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Wrexham University

Module specification

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Module Code	CONL717
Module Title	Applied Research Methods
Level	7
Credit value	15
Faculty	FACE
HECoS Code	101088
Cost Code	GACP

Programmes in which module to be offered.

Programme title	Is the module core or option for this programme
MSc Computer Science (online)	Core
MSc Computer Science with Artificial Intelligence	Core
MSc Computer Science with Big Data Analytics	Core
MSc Computer Science with Cyber Security	Core
MSc Computer Science with Software Engineering	Core
MSc Computer Science with UX	Core

Pre-requisites

None

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	15 hrs
Placement tutor support	0 hrs
Supervised learning e.g. practical classes, workshops	0 hrs
Project supervision (level 6 projects and dissertation modules only)	0 hrs
Total active learning and teaching hours	15 hrs
Placement / work based learning	0 hrs
Guided independent study	150 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	150 hrs

For office use only	
With effect from date	01/01/2020
Date and details of revision	27/06/2024 Programme revalidation
Version number	2

Module aims.

This module aims to prepare students for their dissertation by providing comprehensive guidance and support in crafting a robust research proposal. Through structured activities students will develop the necessary skills to formulate clear research questions, conduct thorough literature reviews, and outline appropriate methodologies. Students will develop the skills necessary to undertake research activities whilst considering important ethical considerations and methodological approaches that are relevant to their research project. Students will engage in critical discussions and peer feedback activities to refine their proposals and ensure alignment with academic standards. By the end of the module, students will have formulated the planning documentation in preparation for their research project.

Module Learning Outcomes - at the end of this module, students will be able to:

1	Critically explore appropriate and relevant fields and areas as a foundational step in developing a comprehensive research proposal.
2	Critically evaluate current research and scholarly literature to establish a robust theoretical foundation for a research proposal.
3	Develop a series of detailed planning documents in accordance with the proposed research topic.
4	Design a robust research framework that includes a clearly defined research question, supporting objectives, a relevant research methodology, and an identified philosophical stance.
5	Anticipate, identify, and develop strategies to mitigate any ethical issues related to the proposed research.

Assessment

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.

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

The assessment will involve two submissions. The first assessment will include clear planning documentation in which various planning techniques have been applied in order to formulate a clear research topic. The second assessment will involve the delivery of the research proposal – this may be completed in any of the following formats: written essay, presentation, post submission.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)
1	1, 2, 3, 4	Coursework	40
2	1, 2, 4, 5	Presentation	60

Derogations

None

Learning and Teaching Strategies

The overall learning and teaching strategy is one of guided independent study requiring ongoing student engagement. Online material will provide the foundation of the learning resources, requiring the students to log in and engage regularly throughout the eight weeks of the module. There will be a mix of suggested readings, discussions and interactive content containing embedded digital media and self-checks for students to complete as they work through the material and undertake the assessment tasks. A range of digital tools via the virtual learning environment and additional sources of reading will also be utilised to accommodate learning styles. There is access to a helpline for additional support and chat facilities through Canvas for messaging and responding.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- Getting started with your proposal
- Your research Idea
- Literature review
- Research Scope and Purpose
- Research Questions and Methodology
- Research Approach and strategy
- Putting it all together

Indicative Bibliography:

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

Essential Reads

B. Greetham, *How to Write Your Literature Review (Macmillan Study Skills)*, Macmillan Study Skills, 2020.

Other indicative reading

J. W. Creswell and J. D. Creswell, *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches,* 5th ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2018.

Fisher, E. et al. *Enjoy writing your science thesis or dissertation! : a step-by-step guide to planning and writing a thesis or dissertation for undergraduate and graduate science students.* 2nd ed. London: Imperial College Press, 2014.