

**Schumacher  
College**



**UNIVERSITY OF  
PLYMOUTH**

**Economics for Transition Dissertation  
SCH504**

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**Economics for Transition**

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Module Leader: **Jonathan Dawson**

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## Welcome and Introduction

### SCH504 Economics for Transition Dissertation

This module provides students with the opportunity to develop and demonstrate their capacity for independent study in the application of research skills to a topic appropriate to the degree. For all further information on this module, visit

<https://open.schumachercollege.org.uk/course/view.php?id=186>

## Teaching and Assessment Team

Programme Leader:	Jonathan Dawson
Location:	Schumacher College
Email:	Jonathan.dawson@schumachercollege.org.uk
Phone number:	01803 847216
Student meeting times:	Informal, by negotiation. Formal tutorial in study week at the end of the module

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## Module Aims

The module aims to:

- (a) Introduce students to a range of research methodologies in the social sciences;
- (b) Provide an opportunity for students to pursue in depth a topic of their own interest;
- (c) Extend students' powers of critical evaluation and original thought;
- (d) Develop the skills and confidence necessary to carry out research in other areas once the taught elements of the degree have been completed.

## Teaching and Learning Strategy

<b>SUMMARY OF TEACHING AND LEARNING [Use HESA KIS definitions]</b>		
Scheduled Activities	Hours	Comments/Additional Information
Lecture	44	
Seminar	20	
Tutorial	4	
Demonstration	0	
Practical classes and workshops	0	
External visit	12	
Guided independent study	720	Preparation for scheduled activities using Virtual Learning Environment, module reading list and class materials; preparation for assignments. Detailed formative assessment will be given to students on a one to one basis.
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>800</u></b>	(NB: 1 credit = 10 hours or learning; 10 credits = 100 hours, etc)

Students are expected to take full responsibility for their learning, attend tutorials with their supervisor, read appropriate indicated readings, and work on set exercises (formative and summative assessment).

Please ensure that you are engaging with the content and learning activities relating to this module.

## Scheme of Work

**This module will be assessed by:**

Element of Assessment	Module Weighting	Component	Link to Assessed Learning Outcomes
Either: i) a 15 – 20,000-word essay or ii) a creative project (which needs to be agreed in advance with the module leader) accompanied by an academic commentary of a length to be agreed with the module leader	100%		All

## Dissertation Calendar

**Friday June 26 2020, 17.00hrs** Deadline for the submission of dissertation drafts for comment. *By this date, it is expected that you will have produced solid working drafts of your introduction, methodology (see below), literature review, and*

**After Friday 26 June** following the submission of drafts deadline students are welcome to contact staff members for questions, but may not submit further drafts for comment.

**Friday August 24 2020, 12 noon UK Time** Deadline for the submission of completed dissertation

**Friday October 16 2020, 17.00hrs** Feedback and provisional marks

### Dissertation supervision and Submission

After 26 June 2020 students are welcome to contact staff members for questions, but not to read and comment on specific material. In other words you will continue to have staff support/guidance and conversations on critical issues/questions, but it is up to you to write and present the final document.

Staff agree the need to be consistent in our approach to ensure fairness to you all, so whilst we may be around during the summer break we are unable to read your dissertation.

This may seem strict; however, some institutions provide no reading of draft material at all for Masters Dissertations. At others, it is true, supervisors will read material right up until the submission deadline. On the face of it, the latter may be more appealing to you as students, however, the problems with such an open-ended arrangement are threefold:

- there are discrepancies in how much individual staff members will comment and when they are available (especially given that many staff members take their holidays in the summer months); and
- this leads to some students being (dis)advantaged over others due to things such as staff leave/other commitments;
- as a professional qualification, at Master's level you are expected to undertake and produce your own work, not the work of your supervisor.

We believe the supervision arrangements in place provide you with a good level of support to meet the deadlines set.

