Module Code:	SCI725

Module Title:	Dissertation: MRes Top-Up

Level:	7	Credit Value:	90

Cost Centre(s):	GAFS	JACS3 **code**: HECoS **code**:	F400 100388

Faculty	FAST	Module Leader:	Dr Ian Ratcliffe

Scheduled learning and teaching hours	20 hrs
Guided independent study	880 hrs
Placement	0 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	900 hrs

Programme(s) in which to be offered (not including exit awards)	Core	Option
MRes Forensic Anthropology & Bioarchaeology (top-up)	✓	☐

Pre-requisites
CYPISH PGDip Forensic Anthropology & Bioarchaeology

Module Aims
The purpose of this module is to allow students to undertake a robust and advanced piece of original primary research. The module will provide the learner with experience of designing and managing longer-term research and will put in to practice the knowledge and understanding, practical, intellectual and transferable skills developed throughout their postgraduate study programme.

Intended Learning Outcomes
Key skills for employability

- KS1   Written, oral and media communication skills
- KS2   Leadership, team working and networking skills
- KS3   Opportunity, creativity and problem solving skills
- KS4   Information technology skills and digital literacy
- KS5   Information management skills
- KS6   Research skills
- KS7   Intercultural and sustainability skills
- KS8   Career management skills
- KS9   Learning to learn (managing personal and professional development, self-management)
- KS10   Numeracy

At the end of this module, students will be able to		Key Skills	
1	Identify and critically appraise relevant and appropriate research output / publications of importance to the field.	KS1	KS4
		KS5	KS6
2	Undertake a piece of novel, academically rigorous research to fully meet the agreed project aims and objectives.	KS3	KS5
		KS6	
3	Demonstrate proficiency in project management and data management skills.	KS3	KS4
		KS5	KS6
		KS10	
4	Critically interpret own research output in the context of peer-reviewed literature in the field.	KS5	KS6
5	Communicate research output in a professional manner both *orally* and *in writing*	KS1	KS4
		KS6	
6	Critically review and reflect on their own performance within a specialised research area.	KS6	KS8
		KS9	

Transferable skills and other attributes
● Time management skills.   ● Interpretation and presentation of written scientific information.   ● Development of IT skills   ● Developing cognitive abilities and skills   ● Independent learning

Derogations
N/A

Assessment:
Indicative Assessment Tasks:

Assessment 1: Students may elect to *either*:
- Prepare a formal dissertation (12000 words) based upon an in-depth literature review and the findings of their research project.
- Complete a journal article (3000 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 research project. It is expected that this is conducted face-to-face but could be arranged via an online conference (such as skype) where appropriate.

Assessment 3:
ALL students will complete a short piece of reflective practice which critically reviews their overall performance and experience of completing their research project. This piece will be in the form of a pre-recorded audio or video presentation.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)	Duration or Word count (or equivalent if appropriate)
1	1-4	Dissertation **OR** Article	70	12000 / 3000
2	5	Oral Assessment	20	30 minutes
3	6	Reflective Practice	10	10 minutes

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.

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 reading
• 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. (2016) Critical Reading and Writing for Postgraduates: SAGE Study Skills Series, 2nd Ed.