

Module Code:	PSY750
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Module Title:	Research Methods
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Level:	7	Credit Value:	20
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Cost Centre(s):	GAPS	JACS3 code:	C831 100959
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Faculty:	Social & Life Sciences	Module Leader:	Dr Natalie Roch
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Scheduled learning and teaching hours	8.5 hrs
Guided independent study	291.5 hrs
Placement	0 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	300 hrs

Programme(s) in which to be offered (not including exit awards)	Core	Option
MSc Psychology (Conversion)	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>

Pre-requisites
None.

Office use only

Initial approval: 12/02/2019
With effect from: 23/09/2019
Date and details of revision:

Version no: 1
Version no:

Module Aims

- To enable students' to develop their knowledge and understanding of research methodologies and research methods used within psychology, in order that they can go forward to conduct an independent piece of research.
- To equip students with the ability to appraise research findings and develop an understanding of research design and analysis, as well as developing the student's ability to analyse data from both quantitative and qualitative research.
- To gain a critical understanding of research ethics and their importance.

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	Critically evaluate the use of different methods and methodologies (to include quantitative and qualitative) for specific questions and areas of practice and apply this to research articles.	KS1	KS5
		KS2	KS6
2	Differentiate between sampling procedures and their statistical relevance	KS5	
		KS6	
3	Demonstrate the ability to analyse data using quantitative and qualitative methods	KS3	KS4
		KS10	
		KS6	
4	Discuss the interpretation of findings and implications of data analysis, synthesising this interpretation with relevant literature.	KS6	
		KS5	
		KS10	
5	Demonstrate appropriate use of methods of data presentation	KS6	
		KS3	
		KS4	

Transferable skills and other attributes

Communication skills
IT skills including SPSS
Presenting and interpreting data

Derogations

MSc Psychology Conversion: Students are required to pass the module with a minimum pass mark of 50% to meet BPS requirements and eligibility to apply for BPS Graduate membership.

Assessment:

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

Students will be required to complete coursework, indicative pieces of work included within the assessment may include:

1. An essay critically appraising a piece of psychological research.
2. A research report based on data collected during the residential session.
3. A portfolio of quantitative and qualitative tasks supported by practical sessions and online tutorials.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)	Duration	Word count (or equivalent if appropriate)
1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Coursework	100%	N/A	4,000

Learning and Teaching Strategies:

A variety of teaching and learning strategies will be adopted in this module including lectures, tutorials, case studies, directed and self-directed learning. The prime strategy will be 'learning by doing', this will be achieved through structured practical/workshop sessions that will be supported by workbooks. Students will also be able to access support outside of the face-to-face contact via online support and resources.

Syllabus outline:

Covered at the residential:

- Hypothesis testing
- Statistical inference
- Confidence intervals
- Selecting appropriate analyses
- Experimental design control, sampling, error, power
- Statistics in research parametric and non-parametric
- Introduction to SPSS and data analysis
- Data presentation and discussion of findings.

- Qualitative research – methodologies, qualitative data analysis, reliability, validity

Covered via online support and resources:

- Research methods and methodologies
- Ethics in research methods
- Quasi experimental designs
- SPSS and data analysis continued
- Factor analysis
- Secondary data analysis
- Common methods for dealing with missing data

Indicative Bibliography:

Essential reading

Coolican, H. (2013). *Research methods and statistics in psychology* (5th ed.). Abingdon: Routledge.

Field, A. (2013). *Discovering statistics using IBM SPSS statistics* (4th ed.). London: Sage.

British Psychological Society. (2018). *BPS Code of Ethics and Conduct*. BPS

British Psychological Society. (2014). *Code of Human Research Ethics*. BPS

Other indicative reading

Aronson, E., & Ellsworth, P.C. (1990). *Methods of research in social psychology* (2nd ed.). London: McGraw-Hill.

Colman, A.M. (1995). *Psychological research methods and statistics*. London: Longman.

Harris, P. (2008). *Designing and reporting experiments* (3rd ed.). Maidenhead: Open University Press.

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

Students will also be directed to other relevant reading dependent on the nature of the data to be analysed for their research report.

Journal

No specific journals required for this module but every opportunity will be taken to introduce students to original articles.