Full dissertation guidelines, including ethical principles for research involving human participants and guidelines for the production and submission of dissertations can be found in Appendix A. A further copy can be found on the Open area of the VLE and in the dissertation area for your programme on the VLE.

It is the expectation of the College that you will remain in regular contact with your Supervisor and continue working full-time on your dissertation regardless of your study location. If you are a Tier 4 student the UKVI regards your constant progression and contact as necessary for us to maintain our sponsorship licence. Tier 4 student responsibilities regarding contact will be given to you at the end of Term 2.

*Final dissertation submissions need to be made via the virtual learning environment (VLE) no later than 12noon UK time on the date specified above.*

### **Selection of a Dissertation Topic and Supervision**

The Dissertation module leader, Jonathan Dawson, will help you identify a dissertation supervisor. This supervisor may come from within the Schumacher College faculty, from University of Plymouth or from an external university or organization. All students will also have a Secondary Supervisor. Generally, students will look to their Primary Supervisor as principal source of advice and guidance, with the Secondary Supervisor playing a significantly lighter support role, often limited to marking the final dissertation and agreeing on a mark with the Primary Supervisor. Students are required to maintain close academic contact with their Primary Dissertation Supervisor through visits and/or email or Skype.

### **Marking Rubric**

LO1: • identify a suitable research topic, formulate research questions and develop a research design; make use of scholarly reviews and primary resources appropriate to the discipline			
Fail: 0 – 49%	Pass: 50 – 59%	Merit: 60 – 69%	Distinction: 70 – 100%
Does not demonstrate an ability identify a suitable research topic, formulate research questions and develop a research design; make use of scholarly reviews and primary resources appropriate to the discipline	Demonstrates a partial ability to identify a suitable research topic, formulate research questions and develop a research design; make use of scholarly reviews and primary resources appropriate to the discipline	Demonstrates a sound ability to identify a suitable research topic, formulate research questions and develop a research design; make use of scholarly reviews and primary resources appropriate to the discipline	Demonstrates full and detailed identify a suitable research topic, formulate research questions and develop a research design; make use of scholarly reviews and primary resources appropriate to the discipline
LO2: • plan an investigation and evaluate alternative courses of action			
Fail: 0 – 49%	Pass: 50 – 59%	Merit: 60 – 69%	Distinction: 70 – 100%

Fails to demonstrate an ability to plan an investigation and evaluate alternative courses of action	Demonstrates in some measure an ability to plan an investigation and evaluate alternative courses of action	Demonstrates in good measure an ability to analyse new more socially and plan an investigation and evaluate alternative courses of action	Demonstrates a thorough and rigorous an ability to plan an investigation and evaluate alternative courses of action
LO3: • analyse the research problem using an appropriate methodology			
Fail: 0 – 49%	Pass: 50 – 59%	Merit: 60 – 69%	Distinction: 70 – 100%
Does not demonstrate an ability to analyse the research problem using an appropriate methodology	Limited demonstration of an ability to analyse the research problem using an appropriate methodology	Sound demonstration of an ability to analyse the research problem using an appropriate methodology	Excellent and rigorous demonstration of an ability to analyse the research problem using an appropriate methodology
LO4: • appreciate the ethical dimensions of the research			
Fail: 0 – 49%	Pass: 50 – 59%	Merit: 60 – 69%	Distinction: 70 – 100%
Fails to demonstrate an ability to appreciate the ethical dimensions of the research	Demonstrates in some measure an ability to appreciate the ethical dimensions of the research	Demonstrates in good measure an ability to appreciate the ethical dimensions of the research	Demonstrates a thorough and rigorous an ability to appreciate the ethical dimensions of the research
LO5: • synthesise recommendations which follow logically from the research			
Fail: 0 – 49%	Pass: 50 – 59%	Merit: 60 – 69%	Distinction: 70 – 100%
Does not demonstrate an ability to synthesise recommendations which follow logically from the research	Limited demonstration of an ability to synthesise recommendations which follow logically from the research	Sound demonstration of an ability to synthesise recommendations which follow logically from the research	Excellent and rigorous demonstration of an ability to synthesise recommendations which follow logically from the research
LO6: • prepare a clear, well presented report or project (such as documentary) or artefact (such as sculpture) which communicates the ideas, problems, solutions and results in an accessible manner (to both specialist and non-specialist audiences).			
Fail: 0 – 49%	Pass: 50 – 59%	Merit: 60 – 69%	Distinction: 70 – 100%

