

MODULE SPECIFICATION PROFORMA

Module Title:	Research Methods	Level:	7	Credit Value:	30
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Module code:	SOC729	Is this a new module?	Yes	Code of module being replaced:	
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Cost Centre:	GAPL	JACS3 code:	L220	HECoS code:	100491
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School:	Social and Life Sciences	Module Leader:	Emma Taylor
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Scheduled learning and teaching hours	30hrs
Guided independent study	270hrs
Placement	0hrs
Module duration (total hours)	300hrs

Programme(s) in which to be offered	Core	Option
MA Public Service Leadership	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>

Pre-requisites
None

Office use only

Initial approval: 26/07/2018

With effect from: 01/01/2019

Date and details of revision:

Version no: 1

Version no:

Module Aims

- To develop critical abilities to interrogate sources of knowledge and hierarchies of evidence.
- Develop critical ability in principles of project design, data collection and data analysis in the qualitative and quantitative research and the objective/subjective research paradigms.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Key skills for employability

- KS1 Written, oral and media communication skills
 KS2 Leadership, team working and networking skills
 KS3 Opportunity, creativity and problem solving skills
 KS4 Information technology skills and digital literacy
 KS5 Information management skills
 KS6 Research skills
 KS7 Intercultural and sustainability skills
 KS8 Career management skills
 KS9 Learning to learn (managing personal and professional development, self-management)
 KS10 Numeracy

At the end of this module, students will be able to

Key Skills

1	Identify and critically debate quantitative and qualitative methodological approaches.	KS1	KS6
		KS9	KS10
2	Interpret and analyse the concepts of reliability and validity.	KS1	KS5
		KS6	KS10
3	Critically explore approaches to data collection and data analysis.	KS1	KS5
		KS6	KS9
4	Critically discuss ethical research constructs.	KS1	KS6
		KS9	KS3

Transferable/key skills and other attributes

Investigative skills

IT skills

Writing skills Research

Project planning/ management

Data collection/ manipulation/presentation

Derogations

None

Assessment:

1. Write a research proposal
2. Complete an ethics application form.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)	Duration	Word count (or equivalent)
1	1-3	Proposal	75%		6,000
2	4	Ethics application	25%	NA	NA

Learning and Teaching Strategies:

Students will be encouraged and supported to learn through the use and analysis of information to reach informed decisions that are influential, effectively communicated to demonstrate a professional and independent approach with leadership acumen of relevance to the elected programme route.

Formal delivery of theory related to research concepts and theory via a series of lectures.

Discussion to explore and question the links between theory and practice.

Practical computing exercise using software packages, of individual relevance, to enable students to experience and work with various analytical techniques.

An active learning environment will be developed to support proposals

Syllabus outline:

Major sources of knowledge, positivistic, naturalistic paradigms, features of qualitative and quantitative research, inductive/deductive approaches. Research process, validity and reliability, sampling methodology, research design including experimental approach, surveys, correlation studies, systematic reviews, historical research, action research, phenomenology, grounded theory and ethnographs. Research methods including interviews, observation and questionnaire design. Qualitative and quantitative data analysis methods, ethics.

Essential reading

Bell, J and Waters, S. (2018) *Doing Your Research Project: A Guide for First-Time Researchers*, (7th edn), Milton Keynes, Open University Press

Bryman, A. (2015) *Social Research Methods* (4th ed.) Oxford, Oxford University Press.

Robson, C. (2016) *Real World Research* (4th ed.) London, Blackwell

O'Leary, Z. (2017) *The Essential Guide to Doing your Research Project*, (3rd edn), London, Sage

Other indicative reading

Field, A. (2009) *Discovering statistics Using SPSS* (3rd edn.), London, Sage

Gray D.E. (2017) *Doing Research in the Real World*, (4th edn), London, Sage

Hinton, P (2014) *Statistics Explained: A Guide for Social Science Students*, (3rd edn), London, Routledge

Oliver, P. (2010) *The Student's Guide to Research Ethics*, (2nd edn), Maidenhead, Open University Press