Prifysgol **Wrecsam**
Wrexham University

Module specification

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Refer to guidance notes for completion of each section of the specification.

Module Code	PSY772
Module Title	Research in Psychology 1
Level	7
Credit value	20
Faculty	Social and Life Sciences
HECoS Code	100497
Cost Code	GAPS

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Is the module core or option for this programme
MSc Psychology (conversion)	Core

Pre-requisites

None

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	8.5 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	**8.5** hrs
Placement / work based learning	0 hrs
Guided independent study	191.5 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	200 hrs

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Initial approval date	15th May 2024
With effect from date	September 2024
Date and details of revision	
Version number	1

Module aims

To enable students to develop their knowledge and understanding of research methodologies and research methods used within psychology. Student will be introduced to the nature, philosophy and scope of research methods in psychology. Students will gain an appreciation for the different philosophical positions that underpin research, as well as the fundamentals and principles of different approaches, covering both qualitative and quantitative methodologies. The module will enable students to acquire knowledge and understanding of the research process and research methods, including an understanding of the considerations that underpin planning and designing research. Students will gain a critical understanding of ethics and research conduct and will gain an appreciation for current debates in research.

Students will develop a critical understanding of different approaches to data analysis within psychological research. The module will enable students to consider both qualitative and quantitative analysis methods and will gain practical data analysis skills and confidence in knowing what analysis method is appropriate given the research question posed. The module will enable students to acquire an appreciation of the strengths and limitations of these different approaches, including both parametric and non-parametric methods.

Module Learning Outcomes - at the end of this module, students will be able to:

1	Analyse and interpret data using the appropriate quantitative and quantitative methods given the research question and design presented.
2	Critically evaluate the use of different methods and methodologies for specific questions and areas of practice and apply this to research articles.
3	Evaluate the interpretation of findings and implications of data analysis, synthesising this interpretation with relevant literature.
4	Critically evaluate existing literature and psychological theory, utilising this evaluation to inform a research question
5	Critically evaluate research methodologies, using this to inform the design of a research proposal for an independent empirical project

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.

1. Portfolio – Students will be required to work through a portfolio of tasks that will demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of both qualitative and quantitative data analysis methods and practical research skills. Tasks included in this assessment may comprise elements such as:

- Ethical considerations with psychological research
- Data analysis and interpretation using quantitative methods such as t-test and correlation
- Data analysis and interpretation using qualitative methods such as thematic analysis and content analysis
- Evaluate different methodologies and their appropriateness for given research questions
- Provide interpretation of findings and synthesise these with existing literature.

2. Written Assignment – 2000 word Research Proposal, students will be required to complete a research proposal of their desired research project idea for their dissertation.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)
1	1,2,3,	Portfolio	50
2	4,5	Written Assignment	50

Derogations

None

Learning and Teaching Strategies

A variety of teaching and learning strategies will be adopted in this module including lectures, tutorials, case studies, workshops, and directed and self-directed learning. The University's Active Learning Framework (ALF) is embedded with asynchronous and synchronous teaching, which supports the blended learning nature of this module. Students will also learn by engaging in remote discussions via forums on the VLE (Moodle), accessing webinars/presentations/recorded lectures shared by the module leader, and completing independent reading into the topic.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- Philosophical assumptions, fundamentals and principles underpinning research
- How to approach planning and designing research

- Ethics and conduct
- Debates in research
- Understanding literature
- Seminal experiments in psychology.
- Data collection and analysis considerations for research
- Introduction to quantitative analysis methods and statistics, including descriptive statistics, hypothesis testing, interval estimation and confidence intervals, and significance testing
- Introduction to inferential statistics (including t-test, correlation, chi square)
- Introduction to qualitative analysis methods, including different approaches to analysis, thematic analysis and content analysis
- Strengths and limitations of the different methods of analysis
- Data analysis and reflexivity.
- Secondary data analysis
- Practical research skills
- The publication process including current issues in publication

Indicative Bibliography:

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

Essential Reads

Banyard, P., Dillon, G., Norman, C., & Winder, B. (Eds.). (2024). *Essential Psychology*. (4th ed.). SAGE.

Bourne, V. (2017). *Starting out in methods and statistics for psychology: A hands-on guide to doing research*. Oxford University Press.

Field, A. (2024*). Discovering statistics using IBM SPSS statistics* (6th ed.). SAGE

Sullivan, C., & Forrester, M. A. (Eds.). (2018). *Doing qualitative research in psychology: A practical guide* (2nd ed.). SAGE.

Willig, C. (2022). *Introducing qualitative research in psychology* (4th ed.). Open University Press.

Other indicative reading

Braun, V. & Clarke, V. (2013). *Successful qualitative research: A practical guide for beginners*. SAGE.

Clark-Carter, D. (2024). *Quantitative psychological research: The complete student's companion* (5th ed.). Psychology Press.

Horst, J.S., (2015). *The psychology research companion: From student project to working life*. Routledge.

Some resources through the medium of Welsh can be found at www.porth.ac.uk, which is the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol resource portal.