

Prifysgol Wreccsam Wrexham University

Module specification

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Module Code	SCI721
Module Title	Dissertation: Research Project
Level	7
Credit value	60
Faculty	FAST
HECoS Code	100388
Cost Code	GAFS

Programmes in which module to be offered

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

Pre-requisites

Advanced Research Skills

Dissertation: Pilot Study for the MRes routes

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	5 hrs
Placement tutor support	0 hrs
Supervised learning e.g. practical classes, workshops	0 hrs
Project supervision (level 6 projects and dissertation modules only)	15 hrs
Total active learning and teaching hours	20 hrs

Placement / work based learning	0 hrs
Guided independent study	580 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	600 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

To provide the learner with experience of undertaking an advanced piece of original research based upon work produced in the Advanced Research Skills and Dissertation: Pilot Study Module (MRes routes) and Advanced Research Skills (MSc route). To put into practice the knowledge and understanding, practical, intellectual and transferable skills developed throughout the programme within the context of a longer-term project.

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

1	Identify and critically appraise relevant and appropriate research output / publications of importance to the field.
2	Undertake a piece of novel, academically rigorous research to fully meet the agreed project aims and objectives.
3	Demonstrate proficiency in project management and data management skills.
4	Critically interpret own research output in the context of peer-reviewed literature in the field.
5	Communicate research output in a professional manner both orally and in writing.

Assessment

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

Assessment 1: Students may elect to either:

Option A: Prepare a formal dissertation (12000 words) based upon an in-depth literature review and the findings of their research project.

Option B: Complete a journal article (4000 words) based solely upon work undertaken in their research project. The style and formatting of the article are to be agreed with the module leader and must conform to a named and appropriate national / international refereed journal.

Assessment 2:

ALL students will complete a short presentation and oral examination based upon defence of their dissertation. It is expected that this is conducted face-to-face but could be arranged via an online conference where appropriate. (30 minutes).

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)
Option A		Choose an item.	
1	1-4	Dissertation/Project	80
2	5	Presentation	20
Option B		Choose an item.	
1	1-4	Article	80
2	5	Presentation	20

Derogations

N/A

Learning and Teaching Strategies

Students will undertake research in an environment appropriate to their dissertation topic (laboratory, field *etc.*) and will have regular timetabled progress meetings with both their research supervisor and the module leader throughout the module which can be held online or over the phone where appropriate. Occasional online workshops / lectures and directed study exercises will be used to support students through the various stages of undertaking their dissertation project, targeting specific essential skills needed for successful completion of the module.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- Critical reading
- Research Project management
- Data Management and Reporting
- Statistics for Research
- Dissertation Planning
- The peer review process
- Mastering the Viva Voce

Indicative Bibliography:

Essential Reads

Swales, J.M. & Feak, C.B. (2012), *Academic Writing for Graduate Students: Essential Skills and Tasks*, 3rd ed. The University of Michigan Press.

A variety of journals specific to research areas

Other indicative reading

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

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