

Prifysgol Wreccsam Wrexham University

Module specification

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Module Code	SCI720
Module Title	Dissertation: Pilot Study
Level	7
Credit value	40
Faculty	FAST
HECoS Code	101275
Cost Code	GAFS

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Is the module core or option for this programme
MRes Applied Biomedical Sciences Research	Core
MRes Applied Clinical Research	Core
MRes Analytical & Forensic Chemistry	Core
MRes Forensic Anthropology & Bioarchaeology	Core

Pre-requisites

N/A.

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	10 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	10 hrs
Placement / work based learning	0 hrs
Guided independent study	390 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	400 hrs

For office use only	
Initial approval date	7/5/19
With effect from date	1/9/23
Date and details of revision	Approved via MSc Biomedical Science revalidation 17/8/23
Version number	2

Module aims

The purpose of this module is to allow students to begin their primary research, as proposed in the Advanced Research Skills module, on a small scale as a way of preparing before their full scale project. It is intended to help provide the student a chance expand their knowledge of the appropriate practical research methods and also allow them to explore challenges and limitations in the early stages so as to produce a more robust final project.

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

1	Critically investigate the chosen topic in an informed manner appropriate to postgraduate study.
2	Produce detailed and systematic records of work undertaken in a professional or academic format.
3	Explore and evaluate theoretical and practical contributions or developments in a specialised area relevant to their forensic or biomedical science discipline.
4	Appraise outputs and outcomes of research and justify or challenge plans for managing and developing the continued research.
5	Critically review and reflect on their own performance within a specialised research area and evaluate their preparedness for advanced research.

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.

The assessment for this module will be in two parts:

Assessment 1 – Pilot Study Project which develops the ideas proposed as part of the ‘Advanced Research Skills’ module in preparation for your main “Dissertation: Research project” and will be submitted as a laboratory workbook detailing activities undertaken and results produced (3,000 words).

Assessment 2 – Pre-recorded podcast (10 minutes) which offers a critical reflection and evaluation on the pilot study undertaking suggesting appropriate developments and plans for project management as well as discussing your preparedness for continuing research.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)
1	1-3	Written Assignment	70
2	4,5	Presentation	30

Derogations

N/A.

Learning and Teaching Strategies

Introductory lessons will be provided online in order to help students to understand the module requirements and to support their assessments. Learning will be through directed and self-directed study and research based on their specialised area. Students will be allocated a suitable supervisor who will guide them towards resources for the topic where appropriate. Students will be expected to arrange an agreed number of personal tutorials (which could be held over the phone or online) and to share their experiences with other module participants through online seminars throughout the module.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

Students will receive support to develop the necessary knowledge, understanding and skills required to identify, plan and complete the relevant research and learning required. This will include introductory sessions on:

- Note taking
- Data presentation
- Audio Presentations

Indicative Bibliography:

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

Essential Reads

Creswell, J.W. & Creswell, J.D. (2022) *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches, 6th Ed.* SAGE.

Wallace, M. & Wray, A. (2021) *Critical Reading and Writing for Postgraduates, 4th Ed.* SAGE Study Skills Series.

Other indicative reading

Content and reading to be determined in discussion with the tutor with reference to the specialist area identified.

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
Creative
Ethical

Key Attitudes

Commitment
Curiosity
Resilience
Confidence
Adaptability

Practical Skillsets

Digital Fluency
Organisation
Critical Thinking
Emotional Intelligence
Communication