Module Descriptor

Title	Masters Dissertation: social work		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	
Code	SWPG11003	**SCQF Level**	SCQF 11
Credit Points	60	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	30
School	**Education & Social Sciences**		
Module Co-ordinator	TBC		
Summary of Module This supervised dissertation module, provides students an opportunity to apply their learning and further develop their expertise, by undertaking a narrative literature review on a topic of their choice, based on agreement with their supervisor.			

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)	

Terms for Module Delivery	Term 1	☐	Term 2	☐	Term 3	☒

[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

Long-thin Delivery over more than one Term	Term 1 – Term 2	☐	Term 2 – Term 3	☐	Term 3 – Term 1	☐

Learning Outcomes	
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	Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of ethical considerations in planning and conducting a literature review.
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 11 Students will demonstrate: 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 11 Students will demonstrate: 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. The ability to plan and execute 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 11 Students will demonstrate: 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 11 Students will demonstrate: The ability to communicate critically, systematically and effectively verbally and in writing. The ability to critically Interpret complex primary material including statistical data. The ability to make 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 11 Students will demonstrate: The ability to exercise 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. The ability to 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. The ability to take responsibility for own work and contribute to the collective learning activities of the group in ways which support and develop.

Prerequisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**
	SWPG11007	Social Work Practice 2
	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	6
Independent Study	594
TOTAL	600

Indicative Resources
The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes: Flynn, C; McDermott, F (2025). Doing Research in Social Work and Social Care: the journey from student to practitioner researcher. 2nd Ed. Sage, London. 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 (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 attending and participating in all timetabled programme activities including on-campus and online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, placement, work-based elements, course-related learning resources, and complete assessments and submit these on time.

For the purposes of this module, academic engagement equates to the following: It is an SSSC regulatory requirement that students attend 80% of taught sessions. Not meeting the mandatory threshold may result in a student being given an RA decision and not being permitted to submit an assessment until the module has been retaken. To engage with and follow the instructions of the assigned a supervisor.
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	**Psychology & Social Work**
Overall Assessment Results	☐ **Pass / Fail** ☒ **Graded**
Module Eligible for Compensation	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**
School Assessment Board	Undergraduate and Postgraduate Social Work
Moderator	TBC
External Examiner	A Oprea
Accreditation Details	Scottish Social Services Council
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**
Changes / Version Number	

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
A 15,000 word dissertation based upon a narrative literature review.
(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
Dissertation	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	100	
Combined total for all components						100%	6 excluding supervision.

Change Control

What	When	Who