PROGRAMME OVERVIEW 2024

Introduction

The NWU UARM Master's Programme in Applied Risk Management (MARM) is designed specifically for the further educational needs of full-time employees who wish to enter or grow in a senior risk-management-related role. Employers and applicants need to understand what will be required from students to be able to support them to succeed in the programme.

MARM aims to address organisations' requirements for risk management expertise. Companies struggle to find suitably qualified candidates for these roles and often have to rely on employees who learn about risk and risk management on the job. Higher education programmes have traditionally focused on the more quantitative financial risk aspects such as mathematical risk modelling but increasing organisational complexity means that this is no longer enough. The aim of this programme is therefore to satisfy the need for formal qualitative risk academic programmes as risk management is an inherently multi- and inter-disciplinary occupation. Correspondingly, risk managers come from many different academic backgrounds. Students from all sectors are allowed to enrol for a UARM MARM degree. We focus on developing the knowledge, skills and values that employees need to optimally contribute to their organisational risk-related roles.

This letter provides an overview of the practical requirements to participate in the NWU UARM Master's Programme in Applied Risk Management. Please read the information carefully.

Should you have questions about the programme or the application process, please contact: Neels Erasmus at uarm@nwu.ac.za or NeelsErasmus@outlook.com, or phone +27 82 571 1197.

Programme Overview

We offer the MCom in Applied Risk Management which was accredited by the South African Qualifications Authority in 2016. More information on the degree is available at http://commerce.nwu.ac.za/uarm

MARM Contact Sessions – Overview

- Approach: Professional adult education – Facilitated workshop structure, expert guest lecturers
- There are six modules in the first year, each consisting of one contact session which, except for the first module, will run from Wednesday afternoon to Friday. The contact session for the first module will run from Thursday to Saturday.
- The Intro Day is presented on campus in Vanderbijlpark to allow you to get to know the campus and do the necessary admin at the postgraduate office.
- The rest of the contact sessions are usually presented at the IBTC or the Institute of Risk Management (IRMSA)'s offices in at 144 Katherine Street, Sandton (or another suitable venue) in Johannesburg.
- Each module deliverable is a research report on a topic applied to the student's work environment. The research report is presented during the next contact session.
- The second year is devoted to research that leads to a mini-dissertation. Research projects are usually done within the student's organisations, thereby adding value to the organisation. Such projects will be submitted for approval to the organisation and may be classified as confidential should the organisation wish to do so. The contact sessions of the second year are designed to assist the student to successfully complete your dissertation in one year.

Programme requirements

This is an intensive two-year contact-based master's programme. The following is expected from the applicant and her/his employer to give the student an optimal chance to be successful in the programme:

1. This master's programme will require on average 1800 hours to complete over two years. This includes time spent on preparation for the on-site contact sessions, the contact sessions, assignments per module and the mini-dissertation.
2. The applicant will be required to take study leave of 15 workdays for year one of the degree and 10.5 workdays for year two to be able to attend contact sessions – i.e., 25.5 workdays in total over two calendar years. If a student cannot attend a class, the module leader will have to be notified and there is no option for hybrid sessions. (Note: these numbers may change as the programme develops and should be regarded as the current best estimate. Second year students should e.g. be expected to also have to take time off to consult with their mini-dissertation supervisors.).
3. The minimum duration allowed for a part-time master's programme is two years and the maximum enrolment time allowed is four years.
4. Students may select to spread the first year's six modules over two years, if necessary, as long as they do the first two modules (811 and 812) in year 1. The first-year modules have to be completed for students to be allowed to register for the mini-dissertation.
5. Students, who have not completed all the modules and/or mini-dissertation at the end of the year that they registered for the module, will be required to register for the outstanding modules and/or dissertation for another year until the programme has been completed.

6. The student will need a laptop and electronic access to e-mail and the internet as part of her/his studies.
7. The student will be expected to do applied research projects in her/his work environment for module assignments and the mini-dissertation. Individual companies, organisations and research participants will not be identified in research reports so that confidentiality is maintained in the assignments.
8. From the university's perspective it is important that all research is conducted in accordance with the NWU's formal ethical clearance process to avoid harm to the participants, the organisations they work for and the university itself, whilst the organisation typically has concerns regarding safeguarding of commercially-sensitive research results. The following two sections document the governance applicable to the two situations.

Module assignment research projects

9. The first-year module assignments are small-scale research projects designed to teach the students the skills necessary for the next year's mini-dissertation. It is preferable if the student can do their assignments in the environment that they work in - depending on the assignment, the research methods may include interviews, questionnaires and document analysis. The student will ask the organisation for permission to do research projects within the organisation. In such cases the lecturer responsible for the module have to sign off the method, tools and approach to be used before they are applied to ensure that the project satisfies the Faculty's ethical requirements. These requirements include confidentiality and anonymity of information, protection of vulnerable persons, obtaining permission to do research from participants and organisations, and protection of the reputation of participants and organisations. The research results will not be published, and the assignments are purely used for teaching and learning purposes of students. As a result, we do not obtain formal NWU ethics clearance numbers for non-dissertation module-based assignments as these assignments are not published. The student must also agree not to share research results outside the participant organisation without the necessary permission.

Mini-dissertation research project

10. This involves obtaining a formal NWU ethical clearance number based on an approved research proposal. An agreement with the organisation that the research may be done under condition of approval by the organisation will be obtained prior to the research conducted for the mini-dissertation, for example whether the anonymised research report may be published, or not.

Candidates are encouraged to share this document with their employers to secure their support, as this could aid the student significantly to conduct research in the organisation for assignments and help with the successful completion of the programme.