<p>Does not demonstrate an ability to prepare a clear, well presented report or project (such as documentary) or artefact (such as sculpture) which communicates the ideas, problems, solutions and results in an accessible manner (to both specialist and non-specialist audiences).</p>	<p>Limited demonstration of an ability to prepare a clear, well presented report or project (such as documentary) or artefact (such as sculpture) which communicates the ideas, problems, solutions and results in an accessible manner (to both specialist and non-specialist audiences).</p>	<p>Sound demonstration of an ability to prepare a clear, well presented report or project (such as documentary) or artefact (such as sculpture) which communicates the ideas, problems, solutions and results in an accessible manner (to both specialist and non-specialist audiences).</p>	<p>Excellent and rigorous demonstration of an ability to prepare a clear, well presented report or project (such as documentary) or artefact (such as sculpture) which communicates the ideas, problems, solutions and results in an accessible manner (to both specialist and non-specialist audiences).</p>
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### **Hand in Process and Submission of Assessed Work**

All assessment assignments must be submitted via an electronic 'drop box' on the Virtual Learning Environment to meet the date and time as published in your Teaching, Learning and Assessment Handbook. Where CDs, DVDs or other project materials are submitted as part of the project, these should, where possible, be submitted in triplicate, enabling both of the main markers and the External Examiner to receive copies. These must be presented by the specified date and time to the postgraduate administration office. In the event the Postgraduate administration team are unavailable a member of faculty will be nominated to accept submissions in advance of each deadline date.

### **Turnitin**

Turnitin (<http://www.turnitinuk.com/>) is an Internet-based 'originality checking tool' which allows documents to be compared with content on the Internet, in journals and in an archive of previously submitted works. It can help to detect unintentional or deliberate plagiarism.

It is a formative tool that makes it easy for students to review their citations and referencing as an aid to learning good academic practice. Turnitin produces an 'originality report' which may be necessary to be attached to your coursework and your tutors will advise you on how to access and use Turnitin where required for your studies. To learn more about Turnitin go to: <https://help.turnitin.com/Home.htm>

## Late Work/Extenuating Circumstances

If your participation in an examination or assessment has been affected by an extenuating circumstance, then you can ask the University to take this into consideration. You can submit a claim for extenuating circumstances to cover late submission of work, non-submission of work or non-attendance at a time specific assessment, such as an examination, test presentation or performance, or field class.

Information regarding the Extenuating Circumstances policy and how and where to submit Extenuating Circumstance Claims are available

here: <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/student-life/your-studies/essential-information/exams/exam-rules-and-regulations/extenuating-circumstances>

Where there are no valid extenuating circumstances, the following regulations will automatically apply:

- Work submitted after the deadline date/time but within 24 hours of it, will be capped at the pass mark 50%
- Work submitted 24 hours after the deadline will receive a mark of zero.

Students must notify the programme & module leader of any extenuating circumstances as soon as possible.

## Sources of Guidance and Support

Students and academic staff will work closely together to make best use of Seminars, personal tutorials, DAS and LD to modify any assessment modes and/or provisions required.

Students are encouraged to make use of the wider Schumacher opportunities including but not limited to sister programmes including MA Ecological Design Thinking, short-courses and vocational programmes; and the broad level of facilities available on the Dartington estate including cinema, social entrepreneur programmes and many other resources and services available.

