

Dublin Institute of Technology

MSc Computing Science
(Information Technology for Strategic Management)

Advanced Research Module

STUDENT GUIDANCE NOTE FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE RESEARCH PAPER

A significant aim of the Advanced Research Module paper is to prepare a research paper of publishable standard. The Advanced Research Module (ARM) research paper consolidates the ability to comment and critique on the research work of others and consolidates the ability to engage in original thinking. To help achieve a paper of publishable standard this module further explores the requirement of identifying an original research perspective and an original contribution to the body of knowledge.

The Research Paper for the Advanced Research Module will be assessed under the same five headings and various sub-headings as the Discipline Specific Module. In addition to all of the assessment topics of the DSM there is additional emphasis on the publishable standard of the paper. The headings are Presentation style, Language, Investigation of source material, Research analysis and Formulation of conclusions. The remainder of this guidance note provides insight into the additional issues that will be assessed under each heading.

1 PRESENTATION STYLE	
Abstract	Overview of the paper Weave in keywords
Introduction	In addition to stating your aim, audience, why and research method, the ARM paper should seek to address two individual topics and especially the impact or consequences of one relative to the other. For example, the title might be The relevance of Porter's Value-chain model to Dot.com companies and in this case the Introduction should include a short paragraph giving a brief overview of Porter's Value-chain model and a second paragraph giving a brief overview of a Dot.com company. Use the Introduction to alert the reader of any deliverable from the paper. Especially emphasise if it is new and your contribution. Don't forget to include signposting at the end of the Introduction.
Content	Make certain that the content is appropriately broad and to a sufficient depth to suit your readers. Throughout you paper, constantly include argument and critique.
Conclusion	Summarise the paper for your reader and especially argue why your perspective is of value to others (strategic managers and IS professionals). Indicate potential for further research.
References	Balance sources from academic journals, conference proceedings, standards documents, white papers and textbooks. Be especially careful not to over cite WWW references.
Format	It is very useful to include the title of the paper as a header on every page of this paper. This header should be right aligned. Use Times New Roman, 10pt, italics and include an underline the full width of the page. Remember to use the Guidance Notes for a professional appearance to your figures and tables. All other formatting to camera-ready format should incorporate best practice as per the DSM paper. Remember, this paper should be of publishable standard.

2 LANGUAGE	
	Write in the active voice using best English grammar, syntax and semantics in properly structured paragraphs. Avoid slang and colloquialisms. Avoid the use of etc., write gender-free text and remember too that “ <i>one does not use one in one’s papers, dissertations, etc., etc., etc</i> ”. You should proofread your paper for typing and similar errors and you should re-read you paper for structure, meaning and clarity.
3 INVESTIGATION OF SOURCE MATERIAL	
Coverage	Let the reader know that you have researched the entire subject area but that you concentrated only on those sections specific to your research.
Depth	The level of detail in this paper is critical to the readability of the paper and, for this reason, you should only include three levels. Typically these will be numbered 1., 1.1 and 1.1.1 and anything deeper than this should be carefully considered.
Selection of material	Make certain that you have researched a broad section of internationally recognised experts of the subject area. Also, be conscious of how dated a selected publication might be and its relevance to your research. For example, it is not unusual for a beginning researcher to write, “ <i>The Internet has the potential to become a significant medium for commerce (Bloggs, 1982)</i> ”. This kind of reporting is now meaningless as the Internet is well established as the foundation of e-commerce.
4 RESEARCH ANALYSIS	
Original perspective	Remember that the objective of this paper is to produce a publishable paper containing a new contribution to the Body of Knowledge.
Original contribution	<p>Your comment and critique</p> <p>Your analysis</p> <p>Your Set of guidelines or Framework or Model</p> <p>Your critique of your contribution.</p>

5 FORMULATION OF CONCLUSIONS	
Review of key issues	Remind your reader of the topics that have been researched and if appropriate include a short concluding discussion.
Summary	Include the derived conclusions that you make as a result of this research. Remind your reader again of your original perspective and contribution. Also, indicate the value of your research to others and how they might apply it. Include a critique of your original contribution.
Focus	Confine your summary and conclusions to the content already presented in the body of your paper. Do NOT introduce new material at this stage. Focus your summary and conclusions towards your original audience.
Clarity	The clarity of your summary and conclusions should convince your reader of the publishable standard of your paper.
In Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summarise the research• Draw conclusions or argue suitable deduction based on the research• Emphasise your contribution to the body of knowledge• Reiterate how your contribution is of value to strategic managers and IS professionals• Explain how the deductions might be addressed by future research.