Prifysgol **Wrecsam**
Wrexham University

Module specification

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Module Code	ANM612
Module Title	Research Project
Level	6
Credit value	40
Faculty	FSLS
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
BSc (Hons) Top Up Animal Behaviour Welfare and Conservation	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	6 hrs
Project supervision (level 6 projects and dissertation modules only)	6 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**

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Initial approval date	15/5/24
With effect from date	September 2024
Date and details of revision	
Version number	1

Module aims

To develop the ability to critically evaluate research.
To enable a research-based study of a specialised area related to the student's named degree.

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

1	Critically review the literature pertinent to the chosen area of animal research.
2	Critically evaluate relevant research design.
3	Justify a suitable method for data collection and analysis.
4	Analyse and interpret data collected, critically discussing findings in relation to the existing knowledge of animal-based research.
5	Present research in a format appropriate to the discipline.

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. Literature Review.
Literature relevant to the dissertation topic will be critically reviewed and presented it in the form of a written literature review. The choice of review topic must be relevant to their degree programme. (2,000 words)

Assessment 2. Dissertation.
The dissertation will be submitted in the form of a journal article of approximately 4,500 words in length (excluding appendices and references). The journal article will be written up in the style of submissions made to 'Applied Animal Behaviour Science'. It will focus on a suitable research issue, critically review relevant literature, utilise appropriate research methods, analyse data and discuss outcomes. The project will be supported by an abstract. (4,500 words)

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)
1	1,	Written Assignment	25
2	2, 3, 4, 5	Dissertation/Project	75

Derogations

None

Learning and Teaching Strategies

Students will be provided with lectures (e.g. writing up the Research Project and analysing data) and seminars aimed to support them through the research process. In addition to the learning and teaching hours, students will be allocated a research supervisor who may not be the module leader. They will be expected to seek support from their research supervisor outside of the learning and teaching hours. Support will be provided on an individual basis.

During the first semester in particular, this module will be taught closely with the Applied Research Skills and Professional Development module. The actual research proposal and ethics form for the Research Project will be assessed as part of the coursework for the Applied Research Skills and Professional Development module. Ethical clearance status must be achieved prior to the commencement of the Research Project. If students make changes to their proposals prior to starting the Research Project, they must go through the ethics clearance process again.

Students are expected to meet with their research supervisors regularly, and are expected to lead the research process, i.e. they will independently arrive at a suitable theme, be able to justify this choice of topic, specify research questions and/or hypotheses, collect data using an appropriate data collection method, conduct data analysis, and then report on the findings in a format that is consistent with quantitative or qualitative research practices. The supervisor's role is to facilitate the research process and offer students guidance and advice on all aspects of their research project. Throughout this process, the student is expected to demonstrate initiative and independence. This involves preparing thoroughly for supervisory meetings so that students are able to discuss their progress and ideas with their supervisor and respond to questions regarding their decisions and choices.

Exemplar research projects include:

An investigation into the stress responses of horses ridden by riding for the disabled clients and riders without particular needs.

Behavioural and physiological reactions of horses to solarium use.

Riding the Grand National: jockeys' perceptions of the 2012 changes to fences.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

Support seminars could include:

- Managing your research project
- Guidelines for the treatment of animals in behavioural research
- Refining the proposal

- Operationalising qualitative methods
- Operationalising quantitative methods
- Analysis of qualitative data
- Analysis of quantitative data
- Writing up the research project
- Presentation of the research project

Indicative Bibliography:

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

Essential Reads

Bell, J. and Waters, S. (2018), *Doing Your Research Project : A Guide for First-Time Researchers.* Seventh edition. London, England: Open University Press.

Cohen, L., and Mannion, L. (1994), *Research Methods in Education.* London: Routledge.

Kumar, R. (2005), *Research Methodology: A Step-by-Step Guide for Beginners.* (2nd ed.) London: Sage.

Other indicative reading

Dytham, C. (1999). *Choosing and Using Statistics.* Oxford: Blackwell.

Ennos, R. (2007) *Statistical and data handling skills in biology.* 2nd Edition. Essex: Pearson Education Limited.

Martin, P. and Bateson, P. (1986). *Measuring Behaviour: An introductory Guide.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Miles, M.B., and Huberman M. A. (1994). *Qualitative Data Analysis: An Expanded Sourcebook.* California: Sage.

Pallant, J. (2010). *SPSS Survival Manual.* 4th Edition. Maidenhead: Open University Press.

Reference will be made to contemporary research articles from journals such as:

- Applied Animal Behaviour Science
- Animal Welfare
- Equine Veterinary Journal

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.