

Module specification

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Module Code	EDY609
Module Title	Independent Professional Enquiry
Level	6
Credit value	60
Faculty	Social and Life Sciences
HECoS Code	100459
Cost Code	GACC
Pre-requisite module	N/A

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Core/Optional/Standalone
BA (Hons) Education & Lifelong Learning	Core Module

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	48 hrs
Placement tutor support hours	0 hrs
Supervised learning hours e.g. practical classes, workshops	0 hrs
Project supervision hours	0 hrs
Active learning and teaching hours total	48 hrs
Placement hours	0 hrs
Guided independent study hours	552 hrs
Module duration (Total hours)	600 hrs

Module aims

- To enable students to conceptualise, design, and execute a significant piece of independent, applied professional research or scholarship related to their practice in the Education sector.
- To ensure students acquire a systematic understanding and critical awareness of contemporary research and literature that underpins professional enquiry in education.
- To provide opportunities for students to critically evaluate methodologies and ethical considerations when generating new professional knowledge.
- To enable students to communicate complex arguments and findings to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.

Module Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module, students will be able to:

1	Critically analyse current research and advanced scholarship to justify a focused and feasible research question relevant to professional practice in education.
2	Critically apply an appropriate and ethically sound research methodology to investigate the research question.
3	Critically interpret qualitative and/or quantitative data to generate coherent, evidence-based conclusions.
4	Critically communicate research findings, conclusions and evidence-based professional recommendations to specialist and non-specialist audiences.

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: Applied Research Project

The Applied Research Project is a 10,000 word independent professional enquiry. The submission must demonstrate critical engagement with relevant literature, the application of an appropriate and ethically sound research methodology, systematic analysis and interpretation of data, and the development of coherent, evidence-based conclusions and professional recommendations.

Assessment 2: Oral Presentation

The Oral Presentation consists of a 20-minute presentation of the research project, followed by a question-and-answer session. Students must clearly communicate their research focus, key findings, conclusions and professional recommendations, demonstrating critical understanding of their enquiry.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Duration/Word Count	Weighting (%)	Alternative assessment, if applicable
1	1, 2, 3	Applied Research Project	10,000–12,000 words	80%	N/A
2	4	Oral Presentation	20 minutes + Q&A	20%	

Derogations

N/A

Learning and Teaching Strategies

The module is taught through a combination of research seminars, practical workshops, and one-to-one project supervision. An active learning approach will be used to engage learners in advanced research methodologies and ethics, involving individual critical reflection and collaborative research design activities. The Moodle VLE and other online resources will be available to support the extensive independent research required. The approach aligns with the university's Active Learning Framework (ALF) to provide flexible and accessible support for the independent project.

Welsh Elements

This module is delivered in accordance with the Active Offer principle, ensuring that the Welsh language and culture are visible and embedded throughout the learning experience. Where applicable, content is deeply rooted in the Welsh context, critically evaluating policies such as the Curriculum for Wales and the ALN Act alongside international perspectives. Bilingualism is normalised within lectures through the use of bilingual learning materials, including slide titles and subheadings. Assessment briefs are provided bilingually, and students with fluency or confidence in the language are actively encouraged to submit coursework and presentations in Welsh. All Welsh-medium submissions are marked by fluent staff with feedback provided in Welsh. Additionally, personal tutorials and pastoral support are available through the medium of Welsh with fluent staff members.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- The nature of professional enquiry and research at Level 6.
- Advanced academic reading and synthesis of literature.
- Evaluating theories, models, and approaches to educational research (e.g., action research, qualitative/quantitative methods).
- Research Ethics, integrity, and securing ethical approval.
- Data collection, analysis, and interpretation (e.g., transcription, coding, statistical analysis).
- Constructing effective conclusions, recommendations, and impact statements.
- Strategies for professional dissemination and oral presentation skills.

Indicative Bibliography

Please note the essential reads and other indicative reading are subject to annual review and update. Please *ensure correct referencing format is being followed as per university [Harvard Referencing Guidance](#)*.

Essential Reads

Bell, J. and Waters, S. (2022), *Doing Your Research Project: A Guide for First-Time Researchers in Education and Social Science*. 8th ed. London: Open University Press.



Cohen, L., Manion, L. and Morrison, K. (2018), *Research Methods in Education*. 8th ed. Oxon: Routledge.

Other indicative reading:

Braun, V. and Clarke, V. (2022), *Thematic Analysis: A Practical Guide*. London: Sage.

Walliman, N. (2019), *Your Research Project: Designing, Planning and Getting Started*. 4th ed. London: Sage.

Administrative Information

For office use only	
Initial approval date	6 May 2026
With effect from date	September 2027
Date and details of revision	
Version number	1