PRIFYSGOL glyndŵr UNIVERSITY

**MODULE SPECIFICATION FORM**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Module Title: Research Project | Level: 6 | Credit Value: 40 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Module code: SPT603 (if known) | Cost Centre: GAAN | JACS2 code: X210 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Semester(s) in which to be offered: 1,2 | With effect from: September 2012 |

| | |
|---|---|
| ***Office use only:*** To be completed by AQSU: | Date approved: August 2013<br>Date revised: -<br>Version no: 1 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Existing/New: Existing | Title of module being replaced (if any): |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Originating Academic area: | Sport and Exercise Sciences | Module Leader: | Tamsin Young |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Module duration (total hours) | 400 | Status: core/option/elective (identify programme where appropriate): | Core |
| Scheduled learning & teaching hours | 40 | | |
| Independent study hours | 360 | | |
| Placement hours | 0 | | |

| |
|---|
| Percentage taught by Subjects other than originating Subject (please name other Subjects): |

| | |
|---|---|
| Programme(s) in which to be offered:<br>BSc (Hons) Equine Science and Welfare Management<br>BSc (Hons) Equestrian Psychology | Pre-requisites per programme (between levels): None |

| | |
|---|---|
| BSc (Hons), FdSc<br>Animal Studies<br>BSc Wildlife and plant<br>Biology | |

Module Aims:

1. To develop the ability to critically evaluate research .
2. To enable a research-based study of a specialised area related to the student's named degree.

**Expected Learning Outcomes**

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

Knowledge and Understanding:

1. Critically review the literature pertinent to the chosen area of research.
2. Critically evaluate relevant research design and justify a suitable method for data collection and analysis. Analyse and interpret data collected, critically discussing findings in relation to the existing knowledge.
3. Present research in a format appropriate to the discipline.

Transferable/Key Skills and other attributes:

Time management; independent learning skills; accept responsibility for own independent learning; communicate effectively and appropriately; retrieve and use information from a variety of sources.

**Assessment:**

**Assessment 1. Literature Review.**
Literature relevant to the dissertation topic will be critically reviewed and presented it in the form of a written literature review. The choice of review topic must be relevant to their degree programme.
**Assessment 2. Dissertation.**
The dissertation will be submitted in the form of a journal article of approximately 4,500 words in length (excluding appendices and references). The journal article will be written up in the style of submissions made to 'Applied Animal Behaviour Science'. It will focus on a suitable research issue, critically review relevant literature, utilise appropriate research methods, analyse data and discuss outcomes. The project will be supported by an abstract.

| Assessment number | Learning Outcomes to be met | Type of assessment | Weighting | Duration (if exam) | Word count (or equivalent if appropriate) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1,2 | Literature Review | 25% | | 2,000 |
| 2 | 3-6 | Dissertation | 75% | | 4,500 |

**Learning and Teaching Strategies:**

Students will be provided with lectures (e.g. writing up the Research Project and analysing data) and seminars aimed to support them through the research process. In addition to the learning and teaching hours, students will be allocated a research supervisor who may not be the module leader. They will be expected to seek support from their research supervisor outside of the learning and teaching hours. Support will be provided on an individual basis.

During the first semester in particular, this module will be taught closely with the Applied Research Skills and Professional Development module. The actual research proposal and ethics form for the Research Project will be assessed as part of the coursework for the Applied Research Skills and Professional Development module. Ethical clearance status must be achieved prior to the commencement of the Research Project. If students make changes to their proposals prior to starting the Research Project, they must go through the ethics clearance process again.

Students are expected to meet with their research supervisors regularly, and are expected to lead the research process, i.e. they will independently arrive at a suitable theme, be able to justify this choice of topic, specify research questions and/or hypotheses, collect data using an appropriate data collection method, conduct data analysis, and then report on the findings in a format that is consistent with quantitative or qualitative research practices. The supervisor's role is to facilitate the research process and offer students guidance and advice on all aspects of their research project. Throughout this process, the student is expected to demonstrate initiative and independence. This involves preparing thoroughly for supervisory meetings so that students are able to discuss their progress and ideas with their supervisor and respond to questions regarding their decisions and choices.

Exemplar research projects include:

<u>An investigation into group housing of horses</u>
This would be useful as a way of suggesting an alternative to stabling horses individually which has welfare implications. It could involve a comparison between horses stabled individually and those group housed. Suitable measures to make comparisons between environments would be behavioural analysis or heart rate.

<u>Behavioural reactions of horses ridden by novice and intermediate riders</u>
This would be useful as a way of identifying potential welfare problems for horses ridden frequently by novice riders. Behavioural analysis of horse reaction to a standardised sequence of ridden exercises could take place together with analysis of rider position and balance.

<u>Traditional shoeing, a thing of the past for horses?</u>
This would contribute to the growing interest in barefoot trimming for horses as opposed to shoeing. An extensive literature review together with an online questionnaire to horse owners would enable an investigation of the topic to take place.

**Syllabus outline:**

Support seminars could include:

- Managing your research project
- Guidelines for the treatment of animals in behavioural research
- Refining the proposal
- Operationalising qualitative methods
- Operationalising quantitative methods
- Analysis of qualitative data
- Analysis of quantitative data
- Writing up the research project
- Presentation of the research project

**Bibliography**


Essential reading:

Bell, J. (1999). *Doing Your Research Project*. Milton Keynes: Open University Press.

Cohen, L., and Mannion, L. (1994). *Research Methods in Education*. London: Routledge.

Kumar, R. (2005). *Research methodology: A step-by-step guide for beginners*. (2nd ed.) London: Sage.

Other indicative reading:

Dytham, C. (1999). *Choosing and Using Statistics.* Oxford: Blackwell.

Ennos, R. (2007) *Statistical and data handling skills in biology. 2nd Edition*. Essex: Pearson Education Limited.

Martin, P. and Bateson, P. (1986). *Measuring Behaviour: An introductory Guide.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Miles, M.B., and Huberman M. A. (1994). *Qualitative Data Analysis: An Expanded Sourcebook*. California: Sage.

Pallant, J. (2010). *SPSS Survival Manual. 4th Edition*. Maidenhead: Open University Press.

Reference will be made to contemporary research articles from journals such as:

- Applied Animal Behaviour Science
- Animal Welfare
- Equine Veterinary Journal