

Module specification

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Module Code	PSYON704
Module Title	Research Proposal
Level	7
Credit value	15
Faculty	FSLS
HECoS Code	100959
Cost Code	GAPS
Pre-requisite module	N/A

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Core/Optional/Standalone
MSc Psychology	Core
MSc Psychology with Educational Principles	Core
MSc Psychology with Forensic Principles	Core

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	15 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	15 hrs
Placement hours	0 hrs
Guided independent study hours	135 hrs
Module duration (Total hours)	150 hrs

Module aims

This module supports students in developing an appropriate research proposal that will form the basis of the dissertation. This module will provide support and guidance on conducting a literature review, identifying and constructing an appropriate methodology, and development of a data analysis plan. Students will also be required to submit an ethics application alongside the proposal. Feedback will be provided that can be utilised to improve the quality feasibility, and ethical standards of the project as needed.

Module Learning Outcomes

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

1	Produce a research proposal focused on a substantive question in a relevant area of psychology, with appropriate scope.
2	Produce a critical, balanced, and well thought out research proposal as the basis for the dissertation
3	Apply ethical principles to research and demonstrate satisfactory consideration of potential ethical issues and mitigations

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.

Students will be expected to submit a completed research proposal, that includes a literature review, methods section, ethical considerations and data analysis plan (2500 words).

Students enrolled on MSc Psychology with Educational Principles and MSc Psychology with Forensic Principles programmes should propose a study on a topic within the relevant discipline.

In addition, students will be required to submit a complete ethics application. The ethics application must demonstrate consideration of specific ethical problems and mitigations, that must require only minor amendments to pass. The ethics application must also include all additional supplementary documents. While this is a formative assessment within this module, students **will not** be able to continue with PSYON712 Dissertation without ethical approval.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Duration/Word Count	Weighting (%)	Alternative assessment, if applicable
1	1,2, 3	Written Assignment	2500	100	NA

Derogations

The minimum mark you need achieve for each module will be one of the following:

- 50%.
- A pass grade (normally only in place where an assessment is competency-based)

Learning and Teaching Strategies

The overall learning and teaching strategy will include adherence to the asynchronous elements of Active Learning Framework via a series of micro-lectures, directed reading and activities. There will be a mix of supporting materials along with directed study for students to complete as they work through the material and undertake the assessment tasks. The use of a range digital tools within the virtual learning environment together with additional sources of reading will also be utilised to promote breadth and depth of learning.

Welsh Elements

In line with the University's Welsh Medium Scheme, students will be offered the opportunity to submit assessments through the medium of Welsh. This will be drawn to the attention of students through the student handbook.

For those students wishing to engage with the subject area via the medium of Welsh, additional resources will be made available via www.porth.ac.uk, which is the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol resource portal

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- Conducting a literature review
- Constructing a research proposal
- Developing a research design and methodology
- Creating a data analysis plan
- Ethical review process

Indicative Bibliography:

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

Essential Reads

McMillan, K., & Weyers, J. (2015). How to Complete a Successful Research Project. Pearson

The books below have been chosen to support specific types of research project. It is likely you will only need to purchase one to support your dissertation.

For experimental research projects

Harris, P., Easterbrook, M. J., & Horst, J. S. (2021). Designing and reporting experiments in Psychology (3rd ed.). Routledge.

For questionnaire-based research projects

Patten, M. L. (2016). Questionnaire Research: A Practical Guide (4th ed.). Taylor & Francis.

For qualitative research projects

Sullivan, C., & Forrester, M.A. (2018). Doing qualitative research in psychology [2nd ed.]. SAGE.

Administrative Information

For office use only	
Initial approval date	June 2026
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