

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	GASC
Pre-requisite module	N/A

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Core/Optional
MSc Counselling	Core

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	36 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	36 hrs
Placement / work based learning	0 hrs
Guided independent study	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	Develop 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:

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.

Presentation

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.

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.

Attendance

Attendance must be passed at 80% or above.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Duration/Word Count	Weighting (%)	Alternative assessment, if applicable
1	2, 3	Presentation	15 mins	50%	N/A
2	1	Portfolio		50%	N/A
3		Attendance		Pass/Refer	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.

Essential Reads

McLeod, J. (2015), *Social Research Methods*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Other Indicative Reading

Bell, J. (2010), *Doing Your Research Project: A Guide for First-time Researchers in Education and Social Science*. 5th ed. Milton Keynes: Open University Press.

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

Bryman, A. (2012), *Social Research Methods*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Timulak, L. (2008), *Research in Psychotherapy & Counselling*. London: Sage.

Vossler, A. & Moller, N. (2015), *The Counselling and Psychotherapy Research Handbook*. London: Sage.

Administrative Information

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