

Module specification

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Module Code	COU701
Module Title	Research Methods
Level	7
Credit value	20
Faculty	FSLS
HECoS Code	100495
Cost Code	GACG
Pre-requisite module	None

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Core/Optional/Standalone
MSc in Counselling	Core

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	36hrs
Placement tutor support hours	0hrs
Supervised learning hours e.g. practical classes, workshops	0 hrs
Project supervision hours	0 hrs
Active learning and teaching hours total	36 hrs
Placement hours	0 hrs
Guided independent study hours	164 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.

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 research.
3	Critically discuss the philosophical approaches to research and their application to counselling practice.

Assessment

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

Assessment 1: Portfolio. 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: Presentation. Students will be asked to complete a 15-minute presentation, evidencing their research into a chosen area of study within Counselling. This presentation will be recorded online and submitted with an audio recording alongside the presentation.

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.

Attendance: attendance and participation are requirements of the course because they evidence the number of training hours received for potential future individual accreditation with professional bodies.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Duration/Word Count	Weighting (%)	Alternative assessment, if applicable
1	1,2	Portfolio	1000	50%	N/A
2	3	Presentation	15-minutesa	50%	N/A
3		Attendance		PASS/FAIL	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 will be able to submit their work in Welsh.

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. Please refer to the Module handbook for relevant academic year for the latest reading list.

Essential Reads

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

Other indicative reading

British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy. (2019). *Ethical Guidelines for Research in the Counselling Professions*. BACP

British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy. (2018). *Ethical Framework for the Counselling Professions*. BACP.

Administrative Information

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