## Referencing Protocols and Academic Offences

When writing a report or an essay you are expected to fully reference the materials you have used. The report or essay should be your own work, in your own words.

Plagiarism is an offence under the University regulations on examination and assessment offences. It is important that you familiarise yourself with what constitutes plagiarism, and academic offences. Further information can be found:

<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/student-life/your-studies/essential-information/regulations/plagiarism>

And <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/student-life/your-studies/essential-information/exams/exam-rules-and-regulations/examination-offences>

## Reading List; Recommended Texts/Support Materials

### Key resource list

Daniel Barbezat Wanting: Teaching Economics as Contemplative Inquiry

<http://www.contemplativemind.org/archives/1517>

Bryman, A. (2008) *Social Research Methods*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edn. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

IIED (1997) *Valuing the Hidden Harvest: Methodological Approaches for Local level Economic Analysis of Wild Resources*. Research Series Vol 3 No 4.

David Holmgren, Future Scenarios <http://www.futurescenarios.org/>

Lyson, Welsh and Torres, Scale of Agricultural Production, Civic Engagement, and Community Welfare

Mason, J. (2002) *Qualitative Researching*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edn. London: Sage.

Moser, C.A. and Kalton, G. (1993) *Survey Methods in Social Investigation*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edn. London: Heinemann.

Claire Petitmengin & Michel Bitbol, The Validity of First-Person Descriptions as Authenticity and Coherence File

Reason P. And Bradbury H. (eds) (2008) *The Sage Handbook of Action Research*, Sage Publications, London.

Reason P. & H. Bradbury (Eds.), *Handbook of Action Research: Participative Inquiry and Practice* (pp. 1-14). London: Sage 2001 (the copy of this on the website is a typescript)

Reason, P., & Canney, S. (in preparation 2015). *Action Research and Ecological Practice* In H. Bradbury (Ed.), *Sage Handbook of Action Research*. London: Sage Publications

Jonathan Smith (Ed.), *Qualitative Psychology: A Practical Guide to Methods*. London: Sage Publications.

Silverman, D. (ed.) (2004) *Qualitative Research – Theory, Method and Practice* (London: Sage)

Francisco J. Varela and Jonathan Shear, *First-person Methodologies: What, Why, How?* File 95.2KB PDF document

## Module Feedback

We value what our students say: you share your feedback we act upon it. Part of the feedback process includes Module Evaluation. A link to the form and details of where to submit can be found here:

<https://open.schumachercollege.org.uk/course/view.php?id=186>

## GUIDELINES ON FORMATTING FOR THE PRODUCTION AND SUBMISSION OF DISSERTATIONS

### **Cover page**

Refer to submission details.

### **Title page**

The title page must provide a title relevant to the topic as well as the student's full name, the name of the course, the college and university and the year of submission.

### **Abstract**

Your abstract must be between 110 and 120 words. It should summarise concisely the topic/phenomenon that was investigated, the key results, and the main conclusions reached.

### **Acknowledgements**

All acknowledgements, including sources of funding, assistance received from colleagues/supervisor appear immediately after the abstract.

### **Table of contents**

This is simply an outline of the headings with relevant page numbers.

### **List of tables/figures**

If you have tables or figures you will want to include a separate page giving their titles and relevant page numbers.

Information relating to all of the following categories is normally required in a dissertation. The following sequence is conventionally regarded as a good model, however, it may not suit all purposes and the precise format of a final dissertation is a matter of personal choice to be discussed and agreed with your supervisors.

**Five** distinct elements are expected to be included in any dissertation, though it is not strictly necessary that each be addressed in distinct and discrete sections or in the following order:

- Introduction
- Literature review
- Methodology
- Findings and discussion
- Conclusion

*Followed by references and appendices outlined below.*

The following instructions are relevant in those cases where the conventional route to dissertation writing is favoured and the elements listed above are addressed discretely and sequentially.

