

## Module specification

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Module Code	SCI721D
Module Title	Dissertation: Research Project
Level	7
Credit value	6
Faculty	FSLS
HECoS Code	100388
Cost Code	GAFS
Pre-requisite module	SCI719 Advanced Research Skills

### Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Core/Optional/Standalone
MSc Biomedical Science	Core

### Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	5 hrs
Placement tutor support hours	0 hrs
Supervised learning hours e.g. practical classes, workshops	0 hrs
Project supervision hours	15 hrs
<b>Active learning and teaching hours total</b>	<b>20 hrs</b>
Placement hours	0 hrs
Guided independent study hours	580 hrs
<b>Module duration (Total hours)</b>	<b>600 hrs</b>

### 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. 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:

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:

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	Duration/Word Count	Weighting (%)	Alternative assessment, if applicable
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1	1-4	Dissertation/Project	12,000 words	80%	Journal Article (4,000 words)
2	5	Presentation	30 minutes	20%	N/A

## Derogations

The pass mark for SCI721 Dissertation: Research Project is set at 50%.

## 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.

## Welsh Elements

Students can complete assessments in the medium of Welsh.

## 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

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

Essential Reads:

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

Other indicative reading:

A variety of journal specific to research areas

### Administrative Information

<b>For office use only</b>	
Initial approval date	07/05/2019
With effect from date	01/09/2023
Date and details of revision	Approved via MSc Biomedical Science revalidation 17/8/23 July 2024: updated Reading List Sept 2025: created SCI721D for MSc Biomedical Science due to the derogation on the pass mark
Version number	4