

Module specification

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Module Code	SCI557
Module Title	Research Methods
Level	5
Credit value	20
Faculty	FSLS
HECoS Code	100962
Cost Code	GAFS
Pre-requisite module	N/A

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Core/Optional/Standalone
BSc (Hons) Forensic Science	Core
BSc (Hons) Forensic Science with Placement Year	Core
BSc (Hons) Biochemistry	Core
BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science	Core

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	30 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	30 hrs
Placement hours	0 hrs
Guided independent study hours	170 hrs
Module duration (Total hours)	200 hrs

Module aims

This module aims to equip students with a foundational understanding of in the principles and practices essential for conducting academic research. and provide support in preparing them for their dissertation. The module will introduce Through a structured exploration of research theory and methodology, students will learn to formulate research questions, design and implement research strategies, and critically evaluate analytical techniques. Students will further develop skills in hypothesis testing, data interpretation, and ethical considerations. The module prepares students for the independent research demands of a Level 6 dissertation.

Module Learning Outcomes

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

1	Critically assess the rationale for the proposed research.
2	Formulate a set of aims and objectives.
3	Justify selected research methodology.
4	Identify appropriate method of data analysis.
5	Demonstrate project management skills by developing a realistic timeline.
6	Conduct a thorough risk assessment.
7	Prepare an ethical approval application.

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.

Assessment 1:

Proposal to include supporting documentation such as ethical considerations, risk assessment, resource plan etc.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Duration/Word Count	Weighting (%)	Alternative assessment, if applicable
1	1 - 7	Portfolio	2000 word	100%	N/A

Derogations

None

Learning and Teaching Strategies

The learning and teaching on this module will be a mix of in-person and online learning in line with the universities Active Learning Framework.

Welsh Elements

Students are entitled to submit assessments in the medium of Welsh.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- Introduction to Academic Research
- Formulating Research Questions and Hypotheses
- Research Design and Methodological Approaches
- Literature Review and Theoretical Frameworks
- Ethics in Research
- Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategies
- Data Analysis and Interpretation
- Research Proposal Writing
- Project Management

Indicative Bibliography

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

Essential Reads:

Thomas, G. (2022), *How to do your Research Project: A Guide for Students*, London: Sage Publishing.

Other indicative reading:

Machi, L.A. & McEvoy, B.T. (2016), *The Literature Review: Six Steps to Success*. California: Cowin Press:

Bell, J. & Waters, S. (2014), *Doing Your Research Project: A Guide for First-time Researchers*. 6th Edition, Berkshire: Open University Press.

Administrative Information

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Initial approval date	10/05/2023
With effect from date	September 2023
Date and details of revision	April 2025 – updated module including assessment strategy
Version number	2