# SBM1301 Minor Project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UOS CODE</th>
<th>UOS NAME</th>
<th>CREDIT POINTS</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SBM1301</td>
<td>Minor Project</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Core</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## SUMMARY

SBM1301 is a capstone unit of study conducted by research under supervision that draws upon all prior studies in an holistic manner. While SBM1300 focuses on fundamental research at discipline level, SBM1301 Minor Project permits students to conduct a research project that involves in-depth study of one or a number of complex cases. SBM1301 also focuses on industry policy and practices with a goal of investigating the impacts of change and innovation or new approaches. Introduction of new legislation or a code of practice or new systems for project and program development and delivery are examples of research projects that are undertaken as part of SBM1301. Thus, research can address policy, society and industry trends, such as globalisation, sustainability, life extension of facilities and so on. In short, research scope is much wider than in SBM1300. Thus, research outcomes will aim to shed new light on an area of interest to industry and practice and respond to a contemporary problems identified as worthy of research. SBM1301 will also follow the same rigorous research methodology and process as SBM1300 Research Project. The objective of SBM1301 is to teach students how to formulate and conduct a research problem systematically. This will also lead to enhancement of student’s research knowledge and skills, including the following:

(a) Research methods and techniques,
(b) Literature review and critical appraisal techniques,
(c) Conceptual Modelling
(d) Development and testing of hypotheses,
(e) Conduct of fieldwork and or experiments and validation of the results,
(f) Interpretation and documentation of findings.

## COURSE CONVENOR

Associate Professor Soo May Cheng

## ASSUMED KNOWLEDGE

This is an advanced unit of study undertaken normally in the last semester of MBM/MBPM/MBA program.

## APPROXIMATE WORKLOAD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Lectures &amp; Workshops</th>
<th>Team Work</th>
<th>Personal Work</th>
<th>Total Workload</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50 hours</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>180 hours</td>
<td>230 hours</td>
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## PRE-REQUISITE

Students must complete at least 2 semesters of studies and have a minimum Credit average result to be permitted to undertake SBM1300 or SBM1301. Students need special permission to enrol in SBM1302. Note that SBM1300, SBM1301 and SBM1302 are mutually exclusive.

## OBJECTIVES

The main objective is to equip students with knowledge of research principles and to assist them to demonstrate these skills in the context of a supervised research project spanning the whole semester. Thus, each student is required to plan and execute a substantial research project leading to results that can potentially add to knowledge or extend field practices.

SBM1301 is focused on industry and practice-related research. However all research projects draw on students’ prior studies (including action research skills) and follow the same research principles and techniques.

## TARGET COMPETENCIES (Business and Management)

Target competencies in this unit of study comprise the following:

- Research methods and techniques,
- Literature review and critical appraisal techniques,
- Data modelling and evaluation techniques,
- Development and testing of hypotheses,
- Conduct of fieldwork and or experiments and validation of the results,
- Interpretation and documentation of findings,
- Other aspects of conducting research.

## TARGET COMPETENCIES

- Generic: All competencies that are common to all professionals (including cognitive and communication abilities, problem solving and analytical mindset)
### Personal and Socio-cultural
- Leadership: Ability to direct, motivate & manage individuals & teams.
- Commitment: Ability to dedicate to tasks & to project outcomes.
- Attitude: Ability to create the right frame of mind that promotes integrity & support for achievement of project goals within a social context.
- Self Direction: Ability to manage within and without guidelines & processes, and to work without supervision.
- Learning: Ability to commit to continuous improvement in knowledge, skills & attitude, & to creating new knowledge developing skills & approaches.
- Cultural Empathy: Ability to respect for & accommodation of individual lifestyle, beliefs & norms.
- Creativity & Innovation: Capacity to generate new ideas/approaches & make them happen.

### Modes of Delivery
For on-campus delivery it is face-to-face supported by the unit website, EBSCO collections and e-books as well as e-library.
For distance mode it is conducted and facilitated online utilising the OLS and the Virtual Classroom Software supported by the unit website and supported by EBSCO collections and e-books as well as e-library.

