

Prifysgol Wreccsam Wrexham University

Module specification

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Module Code	ANM534
Module Title	Contemporary Research
Level	5
Credit value	20
Faculty	SLS
HECoS Code	100962
Cost Code	GAAN

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Is the module core or option for this programme
BSc (Hons) Equine Science and Welfare Management	Core
BSc (Hons) Animal Behaviour, Welfare and Conservation	Core

Pre-requisites

None

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	30 hrs
Placement tutor support	0 hrs
Supervised learning e.g. practical classes, workshops	0 hrs
Project supervision (level 6 projects and dissertation modules only)	0 hrs
Total active learning and teaching hours	30 hrs
Placement / work based learning	0 hrs
Guided independent study	170 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	200 hrs

For office use only	
Initial approval date	15/5/24



For office use only	
With effect from date	September 2024
Date and details of revision	
Version number	1

Module aims

This module aims to enable students to develop their knowledge and understanding of research methods and associated ethical implications. It will equip them with sufficient capability to plan a research project in their field of study. They will define a research question, assess appropriate qualitative and quantitative methodologies and select a suitable method that would enable data to be collected to answer the research question. Data handling and presentation of findings will also be included in the module.

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

1	Critically evaluate a range of literature on a chosen topic.
2	Apply relevant knowledge to develop a research question related to a chosen area of interest and connected to your named degree.
3	Design a research proposal suited to investigating a named research question and evaluating associated ethical issues.
4	Evaluate how data may be analysed and presented.

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 one (Learning Outcomes 1 & 2):

Present a summary of literature relevant to a chosen topic in a digital booklet form. Ensure the booklet is introduced and concluded, and all literature is referenced. As part of the booklet a research question must be identified stemming from the literature evaluated. Short paragraphs, bullet points and summary diagrams may be used to critique key themes and present findings (2,000 words).

Assessment two (Learning Outcomes 3 & 4):

Develop a research proposal (2,000 words) relating to the research question devised in assessment one.

The proposal must include the following sections:

- Research question
- Rationale for carrying out the study
- The research design and a justification for choice of data collection method
- A review of how data may be analysed
- A critical discussion of any ethical issues to be considered

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)
1	1, 2	Written Assignment	50
2	3, 4	Written Assignment	50

Derogations

None

Learning and Teaching Strategies

A series of lectures will cover the issues of research methodology; backed up by workshops / seminars giving small groups the opportunity to explore key topics in their field. Relevant case studies will be examined and methodological issues critically analysed. Students will be introduced to data handling packages such as SPSS.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- **Planning research projects:** evidence, models, strategies, designs
- **Sources of data:** published and unpublished data, primary and secondary sources
- **Methods of data collection:** interviews, observation, Case Studies, questionnaires
- **Research Methods:** principles, ensuring validity and reliability, methods of sampling
- **Data Handling and analysis:** introduction to statistical tests
- **Research Presentation and Appraisal:** presentation of data, statistics, research findings
- **Ethical considerations**

Indicative Bibliography:

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

Essential Reads

Bell, J., Waters, S. (2018), *Doing Your Research Project: A Guide for First-time Researchers* (7th Edition). New York: AMACOM Books.

Other indicative reading

Denscombe, M. (2012,) *Research Proposals. A practical guide*. York: McGraw-Hill Education

Thomas, C. G. (2021), *Research Methodology and Scientific Writing*. (2nd Edition) Springer, New York.

Employability – the University Skills Framework

Each module and degree programme are designed to support learners as they develop their graduate skills aligned to the University Skills Framework.

Using the philosophies of the Active Learning Framework (ALF) our 10 skills are embedded within programmes complementing core academic subject knowledge and understanding. Through continuous self-assessment students own their individual skills journey and enhance their employability and career prospects.

This Module forms part of a degree programme that has been mapped against the University Skills Framework.

The Wrexham University Skills Framework Level Descriptors: An incremental and progressive approach.

Learners can use this document to identify where and how they are building skills and how they can develop examples of their success.