

University of the West of Scotland

Module Descriptor

Session: 202425

Title of Module: Research Methods in Psychology			
Code: PSYC11005	SCQF Level: 11 (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework)	Credit Points: 20	ECTS: 10 (European Credit Transfer Scheme)
School:	School of Education & Social Sciences		
Module Co-ordinator:	G Maciejewski		
Summary of Module			
<p>This module includes the key topics and issues of research design and quantitative data analysis. In the research design section, it will cover the principles of research design, such as theories of psychological measurement (standardization, reliability, and validity), sampling techniques and issues, critical evaluation of the methods employed in psychological research, and consideration of ethical issues.</p> <p>In the data analysis section, the focus will be on the acquisition of practical skills – in particular, using statistical software to analyse quantitative data, interpreting results, and structuring and communicating results.</p> <p>The student will be exposed to key concepts, such as descriptive and inferential statistics, probability, data distribution, type 1 and type 2 errors, power, effect size, and confidence intervals. A broad range of descriptive and inferential tests will be demonstrated, with emphasis placed on both the theoretical and practical uses of those tests with different research designs.</p> <p>Finally, the module will act as a transition to becoming a psychologist by introducing a number of key graduate psychology skills, such as exposure to the technical language used in psychology, formatting and reporting test results, database searching, critical reflection on the source, quality, and utility of the evidence.</p> <p>At the end of the module, the student will have become an autonomous, analytical, research- and ethically-minded, and inquiring thinker.</p> <p>Purpose and scope of the module:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Design • Critical Evaluation • Data Analysis • Research Ethics • Transition to Psychology 			

Module Delivery Method					
Face-To-Face	Blended	Fully Online	HybridC	Hybrid 0	Work-Based Learning
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Add name

Term(s) for Module Delivery					
(Provided viable student numbers permit).					
Term 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Term 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Term 3	<input 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	Demonstrate a critical awareness of the nature and structure of psychological research design.
L2	Show a critical understanding of the appropriate use of quantitative methodologies.
L3	Demonstrate the ability to conduct, interpret, and evaluate the analysis of different types of psychological data.
L4	Demonstrate a critical awareness of the ethical issues involved in conducting psychological research
L5	Show the ability to communicate the outcome of data analysis, both verbally and in written forms

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)	<p>SCQF Level 11</p> <p>Exhibit a critical understanding of quantitative research in relation to how its theoretical principles relate to and are implemented in professional practice</p>	
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	<p>SCQF Level 11</p> <p>Using acquired theoretical knowledge to identify, plan, design, analyse, interpret and report the outcome of a research project</p>	
Generic Cognitive skills	<p>SCQF Level 11</p> <p>The communication of complex ideas and issues both in written and verbal form and the critical evaluation of their own and others' work.</p> <p>Identify and analyse aspects of quantitative methodological issues.</p>	
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	<p>SCQF Level 11</p> <p>The use of computer statistical software to interpret and analyse data.</p> <p>Verbally present the output to peers in groups.</p> <p>Communicate the interpretation of the output in written form using conventional standards</p>	
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with others	<p>SCQF Level 11</p> <p>Take responsibility for the completion of their own formative and summative assessments, meeting rolling deadlines.</p>	
Pre-requisites:	Before undertaking this module the student should have undertaken the following:	
	Module Code:	Module Title:
	Other:	
Co-requisites	Module Code:	Module Title:

*Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

<p>Learning and Teaching</p> <p>This module will be delivered via a hybrid approach with a combination of lecture material and workshops. Teaching activities are centred within a student focused approach. The module will primarily utilise small group teaching in the form of workshops/ practical laboratory sessions and flexible self-paced learning. Additionally, asynchronous self-paced exercises and demonstration videos will be utilised via the VLE.</p> <p>The assessment strategy will encompass a flexible programme that allows the student to show proficiency in the subject.</p> <p>The workshops will blend the theoretical and practical elements of research design, analysis, interpretation and reporting. Some of the allocated contact hours will include practical sessions</p>

which will be used to instruct data analysis skills by using demonstration and guided self-paced study. The assessment strategy allows for continuous development towards assessment through guided practice and self-study.	
<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>
Lecture/Core Content Delivery	12
Laboratory/Practical Demonstration/Workshop	36
Independent Study	152
	Hours Total 200
**Indicative Resources: (eg. Core text, journals, internet access)	
<p>The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes:</p> <p>Haslam, S.A., & McGarty, C. (2019). Research Methods in Psychology (3rd ed.). SAGE. (core text)</p> <p>American Psychological Association. (2020). Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association: The Official Guide to APA style (7th ed.). American Psychological Association.</p> <p>Field, A., & Hole, G. (2002). How to design and report experiments. SAGE.</p> <p>Goss-Sampson, M. A. (2022). Statistical Analysis in JASP 0.16.1: A Guide for Students. Retrieved from https://jasp-stats.org/jasp-materials/.</p> <p>McGee, S. (2010). Key Research and Study Skills in Psychology. SAGE.</p>	
(**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	
<p>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.</p> <p>For the purposes of this module, academic engagement equates to the following:</p>	

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. 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 <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
School Assessment Board	Ug/Pg Psychology
Moderator	L Calderwood
External Examiner	J Bohan
Accreditation Details	BPS
Changes/Version Number	2.06 Module delivery method Learning activities

Assessment: (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1 - a portfolio of work focussing on research design and reflection on ethical procedures (worth 50%)
Assessment 2 - a portfolio of work focussing on data analysis and interpretation skills (worth 50%)
(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
Workbook/ Laboratory notebook/ Diary/ Training log/ Learning log	✓	✓		✓		50	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
Workbook/ Laboratory notebook/ Diary/ Training log/ Learning log			✓		✓	50	0

Combined Total for All Components	100%	0 hours
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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)