## **INTRODUCTION**

- The heading for this section is simply **INTRODUCTION** (in upper case and in bold).
- The purpose of this section is to set the stage/context for the main discussion. This May be achieved by discussing previous literature and by highlighting the project's importance and/or value and/or contribution to its related field of study.
- This section should end by outlining the project aims and objectives and by detailing an outline of the structure of the thesis.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

- The heading for this section is simply **LITERATURE REVIEW** (in upper case and in bold).
- It provides a critical assessment of the relevant bodies of knowledge and theoretical frameworks pertinent to your research problem. It is not enough simply to report the literature in a "who said what" manner. At Master's level you are required to synthesise and draw your own conclusions on the key areas within your topic.

## **METHODOLOGY**

- The heading for this section is simply **METHODOLOGY** (in upper case and in bold).
- It should justify and explain both your approach and choice of methods in relation to both primary and secondary data.
- It should be presented in such a way that the reader would be able to replicate what you have done should they wish to do so. Thus, detail is important, as are those things that did not work or could have been improved. Thus, it is essential to demonstrate reflection and critical awareness in your methodology by discussing limitations and issues of reliability and validity.

- The subjects in the study should be described together with the criteria and method of selection
- It should discuss ethical issues and justify ethical approaches where appropriate.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

- The heading for this section is as '**FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**' (in upper case and in bold).
- It should present your data and findings in a clear and appropriate manner, but more importantly you are providing the reader with the analysis of these data/findings and a discussion that is set within the context of the literature review and methodology.
- This discussion is subtitled as appropriate. This is the penultimate section of the dissertation. It is here that you demonstrate to the reader your discoveries.

## **CONCLUSION**

- The heading for this section is simply **CONCLUSION** (in upper case and in bold).
- This section can begin with a restatement of the research problem, followed by a summary of the research conducted and the findings.
- It then proceeds to make concluding remarks, offering insightful comments on the research theme, commenting on the contributions that your study makes to the formation of knowledge in the holistic science field, and may also suggest research themes/challenges in years ahead.
- This section need not be limited to one or two paragraphs. The contribution of your project deserves to be insightfully featured here.

## **TABLES AND FIGURES**

- Tables and figures should be numbered and given a brief one-line descriptive title. Example:  
Table 1. *UK National Parks*  
Figure 1. *The Study Area in the South Hams*
- Data in tables should be presented in columns with non-significant decimal places omitted.
- All table columns should have brief headings
- Tables should be kept as short as possible (i.e. no more than a single side).
- Important details should be footnoted under each table or figure, using alphabetic superscripts to connect the footnote to the relevant term/figure in the table. References to sources of information should appear at the bottom of the table. Example: Source: Smith (2013: 203).
- Tables and figures generated by the author need not be sourced.
- All illustrations or graphical representations should be referred to as figures.

## REFERENCES

- It is vitally important that you refer to sources of literature wherever possible. This may be achieved throughout the dissertation's text and/or in a list of references that appear at the end of the dissertation.
- Please note that you should provide a list of only those references that you have cited in your dissertation. You are neither asked for, nor should you provide a bibliography, which is all the material you consulted during the research process.
- You should follow the **Harvard** system of referencing.

## APPENDICES

- You should think carefully why appendices are needed. References, copy of questionnaire, interview transcripts are required but should not 'pad out'.
- Appendices should be numbered, titled and have page numbers that follow from the main text.

## FONT SIZE, SPACING AND WORD COUNT

- The report must be typed 1.5 spacing, font size 12, on A4 paper, with at least 2.5cm left hand margin and with consecutive page numbers.
- The word limit for the dissertation on MA Economics for Transition is **15,000 to 20,000 words** not including tables, list of references, contents or appendices.

The ability to write clearly and succinctly, but also in a readable style is an important academic skill. With this skill comes the ability to put forward powerful, focused arguments, to select the best and most relevant case studies to support an argument, and to write in a style accessible to as wide an audience as possible.

