

Prifysgol Wreccsam Wrexham University

Module specification

When printed this becomes an uncontrolled document. Please access the **Module Directory** for the most up to date version by clicking on the following link: [Module directory](#)

Module Code	SWK615
Module Title	Dissertation
Level	6
Credit value	40
Faculty	Social and Life Sciences
HECoS Code	100503
Cost Code	GASW

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Is the module core or option for this programme
BA (Hons) Social Work: Qualified Status	Core
BA (Hons) Social Welfare (exit/alternative award)	Core

Pre-requisites

None

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	24 hrs
Placement tutor support	0 hrs
Supervised learning e.g. practical classes, workshops	0 hrs
Project supervision (level 6 projects and dissertation modules only)	12 hrs
Total active learning and teaching hours	36 hrs
Placement / work based learning	0 hrs
Guided independent study	364 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	400 hrs

For office use only	
Initial approval date	16/08/23
With effect from date	01/09/23

For office use only	
Date and details of revision	
Version number	1

Module aims

To enable students to utilise previous learning to assist in the completion with guidance and supervision, of an extended piece of critical independent study into an area of social work/welfare. This will facilitate the development of ideas, understanding, and in-depth, critical thinking within a chosen area of interest.

Module Learning Outcomes - at the end of this module, students will be able to:

1	Produce an extended, critical investigation into a key aspect of their chosen field of study, including a critical evaluation of argument, assumptions and concepts.
2	Conduct and record a narrative literature review that comments on particular aspects of current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline.
3	Synthesise information by deploying accurately established techniques of analysis and inquiry.
4	Have a good awareness of reflexivity and the role that values and experiences play in the production of knowledge, and the impact this may have on social work/social care.

Assessment

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

This section outlines the type of assessment task the student will be expected to complete as part of the module. More details will be made available in the relevant academic year module handbook.

Assessment - Dissertation on chosen area of investigation, as identified in the final assignment of Research for Social Work Practice module (Level 5). Word count: 7000 words +10%.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)
1	1, 2, 3, 4	Dissertation/Project	100%

Derogations

Only two attempts at the assignment.

This module must achieve at least 40% pass mark for each assessment, and is not eligible for compensation

Learning and Teaching Strategies

A range of teaching and learning strategies will be utilised in this module but following initial classroom based teaching, it will primarily involve independent research activities to prepare and develop the skills of research and conducting an in-depth inquiry. These will be supported by on-going tutorials/seminars with an allocated supervisor.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- Developing an understanding of the identified topic worthy of investigation through the critical investigation of issues and dilemmas in social work;
- From research topic to research question: what is it I want to find an answer to and how will I gather and present my evidence?
- Developing a critical understanding of existing evidence in the student's chosen topic through the process of conducting a thorough and extensive literature review.;
- Putting the dissertation together: how to structure the dissertation effectively and keep the research question focused throughout.
- The importance of reflexivity – the role of the researcher in the production of knowledge.
- Ongoing supervisory support in the construction of the dissertation and production of the final submission. Students are enabled to develop their own particular critical understanding of a highly contextualised element of social work. Dissertations are likely to have a practice/methods-based focus, or theory orientation, but all will have to actively consider social work practice, and work within an anti-oppressive framework with consideration of Welsh context.

Indicative Bibliography:

Please note the essential reads and other indicative reading are subject to annual review and update.

Essential Reads

Carey, M. (2013), *The Social Work Dissertation: Using Small-Scale Qualitative Methodology*, 2nd ed. Maidenhead: Open University Press.

Other indicative reading

Aveyard, H. (2014), *Doing A Literature Review in Health and Social Care: A Practical Guide*, 3rd ed. Maidenhead: Open University Press

Best, S. (2012), *Understanding & Doing Successful Research: Data Collection and Analysis for the Social Sciences*. London: Pearson.

Denscombe, M. (2014), *The Good Research Guide: For Small-Scale Social Research Project*. Buckingham: Open University Press.

Hart, C. (2006), *Doing a Literature search: A Comprehensive Guide for the Social Sciences*. London: Sage.

Kiteley, R. and Stogdon, C. (2014), *Literature Reviews in Social Work*. London: Sage.

McLaughlin, H. (2012), *Understanding Social Work Research*, 2nd ed. London: Sage.

Webber, M. (2014), *Applying Research Evidence in Social Work Practice*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Employability – the University Skills Framework

Each module and programme is designed to cover core Graduate attributes with the aim that each Graduate will leave the University having achieved key employability skills as part of their study. The following attributes will be covered within this module either through the content or as part of the assessment. The programme is designed to cover all attributes and each module may cover different areas.

Core Attributes

Engaged
Enterprising
Creative
Ethical

Key Attitudes

Commitment
Curiosity
Resilience
Confidence
Adaptability

Practical Skillsets

Digital Fluency
Organisation
Critical Thinking
Emotional Intelligence
Communication