

Module Code:	SCI721
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Module Title:	Dissertation: Research Project
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Level:	7	Credit Value:	60
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Cost Centre(s):	GAFS	<u>JACS3</u> code:	F400
		<u>HECoS</u> code:	100388

Faculty	FAST	Module Leader:	Dr Ian Ratcliffe
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Scheduled learning and teaching hours	20 hrs
Guided independent study	580 hrs
Placement	0 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	600 hrs

Programme(s) in which to be offered (not including exit awards)	Core	Option
MRes Analytical & Forensic Chemistry	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
MRes Forensic Anthropology & Bioarchaeology	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>

Pre-requisites
Advanced Research Skills Dissertation: Pilot Study

Office use only

Initial approval: 07/05/2019
 With effect from: 01/09/2019
 Date and details of revision:

Version no:1
 Version no:

Module Aims

To provide the learner with experience of undertaking an advanced piece of original research based upon work produced in the Advanced Research Skills and Dissertation: Pilot Study Module. To put into practice the knowledge and understanding, practical, intellectual and transferable skills developed throughout the programme within the context of a longer-term project.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Key skills for employability

KS1	Written, oral and media communication skills
KS2	Leadership, team working and networking skills
KS3	Opportunity, creativity and problem solving skills
KS4	Information technology skills and digital literacy
KS5	Information management skills
KS6	Research skills
KS7	Intercultural and sustainability skills
KS8	Career management skills
KS9	Learning to learn (managing personal and professional development, self-management)
KS10	Numeracy

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

Key Skills

At the end of this module, students will be able to		Key Skills	
1	Identify and critically appraise relevant and appropriate research output / publications of importance to the field.	KS1	KS4
		KS5	KS6
2	Undertake a piece of novel, academically rigorous research to fully meet the agreed project aims and objectives.	KS3	KS5
		KS6	
3	Demonstrate proficiency in project management and data management skills.	KS3	KS4
		KS5	KS6
		KS10	
4	Critically interpret own research output in the context of peer-reviewed literature in the field.	KS5	KS6
5	Communicate research output in a professional manner both <i>orally</i> and <i>in writing</i> .	KS1	KS4
		KS6	

Transferable skills and other attributes

- Time management skills.
- Interpretation and presentation of written scientific information.

Derogations

N/A

Assessment:

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

Assessment 1: Students may elect to *either*:

Option A: Prepare a formal dissertation (12000 words) based upon an in-depth literature review and the findings of their research project.

Option B: Complete a journal article (3000 words) based solely upon work undertaken in their research project. The style and formatting of the article are to be agreed with the module leader and must conform to a named and appropriate national / international refereed journal.

Assessment 2:

ALL students will complete a short presentation and oral examination based upon defence of their dissertation. It is expected that this is conducted face-to-face but could be arranged via an online conference (such as skype) where appropriate.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)	Duration or Word count (or equivalent if appropriate)
Option A				
1	1-4	Dissertation	80	12000
2	5	Oral Assessment	20	30 minutes
Option B				
1	1-4	Article	80	3000
2	5	Oral Assessment	20	30 minutes

Learning and Teaching Strategies:

Students will undertake research in an environment appropriate to their dissertation topic (laboratory, field etc.) and will have regular timetabled progress meetings with both their research supervisor and the module leader throughout the module which can be held online or over the phone where appropriate. Occasional online workshops / lectures and directed study exercises will be used to support students through the various stages of undertaking their dissertation project, targeting specific essential skills needed for successful completion of the module.

Syllabus outline:

- Critical reading
- Research Project management
- Data Management and Reporting
- Statistics for Research
- Dissertation Planning
- The peer review process
- Mastering the *Viva Voce*

Indicative Bibliography:
Essential reading
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Swales, J.M. & Feak, C.B. (2012) Academic Writing for Graduate Students: Essential Skills and Tasks, 3rd Ed. The University of Michigan Press. <p>A variety of journals specific to research areas</p>
Other indicative reading
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Wallace, M. & Wray, A. (2016) Critical Reading and Writing for Postgraduates: SAGE Study Skills Series, 2nd Ed.