

Module specification

When printed this becomes an uncontrolled document. Please access the **Module Directory** for the most up to date version by clicking on the following link: [Module directory](#)

Module Code	SPT629
Module Title	Independent Discovery
Level	6
Credit value	40
Faculty	FSLS
HECoS Code	100433
Cost Code	GASP
Pre-requisite module	N/A

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Core/Optional/Standalone
BSc (Hons) Sport and Exercise Science	Core
BSc (Hons) Football Coaching and the Performance Specialist	Core
BSc (Hons) Sports Coaching and Fitness	Core
BA (Hons) Football and Community Development	Core

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	12 hrs
Placement tutor support hours	0 hrs
Supervised learning hours e.g. practical classes, workshops	14 hrs
Project supervision hours	3 hrs
Active learning and teaching hours total	29 hrs
Placement hours	0 hrs
Guided independent study hours	371 hrs
Module duration (Total hours)	400 hrs

Module aims

- Develop students' knowledge of and ability to apply research methods in sporting contexts.

- Enhance the student's ability to identify an issue to which solutions and/or recommendations can be addressed.
- Integrate and further develop aspects of the taught programme through the independently led completion of the dissertation project.
- Develop students' initiative and independence in their learning through selecting and implementing a suitable research topic.
- Culminate in a thorough, comprehensive, and relevant dissemination of the student's work.

Module Learning Outcomes

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

1	Select a contemporary topic through a critical review of the pertinent literature.
2	Use appropriate methods to collect data that address the research hypothesis or question.
3	Analyse collected data effectively
4	Critically discuss the significance of research findings in the context of existing studies.
5	Use an appropriate academic writing style to document the research undertaken.

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.

Dissertation - The student will independently research an area that has sporting relevance. A critical literature review of this area will allow the student to identify a research question(s) or hypothesis(es). Upon identification of the topic, the student will then implement the correct method(s) of data collection to allow investigation of the research question/hypothesis. Through analysis and interpretation of their collected data, the student will position their research alongside what is currently understood within peer-reviewed publications. The research process will be documented through the observed writing style of the chosen discipline (5,000 words).

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Duration/Word Count	Weighting (%)	Alternative assessment, if applicable
1	1 - 5	Dissertation/Project	5000 words	100	N/A

Derogations

N/A

Learning and Teaching Strategies

The module is self-directed. During the year, the student can expect up to eight hours of personal tutor (supervisor) time (in the form of individual meetings and online support). Twelve hours of taught content covering numerous topics (e.g. academic writing, formatting a dissertation, conducting a literature review, sample size, working with your supervisor) and fourteen hours of supervised learning.

There will be a seminar programme to facilitate discussion amongst students using similar data collection and analysis techniques. This will act as a catalyst for the establishment of student-led peer support groups. In addition, the student is encouraged to attend refresher lectures and seminars pertinent to the chosen research area that are running as part of the Level 5 research skills module.

Confirmation and evidence must be provided that their submission is solely their own work e.g. progress reports, development versions, and documented supervisor meetings.

Welsh Elements

The programmes will be delivered through the medium of English. Students are entitled to submit assessments in the medium of Welsh. If students wish to converse in Welsh, they will be assigned a Welsh speaking personal tutor. Support can also be made available for Welsh language students via Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol where students can present their research at their conferences through the Welsh Language. Students will be sign posted to relevant opportunities via the VLE and MS Teams page.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- Ethical considerations
- Approaches to completing a research study in sports.
- Appropriate construction of a dissertation research project.
- Analysis of quantitative data
- Analysis of Qualitative data
- Validity and reliability of quantitative methods in research and independent study.
- Formatting a dissertation
- Conducting a literature review
- Avoiding plagiarism

Indicative Bibliography

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

Essential Reads

Field, A. (2024). *Discovering Statistics Using IBM SPSS Statistics*: 6th Ed. London: Sage.

Other indicative reading

Andrews, D. L. Mason, D. S. Silk, M. L. (2005). *Qualitative methods in sports studies*. Oxford: Berg.

Chivers, B. Schoolbred, M. (2007). *A Students Guide to Presentations*. California: Sage Publications

Cohen, L. Manion, L. Morrison, K. (2017). *Research Methods in Education*. 8th Ed. London: Routledge.

Denzin, N. K. and Lincoln, Y. S. (2017). *Handbook of qualitative research*. 5th Ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Gratton, C. Jones, I. (2010). *Research methods for sport studies*. 2nd Ed. London: Routledge.

O'Donoghue, P. (2012). *Statistics for Sport and Exercise Studies: An introduction*. London: Routledge.

Reinhart, S. (2013). *Giving Academic Presentations*. Michigan. The University of Michigan Press.

Veal, A. Darcy, S. (2014). *Research Methods in Sport Studies and Sport Management a Practical Guide*. London: Routledge.

Specific research articles recommended according to topic of study.

Administrative Information

For office use only	
Initial approval date	08/12/2021
With effect from date	01/09/2022
Date and details of revision	June 2022 – added to newly validated BSc (Hons) Coaching: Sport and Fitness programme. 18/07/2025 – module updated with sports validation for Sept 2025
Version number	3