Module Descriptor

Title	Masters Dissertation :Social Work		
Session	2025/26	**Status**	
Code	SWPG11003	**SCQF Level**	11
Credit Points	60	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	30
School	**Education and Social Sciences**		
Module Co-ordinator	D Sidhva		

Summary of Module

The dissertation module forms an important major part of the MSc programme. Providing students with the opportunity to consolidate their learning and to develop further expertise by conducting a narrative dissertation, on a topic of their choice relevant to the programme and agreed with the module co-ordinator.

The Dissertation Module builds on the student's existing knowledge with a series of workshops delivering techniques and principles, equipping students with the expertise required to conduct a narrative dissertation independently and to disseminate findings in line with academic conventions and professional standards.

In addition to workshop-based teaching and learning, students will be supported in their development as researchers through individual support from a dissertation supervisor.

The specific area of study will be identified by students following preparatory workshops which outline and potential dissertation areas. Discussions will take place between students and potential supervisors around the validity, scale and nature of the dissertation.

Students must have successfully completed their Year 2 Practice placement (Social Work Practice 2 Module in order to be eligible for enrolment on this module.

Module Delivery Method	**On-Campus[1]**	**Hybrid[2]**	**Online[3]**	**Work -Based Learning[4]**
	☒	☐	☐	☐

[1] Where contact hours are synchronous/ live and take place fully on campus. Campus-based learning is focused on providing an interactive learning experience supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[2] The module includes a combination of synchronous/ live on-campus and online learning events. These will be supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus and online contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[3] Where all learning is solely delivered by web-based or internet-based technologies and the participants can engage in all learning activities through these means. All required contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[4] Learning activities where the main location for the learning experience is in the workplace. All required contact hours, whether online or on campus, will be clearly articulated to students

Campuses for Module Delivery	☐ Ayr ☐ Dumfries		☐ Lanarkshire ☐ London ☒ Paisley		☐ Online / Distance Learning ☐ Other (specify)	
Terms for Module Delivery	Term 1	☐	Term 2	☒	Term 3	☒
Long-thin Delivery over more than one Term	Term 1 – Term 2	☐	Term 2 – Term 3	☐	Term 3 – Term 1	☐

Learning Outcomes	
L1	L1. Demonstrate the ability to critically review and synthesise an extensive body of secondary literature on a specific topic and formulate a research question.
L2	Identify, conceptualise, and execute appropriate research methods of investigation and ethical considerations required to explore a research question.
L3	Plan and organise work, exercising autonomy and initiative in professional activities, and discussing and debating with peers and dissertation supervisor.
L4	Gather and analyse secondary data using appropriate software where necessary to support and enhance the effectiveness of their dissertation.
L5	Report independent research project in a dissertation format in line with academic standards and conventions.

Employability Skills and Personal Development Planning (PDP) Skills	
SCQF Headings	**During completion of this module, there will be an opportunity to achieve core skills in:**
Knowledge and Understanding (K and U)	**SCQF 11** An understanding of critical practice in social work. An understanding of critical thinking. A critical understanding of a range of theories and techniques of practice and policy analysis. A critical understanding of the process of decision making. A critical understanding of person-centred practice. A critical understanding of processes of organisational change. A critical understanding of inter-professional practice. A critical understanding of evidence-based practice. A critical understanding of social work as a political activity
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 11** SCQF Level 11 The application of critical thinking in their own practice. The application of theory, research and practice wisdom to critical practice. The ability to critically apply both general and specialist knowledge to social work practice.

	The application of a range of research methods in order to undertake a substantial research project. Planning and executing a significant project of research, investigation or development. The application of a range of standard and specialized research or equivalent instruments and techniques of enquiry. The ability to retrieve, interpret, critically analyse and manipulate primary and secondary information from a variety of sources including electronic sources. The ability to critically analyse current issues in social policy and social work practice and to identify the political ideologies, interests and forces underpinning them.
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 11** The ability to demonstrate critical thinking through logical discussion and reasoned argument. The ability to conduct analysis, evaluation and synthesis of complex information from a range of sources and understand the implications of these for critical practice.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 11** Communicate critically, systematically and effectively verbally and in writing. Critically Interpret complex primary material including statistical data. Making effective use of information retrieval systems and making use of information technology to present documents in an appropriate form. Demonstrate the ability to communicate, using appropriate methods, to a range of audiences with different levels of knowledge/expertise.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 11** Taking responsibility for own critical learning and academic and professional development as ethical social work practitioners as required by the S.S.S.C. Codes of Practice for Social Services Workers. Systematically identify and address their own learning needs both in current and in new areas, making use of research in source materials as appropriate. Demonstrate the ability to practice in ways which draw on critical reflection on own and others' roles and responsibilities. Take responsibility for own work and contribute to the collective learning activities of the group in ways which support and develop.

Prerequisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title** Social Work Practice 2
	Other SWPG11007	
Co-requisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title** SWPG11001 Applied Law for Social Work Practice; SWPG11005 Foundations of Social Work Practice; SWPG11006 Learning and Applying Lessons from Service Failures;

		SWPG10008 Social work Practice 1; SWPG11007 Social work Practice 2

Learning and Teaching	
In line with current learning and teaching principles, a 20-credit module includes 200 learning hours, normally including a minimum of 36 contact hours and maximum of 48 contact hours.	
Learning Activities During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below:	**Student Learning Hours** (Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Laboratory / Practical Demonstration / Workshop	6
Asynchronous Class Activity	4
Independent Study	570
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	20
n/a	
n/a	
TOTAL	600

Indicative Resources
The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes: Hardwick, L., & Worsley, A. (2011). Doing social work research. London: SAGE Publications Ltd. Kiteley, R. and Stogdon, C. (2014) Literature Reviews in Social Work. London: Sage. Whittaker, A. (2009) Research Skills for Social Work. Exeter: Learning Matters.
(N.B. Although reading lists should include current publications, students are advised (particularly for material marked with an asterisk*) to wait until the start of session for confirmation of the most up-to-date material)

Attendance and Engagement Requirements
In line with the Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure, Students are academically engaged if they are regularly attending and participating in timetabled on-campus and online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, course-related learning resources, and complete assessments and submit these on time. **For the purposes of this module, academic engagement equates to the following:** Please refer to the Academic Engagement Procedure at the following link: Academic engagement procedure: Academic Engagement Procedure August 2022 (uws.ac.uk) Where a module has Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body requirements these will be listed here: In line with the Academic Engagement and Attendance Procedure, Students are defined as academically engaged if they are regularly engaged with: timetabled sessions

(whether online or in-person); course-related learning resources including those accessed via the LEP/VLE and if they complete assessments and submit these on time.

Equality and Diversity
The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Procedure can be accessed at the following link: UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code. This module is compliant with all protected characteristics as defined in equalities legislation.
(N.B. Every effort will be made by the University to accommodate any equality and diversity issues brought to the attention of the School)

Supplemental Information

Divisional Programme Board	**Psychology Social Work**
Overall Assessment Results	☐ **Pass / Fail** ☒ **Graded**
Module Eligible for Compensation	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No** **If this module is eligible for compensation, there may be cases where compensation is not permitted due to programme accreditation requirements. Please check the associated programme specification for details.**
School Assessment Board	Ug/Pg Social Work & CDAS
Moderator	TBA
External Examiner	S Lucas
Accreditation Details	Scottish Social Services Council
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**
Changes / Version Number	3.02

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
To demonstrate achievement of the 5 learning outcomes, students will submit a 15000 (+/- 10%) word dissertation research report. The dissertation will be based on a literature review on a topic of their interest. The dissertation based on a literature review will enable students to showcase the knowledge that they have gained over the past two years of their master's study both in class and through their placements. The aim of the narrative literature review based dissertation is to summarise and provide a critical analysis of the research that they have explored, allowing them to highlight gaps in the literature and add their own perspectives and insights to an area of your interest and passion.
Assessment 2
Assessment 3

(N.B. (i) Assessment Outcomes Grids for the module (one for each component) can be found below which clearly demonstrate how the learning outcomes of the module will be assessed.

(ii) An indicative schedule listing approximate times within the academic calendar when assessment is likely to feature will be provided within the Student Module Handbook.)

Component 1							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Case Study	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	100	26

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		

Component 3							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
Combined total for all components						100%	26 hours

Change Control

What	**When**	**Who**
New templace, no changes	Mar 25	D Sidhva