Recommended Prior Study:Co-requisites:Barred Combinations:

Aims:

- a) To demonstrate students ability to explore a research topic relevant to food and natural resources in depth, with appropriate research methods, displaying creativity and analytical skills.
- b) For students to become familiar with the procedures and conventions of academic scholarship.
- c) Time manage the completion of the research investigation, and the submission of a research dissertation

Learning Outcomes:

1. Plan and undertake an extended independent piece of original research and writing upon a topic of their choosing within the field of food and natural resources.
2. Competently choose appropriate research methods and tools for data collection and analysis.
3. Critically interpret the results in relation to existing knowledge.
4. Critically evaluate the methodologies, analysis, conclusions and relevance, and where appropriate, propose new hypotheses from congruent argument, of current research and advanced scholarship.

Learning Activities:

This module will comprise a dissertation workshop comprising lectures and interactive activities to help students prepare, plan and undertake an extended period of independent research.

The dissertation workshop teaching and learning materials will be available to distance learners via the VLE and supported by seminars over skype.

All students are required to plan their research, consider ethical and health and safety implications before starting. Once students are able to undertake their research they do so at distance and within a study area or site(s), where appropriate, to develop project and work-based skills, whilst being supported by a supervisor at distance.

Outline Syllabus:

This is the Dissertation Module, which culminates the work on the MSc programme. Teaching and learning is by tutorial-supported student work on the preparation of this major academic study. After an initial seminar group meeting involving other students, tuition is mainly on an individual basis. Students submit their Research Design Proposal and must have tutor approval before proceeding to work on their dissertation.

Assessment Details:

1. Coursework: Research Design Proposal (1,500 words max.): 10%
2. Dissertation (16,500 words max., advisory): 90%

Weighting between E and CW: 0% 100%

Relationship between learning outcomes and assessment tasks:

	Learning Outcomes			
	1	2	3	4
Component 1	X	X		
Component 2	X		X	X

Minimum Pass Mark (%): 50

Module Notes:

The Research Design Proposal is submitted for marking before the formal dissertation period starts, whereupon it is allocated 10% of the dissertation portfolio mark. This RDP forms the basis of communication between the student and supervisor for preparation for the study proper. The student may only begin formal research as part of the dissertation once the supervisor gives permission to go ahead (permissions is based on the RDP quality, the ethics approval and risk assessment).