University of the West of Scotland

Module Descriptor

Session: 202425

Title of Module: Psychology Research Dissertation			
Code: PSYC11004	**SCQF Level: 11 (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework)**	**Credit Points: 60**	**ECTS: 30 (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**
School:	School of Education & Social Sciences		
Module Co-ordinator:	G Bruce		

Summary of Module

This module introduces students to independent empirical research in psychology. This is done through a series of taught workshops which run alongside a supervised independent research study.
As preparatory work for the module, students will complete the Research Methods in Psychology module which introduces the skills of developing and preparing a research project. In addition, students will receive a series of workshops outlining staff research interests and potential project areas. Workshops will focus on the importance of ethics and the viability and scope of dissertation projects and students will discuss their project ideas in one-to-one sessions.

Students will present a research proposal which must be psychological and empirical in nature. This will include an ethical approval form. Approval of this proposal and full ethical approval is required to prior to the start of the study. Throughout the module, workshops will cover key issues which support the research project; these include ethics, analysis, etc. In addition workshops will focus on the skills required to disseminate findings both in written and oral formats. This module will build on skills developed throughout the programme to enable students act as independent researchers. Furthermore, students completing this module will show competency in both registering research ideas and in producing a manuscript suitable for publication thus demonstrating that they are ready to embark on a research career and have the graduate skills to do so.

In terms of final assessment, students will be required to submit their dissertation in an academic, 'journal-style' format.

Purpose and scope:

- Engage with scientific literature in an area of current psychology

- Conduct an empirical research study in a current area of psychology

- Perform appropriate analysis and report and interpret results scientifically

- Present research findings in a conference style

- Prepare a manuscript in a format suitable for submission for publication in a current psychology journal

Module Delivery Method					
Face-To-Face	**Blended**	**Fully Online**	**HybridC**	**Hybrid 0**	**Work-Based Learning**
☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
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:
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Add name

Term(s) for Module Delivery					
(Provided viable student numbers permit).					
Term 1	☐	Term 2	☒	Term 3	☒

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	critically review and synthesise an extensive body of literature on a specific topic and formulate a research question
L2	present an oral summary of the background and methodology of this research to an informed audience
L3	design, implement and present an independent piece of research in a standard, written academic format
L4	analyse and critically reflect on the research process
L5	demonstrate a critical and in-depth understanding of research ethics

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** Demonstrate knowledge that covers and integrates most of the principle areas, features, boundaries, terminology and conventions of carrying out empirical research in psychology, and specifically in the subject area covered by the research project
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	SCQF Level **11** Demonstrate extensive, detailed and critical knowledge and understanding in one or more specialisms Demonstrate a critical awareness of how to formulate research hypotheses and operationalise research constructs. Demonstrate a critical appreciation and application of appropriate ethical standards in the research process. Have the ability to select, conduct, and analyse /evaluate appropriate laboratory and non- laboratory measurements of behaviour.
Generic Cognitive skills	SCQF Level **11** Plan and execute a significant research project. Demonstrate effective information retrieval and handling skills where appropriate. Demonstrate the ability to describe and critically evaluate research literature. Demonstrate the ability to analyse, evaluate and use data in a variety of forms, including numerical and statistical data..
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	SCQF Level **11** Demonstrate the ability to present information to an informed audience. Demonstrate the ability to comprehend and critically evaluate numerical, statistical and other forms of data within a research context. Communicate with professional level peers and subject specialists. Complete an appropriately structured CV.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with others	SCQF Level **11** Demonstrate the ability to undertake self-directed study to achieve specified goals. Demonstrate the ability to work independently and manage one's own time. Demonstrate effective time and resource management to achieved desired objectives. Function as an independent learner capable of adopting a self-reflective approach to learning. Understand and appreciate the need to conduct practical work in line with BPS ethical guidelines

Pre-requisites:	Before undertaking this module the student should have undertaken the following:	
	Module Code:	**Module Title:**
	Other:	
Co-requisites	**Module Code:** PSYC11005	**Module Title:** Research Methods in Psychology

Learning and Teaching

This module will be delivered via a blended approach with a combination of lecture material, workshops.

