

Prifysgol Wreccsam Wrexham University

Module specification

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Module Code	POL606
Module Title	Policing Dissertation Module
Level	6
Credit value	40
Faculty	Faculty of Social and Life Sciences
HECoS Code	100484
Cost Code	GACJ
Pre-requisite module	N/A

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Core/Optional/Standalone
BSc (Hons) Professional Policing	Core

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	12 hrs
Placement tutor support hours	0 hrs
Supervised learning hours e.g. practical classes, workshops	0 hrs
Project supervision hours	6 hrs
Active learning and teaching hours total	18 hrs
Placement hours	0 hrs
Guided independent study hours	382 hrs
Module duration (Total hours)	400 hrs

Module aims

To critically analyse a contemporary policing challenge and propose practical, ethical, and legal solutions to inform operational policing practices.

Module Learning Outcomes

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

1	<p>Critically review the challenges associated with contemporary policing to define a feasible and clear area of research around a policing problem.</p> <p>NPC mapping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention and Problem Solving Understand how to gather, analyse and evaluate relevant information and data 3.1
2	<p>Critically review the evidence base to identify the nature and potential causes of the problem.</p> <p>NPC mapping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention and Problem-Solving Review the application and influence of evidence-based policing: 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.6
3	<p>Critically review seminal and up-to-date research to inform a practical, ethical and legal police response to a particular problematic issue</p> <p>NPC mapping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Police Constable Role and Professional Standards: Critically review key issues relating to the complexity and challenges of operational policing 2.1,
4	<p>Present the findings of a research project on a specific policing issue at student research conference.</p> <p>NPC mapping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention and Problem Solving: Present and disseminate information / data on the identified issue/problem and proposals for resolutions: 6.1

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 1: Dissertation

The undergraduate dissertation research project involves completing a 6000-word literature/theory-based project that does not involve primary or secondary data collection; students will follow a structured format including:

- Chapter 1: Introduction - 1500 words
- Chapter 2: Critical Literature Review - 1500 words
- Chapter 3: Thematic Analysis - 1500 words
- Chapter 4: Discussion and Conclusion -1500 words
- Reference List

Assessment 2: Presentation

On completion of the dissertation, students will conclude the module with a 15-minute viva-style conference in Semester 2, where they will present their dissertation and discuss their key ideas.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Duration/Word Count	Weighting (%)	Alternative assessment, if applicable
1	1, 2, 3	Dissertation/Project	6,000	80%	N/A
2	4	Presentation	15 minutes	20%	N/A

Derogations

Module cannot be compensated.

Both elements of the module have to be passed at 40%.

Learning and Teaching Strategies

At this point in their studies students will have developed their academic and critical skills and be in a position to undertake work as independent learners. Be that as it may support will be provided in the form of formal lectures providing guidance on how to write and present a dissertation and then supervision with a member of the team who will guide the student incrementally through the process of submitting the work.

Welsh Elements

Students are entitled to submit assessments in the medium of Welsh.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- Defining a research problem and developing a rationale
- Contemporary socio-political and policing policy context
- Evidence-based policing and criminal justice research
- Literature searching and evidence identification
- Critical literature review and synthesis
- Evaluation of policy, practice and research evidence
- Ethical and professional considerations in dissertation research
- Structuring and writing a Level 6 dissertation
- Developing conclusions and practice-based recommendations
- Preparing for a student research conference presentation
- Communicating research findings to academic and practitioner audiences

Dissertation Module Timeline (Across Two Semesters)

Semester 1: Foundations and Early Chapter

Week	Session	Focus	Dissertation Chapters
Week 1	Induction Session- in class	Introduction to dissertation, expectations, assessment, choosing a topic	Overview of the dissertation process
Week 2	Independent Study	Topic exploration, initial reading / research – meet with supervisor to discuss dissertation idea.	Begin thinking about Chapter 1
Week 3	Chapters 1 and 2 Workshop in class	How to write Introduction and Conceptual Framework	Chapter 1: Introduction Chapter 2: Conceptual/Theoretical Framework
Weeks 4-5	Independent Study	Develop research aims, refine theoretical focus, begin structured reading – meet with supervisor to review completed drafts of chapter 1 and 2	Chapters 1-2 drafting
Week 6	Chapters 3 and 4 Workshop In class	How to write Literature Review & Analysis	Chapter 3: Critical Literature Review Chapter 4: Thematic/Conceptual Analysis
Weeks 7-12	Independent Study	Deep reading, critical analysis, drafting main body chapters, Meet with supervisor to review completed drafts of chapters 3 and 4	Chapters 1-4 development

Semester 2: Refinement and Completion Phase

Week	Session	Focus	Dissertation Chapters
Week 1	Progress Session – In class	Review progress, planning completion, common challenges	Chapters 1-4 review
Week 2	Independent Study	Continue Writing up and drawing arguments together	Chapters 1-4
Week 3	How to prepare for your conference – session In class	Guided support on how to prepare your 10-minute conference	Chapters 1- 4
Weeks 4-11	Independent Study	Finalising argument, tightening structure, proofreading, refine reference list.	Chapters 1-4
Week 12	Submission	Final checks, submission and present at the end of year conference	Complete dissertation Conference

Indicative Bibliography

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

Essential Reads:

Greetham, B (2020) How to Write your Literature Review. London: Macmillan Study Skills

Young, S (2022) How to Write your Undergraduate Dissertation in Criminology. London: Routledge

Spooner, E. Hughes, C and Jones, P (2020) Police Research and Evidence-Based Policing. St Albans: Critical Publishing.

Other indicative reading:

Lum, C., and Koper, C.S. (2017). *Evidence-Based Policing: Translating Research into Practice*
<http://cebcp.org/wp-content/evidence-basedpolicing/LumKoperEvidenceBasedPolicing.pdf>

Administrative Information

For office use only	
Initial approval date	15 August 2024
With effect from date	September 2024
Date and details of revision	April 2026: AM2 to update learning outcomes, structure, and alignment with professional frameworks.
Version number	02