

Module specification

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Module Code	HLT713
Module Title	Contemporary Issues and New Directions in Public Service Leadership
Level	7
Credit value	30
Faculty	Social and Life Sciences
HECoS Code	100088
Cost Code	GAHW

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Is the module core or option for this programme
MSc Leadership for Wellbeing	Core
PgDip Leadership for Wellbeing	Core

Pre-requisites

None

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	30 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	30 hrs
Placement / work based learning	0 hrs
Guided independent study	270 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	300 hrs

For office use only	
Initial approval date	15 th Oct 2024
With effect from date	Sept 2025
Date and details of revision	
Version number	1



Module aims

Leading within the public service sector can be both rewarding and challenging. The issues arriving on the agenda of leaders are continually evolving as physical, social, cultural, political, technical and economic environments change. It is vital that leaders are equipped with the knowledge and tools to evaluate, in both breadth and depth, contemporary issues, as well as to spot opportunities to move their service forward and threats that may limit this. This module will start 'at the beginning', asking the question, 'what *really* matters?'. It will then explore what is happening in the public service sector and the legislative and political contexts, before diving deeply into the nature and causes of contemporary public service issues. This will enable the critical consideration of future directions for public service leadership.

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

1	Critically appraise the sector, legislative and political dynamics influencing public service leadership.
2	Comprehensively discuss the nature and causes of contemporary public service issues.
3	Systematically identify threats to, and new directions in, public service leadership.

Assessment

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.

Learners will be required to develop and deliver a 20-minute individual presentation, with 5 minutes for questions at the end, that considers contemporary issues and new directions in public service leadership.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)
1	1, 2, 3	Presentation	100

Derogations

None

Learning and Teaching Strategies

Learners will be required to engage with the Active Learning Classroom (ALC) (approximately 1.5 hours), either by attending the session live, or watching the recording in their own time. Alongside this, both live and online learners will be required to undertake directed study tasks provided on the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) (approximately 1.5 hours), which may include engaging with discussion forums, reading / watching material and answering questions, and reflective / creative activities. The remainder of the module hours should be dedicated by learners to developing and consolidating their knowledge and understanding through independent reading, as well as working on the assessment.



Support mechanisms in place for learners on this module include:

- Written and verbal assessment guidance.
- Access to tutorials with the Module Leader.
- Access to Learning Skills and / or Inclusion Teams.
- Access to Student and Campus Life services.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- What matters?
- Health, mental health, wellbeing and happiness
- The public service sector
- Policy, legislation and politics
- Leadership styles
- Leadership for wellbeing
- Contemporary issues in public services / leadership
- New directions in public services / leadership

Indicative Bibliography:

Essential Reads

Northouse, P. (2021), *Leadership: Theory and Practice*. 9th ed. London: Sage.

Other indicative reading

Jones, B., Norton, P. and Hertner, I. eds. (2021), *Politics UK*. 10th ed. London: Routledge.

Macdonald, I., Burke, C. and Stewart, K. (2018), *Systems Leadership: Creating Positive Organisations*. London: Routledge.

Marmot, M. (2015), *The Health Gap: The Challenge of an Unequal World*. London: Bloomsbury.

Ricard, M. (2015), *Happiness: A Guide to Developing Life's Most Important Skill*. London: Atlantic Books.

Smith, S. (2023), *The Ontology of Well-Being in Social Policy and Welfare Practice*. Cham: Springer.

Wallace, M., Reed, M., O'Reilly, D. et al. (2022), *Developing Public Service Leaders: Elite Orchestration, Change Agency, Leaderism, and Neoliberalization*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

