

University of the West of Scotland

Module Descriptor

Session: 202425

Title of Module: Master's dissertation			
Code: PGES11001	SCQF Level: 11 (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework)	Credit Points: 60	ECTS: 30 (European Credit Transfer Scheme)
School:	School of Education and Social Sciences		
Module Co-ordinator:	L McAuliffe		
Summary of Module			
<p>The final stage of a number of master's level programmes in the UWS Division of Education involves a dissertation on a topic relating to the students' specialism. This module provides the space and resources needed to plan and undertake the work that will culminate in the dissertation. At the start of the module, students specify and justify an appropriate topic and a relevant research question. They then identify and discuss critically current academic literature and other scholarly evidence of relevance to their chosen topic and research question. Following this, students design and conduct a small scale research study within an appropriate research paradigm that allows the research question to be effectively addressed and adheres by the UWS ethical guidelines. Once data have been collected and analysed, findings are developed and discussed, conclusions are drawn, and recommendations for future practice and research are made. During their dissertation journey, each student is guided by a supervisor. The dissertation journey culminates with the production of the dissertation, which captures the students' work during this module.</p>			

Module Delivery Method					
Face-To-Face	Blended	Fully Online	HybridC	Hybrid 0	Work-Based Learning
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
See Guidance Note for details.					

Campus(es) for Module Delivery						
The module will normally be offered on the following campuses / or by Distance/Online Learning: (Provided viable student numbers permit) (tick as appropriate)						
Paisley:	Ayr:	Dumfries:	Lanarkshire:	London:	Distance/Online Learning:	Other:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Add name

Term(s) for Module Delivery					
(Provided viable student numbers permit).					
Term 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Term 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Term 3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Learning Outcomes: (maximum of 5 statements) These should take cognisance of the SCQF level descriptors and be at the appropriate level for the module. At the end of this module the student will be able to:	
L1	Specify a topic of enquiry suitable for a Master's dissertation; explain its context, rationale, and purpose; justify its significance; identify its limitations.
L2	Identify and discuss critically current academic literature and other scholarly evidence of relevance to the topic of the dissertation.
L3	Design and conduct a research study within an appropriate research paradigm that allows the research question to be effectively addressed and adheres by the UWS ethical guidelines.
L4	Present and discuss findings using a clear and effective format; make informed judgements based on the findings, i.e. draw conclusions, identify implications for future practice and research, and make recommendations.
L5	Apply the academic conventions that are associated with Master's level study: analysis, synthesis and evaluation; clarity, coherence and cohesion; effective use of sources and accurate referencing.

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 Level 11 Knowledge that covers and integrates areas of an educational subject or discipline – including their features, boundaries, terminology and conventions, as they apply to the student's topic.

	<p>Critical awareness of current developments and issues relating to the student's topic.</p>
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	<p>SCQF Level 11</p> <p>Apply a range of standard and specialised research skills, techniques, practices and instruments to plan and conduct a small scale research study on a topic related to the student's programme.</p>
Generic Cognitive skills	<p>SCQF Level 11</p> <p>Apply critical analysis, evaluation and synthesis to ideas, arguments and research findings.</p> <p>Identify, conceptualise and define concepts and issues.</p> <p>Develop original and creative responses to concepts and issues.</p> <p>Critically review, consolidate and extend knowledge and practice.</p> <p>Deal with complex issues and make informed judgements in the absence of complete or consistent data/information.</p>
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	<p>SCQF Level 11</p> <p>Communicate effectively using a range of advanced and specialist skills as appropriate.</p> <p>Communicate with a range of audiences (as appropriate) and fellow professionals.</p> <p>Use software to support and enhance work at this level and specify new software or refinements and improvements to existing software to increase effectiveness.</p> <p>Undertake critical evaluations of a wide range of numerical and graphical data in order to draw appropriate conclusions of relevance to the topic of the dissertation.</p> <p>Contribute to the scholarship on the topic of the dissertation.</p>
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with others	<p>SCQF Level 11</p> <p>Exercise substantial autonomy and initiative in undertaking the work that will culminate in the dissertation.</p> <p>Demonstrate responsibility for own work and/or significant responsibility for the work of others (as appropriate).</p> <p>Demonstrate leadership and contribute to change and development (as appropriate).</p>

	<p>Demonstrate critical reflection on own and others' roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>Manage complex ethical and professional issues and make informed judgements on issues not addressed by current professional and/or ethical codes or practices.</p>	
Pre-requisites:	Before undertaking this module the student should have undertaken the following:	
	Module Code: PGES11002 or equivalent	Module Title: Educational Research (or equivalent)
	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.	
<p>Learning Activities During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below:</p>	<p>Student Learning Hours (Normally totalling 200 hours): (Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)</p>
Tutorial/Synchronous Support Activity	20
Independent Study	580
	Hours Total 600
**Indicative Resources: (eg. Core text, journals, internet access)	

The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes:

Cohen L, Manion L, Morrison K (2018) *Research Methods in Education* (8th ed) Oxon: Routledge.

Denscombe, M. (2021) *The Good Research Guide: For Small-scale Social Research Projects* (7th ed). Maidenhead: McGraw-Hill Open University Press.

Lee, A. (2020) *Successful Research Projects: A Guide for Postgraduates*. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge.

Please ensure the list is kept short and current. Essential resources should be included, broader resources should be kept for module handbooks / Aula VLE.

Resources should be listed in Right Harvard referencing style or agreed professional body deviation and in alphabetical order.

(*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:

Tutorial attendance (online or face-to-face depending on the programme; for details, please refer to the module handbook).

Submission of draft dissertation chapters to the supervisor for feedback.

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](#).

Please ensure any specific requirements are detailed in this section. Module Co-ordinators should consider the accessibility of their module for groups with protected characteristics..

(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	Education
Assessment Results (Pass/Fail)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
School Assessment Board	CPL
Moderator	A
External Examiner	Y Wang
Accreditation Details	
Changes/Version Number	1

Assessment: (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1 Dissertation
(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.)

Assessment Outcome Grids (See Guidance Note)

Component 1							
Assessment Type (Footnote B.)	Learning Outcome (1)	Learning Outcome (2)	Learning Outcome (3)	Learning Outcome (4)	Learning Outcome (5)	Weighting (%) of Assessment Element	Timetable Contact Hours
Dissertation	√	√	√	√	√	100%	Please refer to the module handbook.

Combined Total for All Components						100%	Please refer to the module handbook.
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Change Control:

What	When	Who
Further guidance on aggregate regulation and application when completing template	16/01/2020	H McLean
Updated contact hours	14/09/21	H McLean
Updated Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure	19/10/2023	C Winter
Updated UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code	19/10/2023	C Winter
Guidance Note 23-24 provided	12/12/23	D Taylor
General housekeeping to text across sections.	12/12/23	D Taylor

Version Number: MD Template 1 (2023-24)