Prior to the finalising a topic, students will be provided with information on research interests of staff in the Psychology group and will work with a member of staff to produce a research proposal. They will be supervised by a member of staff who has the appropriate expertise in the proposed area of study, and who will guide the student through the research process. Students and supervisors will produce an agreed learning contract that will specify a schedule of supervision meetings and the nature of these meetings. These meetings will focus not only on the specific content of the research project, but will also emphasise the generic nature of the skills that have been acquired through the completion of a research project.
In addition to guidance on the specific project, the supervisor will provide a point of contact through which students can discuss matters such as creating their CV and also their post-graduation plans.

Within the learning activities, Lecture/Core Content delivery refers to Workshops, Tutorial/Synchronous Support Activity refers to one-to-one supervision sessions and Asynchronous Class Activity refers to presentation and directed learning.
While working in a peer style relationship with a member of staff, this module allows students to bring together a number of skills developed within the programme in a focused manner e.g. time management, critical analysis, developing autonomy, and IT, numeracy and literacy skills.

Learning Activities During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below:	**Student Learning Hours** (Normally totalling 200 hours): (Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Lecture/Core Content Delivery	12
Tutorial/Synchronous Support Activity	20
Independent Study	568
	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:

Bell, P., Staines, P., & Michell, J. (2001). Evaluating, doing and writing research in Psychology. Sage Publications.

Field, A. (2024) Discovering statistics using IBM SPSS (6th ed.). Sage Publications. (Note: any edition is suitable)

https://jasp-stats.org/support/

Smith J,A, (2015) Qualitative Psychology. Sage Publications.

British Journal of Psychology

(**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:

All fulltime students (part-time and distant learning students should check with their programme leader for any queries) are required to attend all scheduled classes and participate with all delivered elements of the module as part of their engagement with their programme of study. Consideration will be given to students who have protection under the appropriate equality law. Please refer to UWS Regulations, Chapter 1, 1.64 – 1.67, available at the following link: http://www.uws.ac.uk/current-students/rights-and-regulations/regulatory-framework/

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.

Aligned with the overall commitment to equality and diversity stated in the Programme Specifications, the module supports equality of opportunity for students from all backgrounds and with different learning needs. Using AULA, learning materials will be presented electronically in formats that allow flexible access and manipulation of content (part-time and distant learning students should check with their programme leader for any queries). The module complies with University regulations and guidance on inclusive learning and teaching practice. Specialist assistive equipment, support provision and adjustment to assessment practice will be made in accordance with UWS policy and regulations. The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Policy can be accessed at the following link: http://www.uws.ac.uk/equality/

Our partners are fully committed to the principles and practice of inclusiveness and our modules are designed to be accessible to all. Where this module is delivered overseas, local equivalent support for students and appropriate legislation applies

(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
Assessment Results (Pass/Fail)	Yes ☐No ☒
School Assessment Board	Ug/Pg Psychology
Moderator	G Inglis
External Examiner	J Bohan
Accreditation Details	BPS
Changes/Version Number	1.09 Learning Activities Indicative Resources Delivery method

Assessment: (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1 – Conference style individual presentation worth 20%
Assessment 2 – Final project written as journal article worth 80%
(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**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Presentation		✓			✓	20	0

Component 2							
Assessment Type (Footnote B.)	**Learning Outcome (1)**	**Learning Outcome (2)**	**Learning Outcome (3)**	**Learning Outcome (4)**	**Learning Outcome (5)**	**Weighting (%) of Assessment Element**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Dissertation/ Project report/ Thesis	✓		✓	✓	✓	80	0

Combined Total for All Components	**100%**	**0 hours**

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)