

University of the West of Scotland

Module Descriptor

Session: 202425

Title of Module: Criminal Justice Dissertation			
Code: CRIM10004	SCQF Level: 10 (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework)	Credit Points: 40	ECTS: 20 (European Credit Transfer Scheme)
School:	School of Education and Social Science		
Module Co-ordinator:	K Cooper		
Summary of Module			
<p>This module is designed to provide students with the opportunity to engage in substantial self-directed research and analysis within a structured framework of independent study. Building on research methods classes completed in past study years, the students undertake a dissertation on a topic of their choice and related to their degree programme.</p> <p>The dissertation may involve empirical data collection or a literature-based review. Students attend lectures/workshops regularly throughout each semester, designed to support their project work at each stage of the process. During these classes, students reflect on their progress and carry out tasks relating to criminal justice research and the rigours of independent study. They also receive support from an allocated supervisor who provides feedback and guidance across both T1 and T2. The module allows students to demonstrate all of the skills they have acquired during their studies on the Programme, and to display their grasp of the subject matter in their chosen area of research.</p>			

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 checked="" 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	Critically identify, define and conceptualise an appropriate topic for research within criminal justice.
L2	Undertake a review and analysis of relevant and appropriate primary and secondary sources.
L3	Undertake a defined research project using appropriate research methodologies and techniques of enquiry.
L4	Critically evaluate evidence and methods used in the dissertation.
L5	Use appropriate and acceptable academic writing and referencing 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 10 Demonstrating knowledge that covers and integrates the principle areas, features, boundaries, terminologies and conventions of their chosen dissertation topic; A critical understanding of the key theories, concepts and principles of associated with their chosen topic.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	SCQF Level 10 Apply knowledge, skills and understanding: Conducting a defined project of research and in identifying relevant outcomes and how they might be implemented in policy, theory and practice.

<p>Generic Cognitive skills</p>	<p>SCQF Level 10</p> <p>Critically identify, define, conceptualise and analyse complex problems and issues.</p> <p>Offer interpretations and insights into literature, policy issues and topical social problems.</p> <p>Demonstrate some originality and creativity in discussions around identified issues.</p> <p>Critically review and consolidate knowledge, skills, practices and thinking in the chosen topic.</p> <p>Make judgements where data/information is limited or comes from a range of sources.</p>	
<p>Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills</p>	<p>SCQF Level 10</p> <p>Use a wide range of methodological and academic skills for completing a criminal justice dissertation, including to:</p> <p>Present or convey, formally and informally, information about the chosen topic to informed audiences;</p> <p>Communicate with other students, academics, and potential specialists on a professional level;</p> <p>Use a range of ICT applications to support and enhance work at this level and adjust features to suit purpose;</p> <p>Interpret, use and evaluate a wide range of data to set and achieve agreed goals and targets.</p>	
<p>Autonomy, Accountability and Working with others</p>	<p>SCQF Level 10</p> <p>Exercise autonomy and initiative in all activities associated with the completion of a dissertation;</p> <p>Work, under the guidance of a supervisor, to reach agreed aims and objectives;</p> <p>Manage complex ethical and professional issues in accordance with current ethical codes and practices;</p> <p>Recognise the limits of these ethical codes and seek guidance where appropriate.</p>	
<p>Pre-requisites:</p>	<p>Before undertaking this module the student should have undertaken the following:</p>	
	<p>Module Code: SOCY09056</p>	<p>Module Title: Designing Your Dissertation Project</p>
	<p>Other:</p>	

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 (400): (Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Lecture/Core Content Delivery	12
Tutorial/Synchronous Support Activity	16
Laboratory/Practical Demonstration/Workshop	8
Personal Development Plan	24
Independent Study	340
	Hours Total: 400
**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>Harding, J. (2022) <i>Criminological Research. A Student's Guide</i>. Sage Publications Ltd</p> <p>Clark, T., Foster, L., Sloan, L. & Bryman, A. (2021) <i>Bryman's Social Research Methods (6th Ed)</i>. Oxford: Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Please ensure the list is kept short and current. Essential resources should be included, broader resources should be kept for module handbooks / Aula VLE.</p> <p>Resources should be listed in Right Harvard referencing style or agreed professional body deviation and in alphabetical order.</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	

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:

Adherence with the Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure.

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..

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/>

(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	Social Sciences
Assessment Results (Pass/Fail)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
School Assessment Board	Social Sciences
Moderator	Heather Myles
External Examiner	C Rhodes
Accreditation Details	
Changes/Version Number	3

Assessment: (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1 Submission of a first dissertation chapter (2,000 words). Students conducting a literature-based dissertation submit a Methodology chapter and students conducting empirical research submit a Literature Review chapter.
Assessment 2 Submission of the full 8,000-10,000-word dissertation.
(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	Timetable Contact Hours
First Dissertation Chapter	✓	✓			✓	15	4
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	Timetable Contact Hours
Completed Dissertation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	85	18
Combined Total for All Components						100%	22 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)