Module Descriptor

Title	Music Research Practice		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	
Code	MUSC09021	**SCQF Level**	9
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	**Business and Creative Industries**		
Module Co-ordinator	Dr Iain Taylor		

Summary of Module

This module introduces students to the practice and philosophy of research, providing an introduction to data collection and analysis issues and techniques appropriate for the study of music-related cultures, industry andpractice. Students will be introduced to the main concepts and issues involved in the design of research proposals, and the key stages of carrying it through to fruition, being designed to provide the initial basis forthe dissertation project that students will undertake at Level 10 as part of the Creative Research Project 60 credit module.

Introducing principles underpinning research as an academic practice through workshops on specific methodological approaches, the ethics of research and the collection and use of data. Students will work through a series of case study projects that demonstrate the appropriateness of differentmethods for building an understanding of various music-related phenomena, from the practice, consumptionand production of music from both a music industries and socio-cultural perspective.

In particular, students are encouraged to engage with the course materials and practical exercises in thecontext of their own professional and personal development, with a view of building a basic knowledge ofresearch practice and a more specific practical skills-set in preparation for their entering the workplace and/orcontinuing onto further study.

- To design a small scale music-based research project
- To prepare the first three chapters towards a level 10 research project
- Acquire the academic skills to approach a research based academic career

Module Delivery Method	On-Campus[1] ☒	Hybrid[2] ☐	Online[3] ☐	Work -Based Learning[4] ☐
Campuses for Module Delivery	☒ Ayr ☐ Dumfries	☐ Lanarkshire ☐ London ☐ Paisley	☐ Online / Distance Learning ☒ Other (specify) Roma/Bari (TNE)	

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	Demonstrate knowledge of key methodological approaches in music, media and communication related research (assessment in the form of a research proposal)
L2	Critically assess research processes and practices with particular awareness of the relationship between theory, research practice and real world context (assessment in the form of a research proposal)
L3	Demonstrate knowledge of the practical, theoretical and ethical aspects of at least two methods of collecting, managing and analyzing empirical data at a basic level (assessment in the form of a research proposal)
L4	
L5	

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 9** Broad understanding of the key theoretical and methodological approaches toresearch practice and how they may be employed in the study of music-related cultures, contexts, practices and processes. Understanding of main stages involved in carrying out research, includingconsiderations of a logistical, analytic and ethical nature. Understanding of how to approach the design and implementation of a simple research project, with reference to at least two methods of data collection,management and/or analysis.

[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

Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 9** A critical understanding of the decision-making processes involved in selectingand applying specific methods for research practice. Critically reviewing the body of research methods literature associated with thestudy of music-related cultural production and consumption.
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 9** Communicating the central ideas, concepts and issues associated withresearching music-related socio-cultural phenomena. Drawing on a range of academic, popular media and historical sources in making judgments regarding the applicability of certain theoretical frameworks drawnfrom the field of Popular Music- and Cultural-Studies. Identify and analyse routine problems and ethical issues involved in the empiricalstudy of music-related contexts and practices. Draw on a range of research methods literature and industry-research sources in making judgments about the suitability of a range of methodological approachesfor the study of music-related phenomena.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 9** Assimilate, synthesize and communicate complex arguments regarding the principles underpinning the practice of research. Using a range of IT applications to support and enhance work.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 9** Exercising initiative and independence in carrying out defined desk-basedresearch activities and the design of a basic research project proposals. Systematically identifying and addressing their own learning needs both in currentand in new areas, under guidance.

Prerequisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**
	Other	
Co-requisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**

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)
Lecture / Core Content Delivery	30
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	6
Independent Study	164

Please select	
Please select	
Please select	
TOTAL	200 Hours Total

Indicative Resources
The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes: Gray, D. E. (2022) Doing Research in the Real World, 5th Edition. London: SAGE Reid, A., Da Costa, N. P., Carrigan, J. (Eds) (2020) Creative Research in Music: Informed Practice, Innovation and Transcendence. New York: Routledge Kara, H. (2020) Creative Research Methods: A practical guide. Bristol: Policy Press
(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:** Attendance and engagement with in-person and directed study activities.

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.
(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	**Arts Media**
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	Arts and Media
Moderator	J Collinson Scott
External Examiner	K Williams
Accreditation Details	JAMES, SMIA

Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**
Changes / Version Number	

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
Written Assessment 100%
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**
Written Assessment	☒	☒	☒	☐	☐	100	36

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%	hours

Change Control

What	**When**	**Who**
Delivery Mode changed to 'on campus;	28/02/2025	I Taylor
Moderator updated	28/02/2025	I Taylor
External Examiner Updated	28/02/2025	I Taylor