### Assessment

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Assessment Component</th>
<th>When assessed</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Learning Outcomes Assessed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Brief</td>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Pass/Fail</td>
<td>(a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research proposal</td>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>(a) and (b)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field work and data collection</td>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>(c) and (d)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analysis and testing of hypotheses</td>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>(c) to (e)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finalisation &amp; Submission of dissertation (Guide: 10,000 words or 20 pages)</td>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>(a) to (f)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral presentation and viva</td>
<td>Week 13 and Week 14</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>(a) to (f)</td>
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Note: the research conducted in SBM1301 must be of quality and standard that can produce a refereed conference paper. Acceptance of publication of the research results in a conference proceeding will be a good indication of the depth and breadth of research conducted.

### Selected References
Prescribed readings will relate to research methods and techniques. Depending on the actual scope and focus of the projects undertaken by students additional references are needed. The following sources can be accessed via EBSCO library to gain an in-depth understanding of general research methods, tools and techniques:


**Other Useful References**
Those that are particularly useful are marked with *

**Research design**


**Questionnaire design**

**Scale selection and construction**

**Basic statistics**


**Advanced statistics**


Preparing your report


**Useful websites**

In addition to the more traditional paper-based resources, there are many websites you may find useful. There has been an explosion in the number of statistics sites on the Web—some statistics texts are completely web-based. I have listed some useful starting points for you below. These sites also have links to many other potentially useful sites.

http://www.gutenberg.org/
Project Gutenberg offers over 46,000 free ebooks: choose among free epub books, free kindle books, download them or read them online.

This site contains free downloads of a wide variety of statistics tools and calculators.

http://vassarstats.net/index.html
This is a link to the VassarStats website, which provides a range of tools for performing statistical computation. There is a companion online textbook that goes with this site available from http://vassarstats.net/textbook/

http://www.nova.edu/ssss/QR/QR12-2/onwuegbuzie2.pdf


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<th>Software</th>
<th>N.A.</th>
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| **Contents and Structure** | SBM1301 aims at imparting high level research competencies to students so that they can design and conduct a research project to investigate a problem or an opportunity and deliver the results in a scientifically valid manner. These can include detailed and systemic case studies with a view to shedding new insights and or examining the efficacy of application of innovative ideas in practice or conducting comparative studies etc. Students electing to complete this unit should focus on research questions and problems that are within the domain of business and project management. Research topics/problems are assigned by academic staff or suggested by student and agreed to by the assigned supervisors. SBM1301 is semester based and needs to be completed within the allocated 14 weeks of study. The scope comprises the following (see unit of study website for details):

- Weekly research training workshop
- Start up and general orientation
- Literature review and formulation of research plan
- Fieldwork and data collection
- Data analysis, investigation, findings and observations
- Dissertation/Research Paper and presentation

Students work on approved topics under the supervision of the Course Convenor but are also |
| --- | --- |
assigned to individual academic staff to receive advice and support related to their research project. It is expected that students will show a high level of initiative in terms of expanding their horizons and attempting to collect data and information from all relevant sources, not merely rely on the information they can gather from the faculty. Students must attend the scheduled sessions as per the program shown on the unit website or in the unit of study guide.

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<th>Learning Process and Program</th>
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<td>Students will attend weekly workshops to receive training in formal research methods, literature review and critical appraisal techniques, case study methods, data modelling and evaluation techniques, development and testing of hypotheses; interpretation and documentation of findings and other aspects of conducting research/investigation. Students will develop and submit their Research Briefs in the first week. They then proceed to conduct literature review on their chosen topic and prepare their research plan/proposal. This phase involves delineation or development of the research activities and expected outcomes. After receiving feedback and guidance from the supervisor on their proposals students proceed to conduct the field investigation and collect the necessary data. They then analyse the data, investigate the results and draw up findings/trends/observations, and draw appropriate conclusions. These are presented to and discussed closely with their supervisors. When the assigned supervisor is satisfied that the actual research scope has been properly executed they will give the student permission to proceed to the compilation and preparation of their dissertation for examination purposes.</td>
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