A word count need not hamper creativity – it should be something that requires attention in the editing and proof reading stage of writing for students: checking that the completed assignments answer the intended question in a readable, clear and concise manner. If the initial assignment was devised with a word limit in mind, students should have less difficulty producing a highly effective answer which keeps close to that word limit.

Ensuring that students keep to the word limit as far as possible also ensures equity between all students doing an assignment. A word limit reflects the scope of the assignment: it gives all students a clear indication of the maximum length of a piece of assessed work, the amount of work expected and therefore how much detail they should go into and how they should allocate time to one piece of assessed work in relation to others.

Beyond academia, certain vocations require people to write clearly and concisely, sometimes to a strict word limit. Therefore in terms of employability, this is a useful skill for students to develop.

## OTHER STYLE GUIDELINES

- **Abbreviations/acronyms** – should appear in full on first appearance followed by acronym in brackets. If you are only going to use once or twice then only use full name.
- **Third person** – Normally, the dissertation is written in the third person. Exceptions to this guideline can be discussed with your dissertation supervisor.
- **Terms** – unfamiliar terms, especially those in foreign languages, should appear in *italics*, followed with their meaning in English in parenthesis.  
Example.....*modiriat* (Management).....
- **Spelling** – ensure you spell check your report using UK spelling.
- **Numbering** – Do not number each paragraph.

It is intended that these dissertation guidelines enable a wide variety of types of investigation. For example, these may include empirical research; contributions to theoretical or experiential knowledge; applied projects (such as the development of a business plan for a social or environmental enterprise) and artistic projects (such a documentary on an issue related to the holistic science). Your supervisor is there to help you structure and plan your work within the dissertation guidelines.

## SUBMISSION OF DISSERTATION

**Four bound copies and one electronic copy of your dissertation must be submitted**

The title of the project, the name of the student and the programme studied must appear on the front cover.

**Four** bound copies and **one** electronic copy (with the raw data on the VLE/CD) of the dissertation must be submitted to the **Postgraduate Administration office at Schumacher College by 12 noon UK time on Monday, August 24, 2020.**

**Late submissions, within 24 hours of the deadline**, will be capped at 50%.  
**After 24 hours, or if a submission is not made**, the dissertation will be marked as zero.

**Sending your dissertations by post.** Dissertations posted to the College must be sent by the deadline of **12 noon UK time**; the postmark must clearly demonstrate that the deadline was met. Dissertations must be sent by the most reliable method available; tracked and signed for where possible. We cannot take responsibility for dissertations that go missing in the post and would suggest that you obtain a receipt as proof of postage.

**Please note: the failure to present the work in the form specified or another form agreed beforehand by your supervisor will result in marks being lost. Also,**

**students are reminded that academic offences, including plagiarism are treated very seriously by The University of Plymouth. A student who is proven to have committed an academic offence may be placing his or her degree in jeopardy. It is your responsibility as a student to make sure that you understand what constitutes an academic offence, and in particular, what plagiarism is and how to avoid it. The University of Plymouth regulations on plagiarism and other academic offences are included in the Schumacher College and University of Plymouth Partner Student Handbook under 'Academic Matters'. If you still do not understand what constitutes an academic offence, please consult your supervisor.**

### **Plagiarism**

As a general guide, to avoid plagiarism students should observe the following:

Use their own words to express widely held concepts and general information obtained from lectures and books.

When reproducing verbatim extracts from books, lectures or original papers, these should be placed in quotation marks.

Formally acknowledge (by means of reference) all sources of information.

### **MARKING OF YOUR DISSERTATION**

The dissertation will be read by your supervisor and also by a second marker. If the supervisor and the second marker cannot agree a mark, then a 3<sup>rd</sup> academic will be asked to act as an independent arbiter and make a judgement on the piece of work.

Once all dissertation marks have been agreed, a selection of dissertations will be sent to the External Examiner for moderation. The selection is agreed with each External Examiner independently but it is most common they request a selection from the top, middle and bottom two marking bands.

