Session: 202425

Title of Module: Masters Dissertation: Social Work

Code: SWPG11003	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:	D Sidhva		

Summary of Module
The Dissertation Module is a crucial part of the MSc programme, allowing students to apply their learning and gain expertise through a narrative dissertation on a chosen topic approved by the module co-ordinator. It builds on existing knowledge through workshops that provide necessary techniques and principles for independent research and professional-standard dissemination. Students receive personalized guidance from a dissertation supervisor and choose their study area after preparatory workshops. Eligibility requires successful completion of the Year 2 Practice Placement (Social Work Practice 2 Module).
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	Demonstrate the ability to utilise an understanding of research methods to critically review and synthesise an extensive body of literature.
L2	Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of ethical considerations in planning and conducting a literature review.
L3	Exercise autonomy through planning and executing a research project.
L4	Gather and analyse data using appropriate software where necessary to support and enhance the effectiveness of their research findings and skills.
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 Level 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 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 Level 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 Level 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 Level 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.

Pre-requisites:	Before undertaking this module, the student should have undertaken the following:	
	Module Code:	Module Title:
	SWPG11007	Social Work Practice 2
Co-requisites		

Learning and Teaching	
In line with current learning and teaching principles, a 60-credit module includes 600 learning hours, including 26 contact hours and 570 hours of Independent study.	
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 600 hours): (Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Lecture/Core Content Delivery	
Laboratory/Practical Demonstration/Workshop	6
Asynchronous Class Activity	4
Independent Study	570
Tutorial/Synchronous Support Activity	20
	600 Hours Total

**Indicative Resources: (eg. Core text, journals, internet access)

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 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.

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.

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	Psychology and Social Work
Assessment Results (Pass/Fail)	Yes ☐ No ☒
School Assessment Board	Ug/Pg Social Work & CDAS
Moderator	Geraldine Graham
External Examiner	Sian Lucas
Accreditation Details	Scottish Social Services Council
Changes/Version Number	3.02 Changes to wording in "Module Summary".

Assessment: (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
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 1 : Dissertation worth 100% of the module mark
(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
Disserta-tion	X	X	X	X	X	100%	

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)