

Module specification

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Module Code	COU620
Module Title	Research Methods
Level	6
Credit value	20
Faculty	FSLS
HECoS Code	100495
Cost Code	GACG
Pre-requisite module	N/A

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Core/Optional/Standalone
Counselling Top-up	Core

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	24 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	24 hrs
Placement hours	0 hrs
Guided independent study hours	146 hrs
Module duration (Total hours)	200 hrs

Module aims

This module aims to provide students with the basic knowledge and confidence to approach, quantitative and qualitative analyses in the context of applied research methods. The module will provide students with a brief overview of historical, philosophical and ethical issues with coverage of primarily qualitative research design and practical issues in a variety of research contexts, appropriate to level 6 study.

Module Learning Outcomes

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

1	Critically appraise research methods and methodology applied to a range of research topics
2	Demonstrate ethical awareness and understanding in relation to Counselling research.
3	Critically discuss the philosophical approaches to research and their application to counselling practice.

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 will be given a selection of small tasks to complete, assessing their ability to find and interpret statistical data both quantitatively and qualitatively.

Assessment 2:

Students will be asked to complete a 15-minute presentation, evidencing their research into a chosen area of study within Counselling. They will present the current findings into the area to the rest of the student group, and 2 lecturers.

Students will be expected to deliver this presentation to the whole group, however there are a number of options available for submission, students can present this as a poster presentation, PowerPoint or leaflet. Students will need to confirm with the module lead their choice for presentation prior to the day of submission.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Duration/Word Count	Weighting (%)	Alternative assessment, if applicable
1	1 & 2	Portfolio	2000 words	50%	N/A
2	3	Presentation	15 minutes	50%	N/A

Derogations

N/A

Learning and Teaching Strategies

Students will receive weekly lectures (1 hour), followed by a weekly activity (1 hour) such as a seminar, practical workshop, or demonstration.

Students will also learn via self-directed study through independent reading and the completion of assignments. Individual tutorials will be available to students as an additional point of contact if requested by the student.

Welsh Elements

Students can present assessed and non-assessed work in Welsh, and can access all forms, resources, and email correspondence in Welsh where preferred. Students are also able to undertake personal tutorials and, where applicable, work placements through the medium of Welsh. All module information aligns with the Welsh language expectations set out in the programme specification, and appropriate support is available to ensure students can fully engage with the module in their chosen language.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- Basic Quantitative Methods: ethical and philosophical approaches to statistical analysis, questionnaire design and psychometrics
- Qualitative Methods: qualitative philosophy, interview schedules, observation practices, focus groups, thematic analysis, phenomenology, interpretative phenomenological analysis, grounded theory, narrative analysis.
- The nature and practice of mixed methods.
- The role of ethics in research.
- Publishing and professional research practice.

Indicative Bibliography

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

Essential Reads:

McLeod, J. (2022). *Doing Research in Counselling and Psychotherapy*. 4th Ed. Sage.

Other indicative reading:

Bright, G. & Harrison, G. (eds.) (2013) *Understanding Research in Counselling. Counselling and Psychotherapy Practice Series*. London: Learning Matters.

Administrative Information

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Initial approval date	April 2026
With effect from date	September 2026



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Date and details of revision	
Version number	1.0