### **ETHICAL APPROVAL**

#### **Ethical principles for research involving human participants**

**Following discussions with your supervisor you may be advised or directed to submit for ETHICAL APPROVAL through the College's Ethics Committee. Where required, please submit for approval through the College's Postgraduate Administration team as soon as possible and where possible, no later than end of Term 2.**

#### **Informed consent**

The researcher should, where possible, inform potential participants in advance of any features of the research that might reasonably be expected to influence their willingness to take part in the study.

Where the research topic is sensitive, the ethical protocol should include verbatim instructions for the informed consent procedure and consent should be obtained in writing.

Where children are concerned, informed consent must be obtained from parents or teachers acting in loco parentis.

### **Openness and honesty**

So far as possible, researchers should be open and honest about the research, its purpose and application.

Some types of research appear to require deception in order to achieve their scientific purpose. Deception will be approved in experimental procedures only if the following conditions are met:

- Deception is completely unavoidable if the purpose of the research is to be achieved.
- The research objective has strong scientific merit.
- Any potential harm arising from the proposed deception can be effectively neutralised or reversed by the proposed debriefing procedures.

Failing to inform participants of the specific purpose of the study at the outset is not normally considered to be deception, provided that adequate informed consent and debriefing procedures are proposed.

Covert observation should be resorted to only where it is impossible to use other methods to obtain essential data. Ideally, where informed consent has not been obtained prior to the research it should be obtained post hoc.

### **Right to withdraw**

Where possible, participants should be informed at the outset of the study that they have the right to withdraw at any time without penalty.

In the case of children, those acting in loco parentis or the children themselves if of sufficient understanding, shall be informed of the right to withdraw from participation in the study.

### **Protection from harm**

Researchers must endeavour to protect participants from physical and psychological harm at all times during the investigation.

Note that where stressful or hazardous procedures are concerned, obtaining informed consent (1) whilst essential, does not absolve the researcher from responsibility for protecting the participant. In such cases, the ethical protocol must specify the means by

which the participant will be protected, e.g. by the availability of qualified medical assistance.

Where physical or mental harm nevertheless does result from research procedure, investigators are obliged to take action to remedy the problems created.

### **Debriefing**

Researchers should, where possible, provide an account of the purpose of the study as well as its procedures. If this is not possible at the outset, then ideally it should be provided on completion of the study.

### **Confidentiality**

Except with the consent of the participant, researchers are required to ensure confidentiality of the participant's identity and data throughout the conduct and reporting of the research.

Ethical protocols may need to specify procedures for how this will be achieved. For example, transcriptions of the interviews may be encoded by the secretary so that no written record of the participant's name and data exist side by side. Where records are held on computer, the Data Protection Act also applies. (<https://www.gov.uk/data-protection/the-data-protection-act>)

**Please note:** One copy of your dissertation is held and available publically in the College library unless it contains confidential or sensitive material which means that it should not be publically available.

### **Confidential Dissertation Form**

Where Researchers have obtained permission to access sensitive organisational information that must remain confidential, the Researcher must agree and complete a 'Confidential Dissertation Form' outlining the agreed distribution, handling of the final dissertation and its ultimate destruction. This should be agreed in line with both the organisation and Schumacher College. Forms can be obtained from the Postgraduate Administration Office or on the Open area of the V.L.E.

### **Ethical principles of professional bodies**

This set of principles is generic and not exhaustive of considerations which apply in all disciplines. Where relevant professional bodies have published their own guidelines and principles, these must be followed and the current principles interpreted and extended as necessary in this context.

### **Application for Ethical Approval of Research: Postgraduate Dissertations**

<b>Name of Student:</b>	
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To the best of our knowledge and belief, this research conforms to the ethical principles laid down by The University of Plymouth.

Student: ..... Signed: ..... Date:.....

Please print your name.

Supervisor: ..... Signed: ..... Date:.....

Please print your name.