



Module Descriptor

Title	Research Methods in Social Work		
Session	2025/26	Status	
Code	SWPG1111009	SCQF Level	11
Credit Points	20	ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)	10
School	Education and Social Sciences		
Module Co-ordinator	A Muir		
Summary of Module This module provides students with a rigorous foundation in research methodologies pertinent to social work. Within this module students will be introduced to qualitative, quantitative and mixed method approaches, encompassing research design, data collection and data analysis. Students will explore ethical considerations, ensuring research aligns with professional values. This module fosters critical thinking and evidence based decision making skills for evidence-informed practice.			

Module Delivery Method	On-Campus¹ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Hybrid² <input type="checkbox"/>		Online³ <input type="checkbox"/>		Work -Based Learning⁴ <input type="checkbox"/>
Campuses for Module Delivery	<input type="checkbox"/> Ayr <input type="checkbox"/> Dumfries		<input type="checkbox"/> Lanarkshire <input type="checkbox"/> London <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paisley		<input type="checkbox"/> Online / Distance Learning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)		
Terms for Module Delivery	Term 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Term 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Term 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Long-thin Delivery over more than one Term	Term 1 – Term 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Term 2 – Term 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	Term 3 – Term 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	

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

Learning Outcomes	
L1	Demonstrate critical understanding of the key research methodologies for social work
L2	Demonstrate integration of ethical principles into research design
L3	Demonstrate synthesis and critical analysis of relevant academic literature
L4	Demonstrate evidence-based reasoning and clarity in research ideas
L5	

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 11</p> <p>At the end of the module students will have acquired advanced knowledge and understanding through critical engagement in social work research, enabling them to critically assess methodologies, apply ethical principles independently, synthesize complex literature and express evidence based ideas clearly.</p>
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	<p>SCQF 11</p> <p>At the end of the module students will be able to demonstrate application of knowledge by designing ethically sound research projects that address pressing social issues and by critically evaluating evidence to inform professional practice, enhancing their contribution to the field.</p>
Generic Cognitive skills	<p>SCQF 11</p> <p>Through this module students achieve generic cognitive skills by critically analysing diverse research methodologies and synthesizing complex literature to solve deep social work problems thereby developing advanced problem solving abilities, enabling independent judgement and innovative thinking.</p>
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	<p>SCQF 11</p> <p>Students will be engaging in activities that require the clear presentation of research findings, critical analysis of data, and the use of relevant software for data collection and analysis. Students will also enhance their ability to communicate complex research concepts effectively, demonstrating proficiency in both academic writing and digital tools for research.</p>
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	<p>SCQF 11</p> <p>Students will be expected to take responsibility for their learning to develop knowledge, understanding and skills and to work effectively with their peers during class based activities.</p>

Prerequisites	Module Code	Module Title
	Other	
Co-requisites	Module Code	Module Title
	SWPG 11001	Social Work Law (PG)
	SWPG 11005	Foundations of Social Work Practice (PG)

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	Student Learning Hours
During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below:	(Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Lecture / Core Content Delivery	38
Independent Study	164
Please select	
Please select	
Please select	
Please select	
TOTAL	200

Indicative Resources
<p>The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes:</p> <p>Bryman, A. (2021). Social Research Methods 6th Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press</p> <p>Cresswell, J., Cresswell, D. (2018). Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative & Mixed Methods Approaches. Thousand Oaks, Sage</p> <p>Curini, L., Franzese R. (2020). The SAGE Handbook of Research Methods in Political Science and International Relations. Thousand Oaks, Sage</p> <p>DeCuir-Gunby, J., Schutz, P. (2017). Developing a Mixed Methods Proposal: A Practical Guide for Beginning Researchers. Thousand Oaks, Sage.</p> <p>Denicolo, P., Becker, L. (2012). Developing Research Proposals. Thousand Oaks, Sage.</p> <p>Flick, U. (2018). Designing Qualitative Research. 2nd Edition. Thousand Oaks, Sage.</p> <p>Gorard, S. (2013). Research Design: Creating Robust Approaches for the Social Sciences. Thousand Oaks, Sage</p> <p>Wentz, E. (2014). How to Design, Write, and Present a Successful Dissertation Proposal. Thousand Oaks, Sage.</p> <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)</p>

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:

It is a requirement that students attend 80% of taught sessions.

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](#).

In line with current legislation (Equality Act, 2010) and the UWS Equality, Diversity, and Human Rights Code, our modules are accessible and inclusive, with reasonable adjustment for different needs where appropriate. Module materials comply with University guidance on inclusive learning and teaching, and specialist assistive equipment, support provision and adjustment to assessment practice will be made in accordance with UWS policy and regulations.

(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	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass / Fail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Graded
Module Eligible for Compensation	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If this module is eligible for compensation, there may be cases where compensation is not permitted due to programme accreditation requirements. Please check the associated programme specification for details.
School Assessment Board	PG Social Work
Moderator	L Nuttall
External Examiner	S Lucas
Accreditation Details	Scottish Social Services Council
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Changes / Version Number	

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)

Assessment 1

There is only one assessment for this module requiring students to construct a well structured, persuasive 3000 word proposal that exhibits logical argumentation, clarity of expression, and the ability to link research aims to practical implications for social work practice. 100% of Module Weighting.

Assessment 2

Assessment 3

(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
Written Dissertation Proposal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	100	36

Component 2

Assessment Type	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	Weighting of Assessment Element (%)	Timetabled Contact Hours
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Component 3

Assessment Type	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	Weighting of Assessment Element (%)	Timetabled Contact Hours
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Combined total for all components						100%	hours

Change Control

What	When	Who
New Module 25/26	Mar 25	A Muir