

MODULE SPECIFICATION PROFORMA

<b>Module Title:</b>	Research Methods	<b>Level:</b>	7	<b>Credit Value:</b>	20
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<b>Module code:</b>	NHS790	<b>Is this a new module?</b>	YES	<b>Code of module being replaced:</b>	N/A
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<b>Cost Centre:</b>	GANG	<b>JACS3 code:</b>	L510
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<b>Trimester(s) in which to be offered:</b>	3	<b>With effect from:</b>	May 17
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<b>School:</b>	Social & Life Sciences	<b>Module Leader:</b>	Vivienne Dacre
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Scheduled learning and teaching hours	30 hrs
Guided independent study	170 hrs
Placement	0 hrs
<b>Module duration (total hours)</b>	<b>200 hrs</b>

<b>Programme(s) in which to be offered</b>	Core	Option
MSc Advanced Practice in the Human Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postgraduate Diploma Advanced Practice in the Human Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postgraduate Certificate Advanced Practice in the Human Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<b>Pre-requisites</b>
None

Office use only

Initial approval July 16

APSC approval of modification *Enter date of approval*

Have any derogations received SQC approval?

Version 1

Yes  No

**Module Aims**

- To introduce, and build on students' knowledge of, research methods used within social science;
- To equip students with a critical understanding of research methodologies, and the research methods underpinning those;
- To equip student to critically appraise research methodologies;
- To prepare students to carry out their own research analysis.

**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

At the end of this module, students will be able to		Key Skills	
1	Evaluate the links between method, data, and outcomes in published research in their own field of practice;	KS1	
		KS5	
2	Critically appraise different methods of research and enquiry in the practice context;	KS1	
		KS6	
		KS5	
3	Appraise current practice and justify or challenge developments in the light of emerging policy, research and practice knowledge;	KS5	
		KS6	
4	Identify a research problem from practice and propose an initial approach to its investigation, including a consideration of any associated ethical issues.	KS3	
		KS6	

Transferable/key skills and other attributes

**Derogations**

N/A

**Assessment:**

Assessment is by one assignment of 3,000 words which will incorporate two elements within it (clearly identified within the assignment brief). The first involves a critique of a published research article and the second will assess the student's ability to devise an appropriate approach to investigating an issue identified in their own field of practice.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)	Duration (if exam)	Word count (or equivalent if appropriate)
1	1,2,3,4	Essay	100%	N/A	3,000

**Learning and Teaching Strategies:**

This module is delivered online and will use a variety of teaching and learning strategies – an initial online module priming lecture will be supported by online research study materials available through the University's approved VLE. These will include online lectures, directed reading, online discussions, online tutorials and self-directed learning. There will be feedback from engagement exercises and VLE forums. Feedback from formative assessment.

- e-mail support – as required
- telephone support – as required
- VLE forums – throughout the course

**Syllabus outline:**

Paradigms of Research  
Ethical considerations  
Validity and bias in research  
The systematic literature review  
Utilising questionnaires in research  
Interviews, focus groups and observations  
Data analysis and the SPSS environment  
Psychometrics and Probability Theory  
ANOVAs and ANCOVAs  
Writing your Research Proposal

**Bibliography:**

**Essential reading**

Denscombe, M. (2009) *Ground rules for social research: Guidelines for good practice*. Second Edition. Maidenhead: Open University Press.

Hart, C (1998) *Doing a literature review: Releasing the social science research imagination*. London: Sage Publications.

Walliman, N. (2011) *Research methods the basics*. London: Routledge.

**Other indicative reading**

Bersoff, D.N. (2004) *Ethical conflicts in psychology*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Field, A. (2009) *Discovering statistics using SPSS*. London: Sage.

Harris, P (2002) *Designing and reporting experiments (2nd ed)*. Milton Keynes, UK: Open University Press.

Howell, D.C (2007) *Statistical methods for psychology (6th ed)*. Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadworth.

McLeod, J. (2001) *Qualitative research in counselling and psychotherapy*. London: Sage.

Robson, M. A., Cook, P., Hunt, K.F., Alred, G. and Robson, D. (2000) 'Towards ethical decision making in counselling research. *British Journal of Guidance and Counselling*, Vol.28, No.4, pp. 533-547.

Rosnow, R.L. and Rosenthal, R. (1997) *People studying people: Artifacts and ethics in behavioural research*. New York: W.H. Freeman.

Seale, C. (2004) *Researching society and culture*. London: Sage.

Seale, C. (2004) *Social research methods: A reader*. London: Routledge.

Sternberg, R.J. (2010) *The psychologist's companion: A guide to writing scientific papers for students and researchers*. New York: Cambridge University Press.