



## **Module Specification**

### **Researching Beneath the Surface**

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#### **Contents**

<b>Module Specification .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Part 1: Information .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Part 2: Description .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Part 3: Teaching and learning methods .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Part 4: Assessment.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Part 5: Contributes towards .....</b>	<b>6</b>

## Part 1: Information

**Module title:** Researching Beneath the Surface

**Module code:** UZSN7U-30-M

**Level:** Level 7

**For implementation from:** 2023-24

**UWE credit rating:** 30

**ECTS credit rating:** 15

**Faculty:** Faculty of Health & Applied Sciences

**Department:** HAS Dept of Social Sciences

**Partner institutions:** None

**Field:** Sociology and Criminology

**Module type:** Module

**Pre-requisites:** None

**Excluded combinations:** None

**Co-requisites:** None

**Continuing professional development:** Yes

**Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements:** None

## Part 2: Description

**Overview:** This will be a work based learning course – and as such guided by developments in the field as well as learners' requirements.

**Features:** Not applicable

**Educational aims:** See Learning Outcomes.

**Outline syllabus:** It will present the epistemological underpinnings and processes of inquiry of a Psycho-Social research approach and will draw most relevant material

from each of the following themes:

Epistemology:

Positivism, hermeneutics and depth hermeneutics, Objectivity and validity in the exploration of human experience, The links between epistemology and methodology, Methodology - from research to inquiry to intervention.

Putting the 'psyche' into social research:

The psychodynamics of the research encounter: transference/ countertransference; defended subjects/defended researchers. Double reflexivity' – the interpenetration of power, affect and unconscious phantasy. Psycho-social approaches to interviewing and observation.

Methodologies of Inquiry:

Life history/biographical interviewing, Psycho-social action research, Methods of Group Inquiry(Group Relations and Group Analytic traditions), Visualisation Techniques: imagery, artwork, photography as methods of exploration, The use of dreams: individual and social dreaming, Dramaturgical techniques, Psychoanalytic ethnography, The ethics of 'deep inquiry'.

Data Analysis 'in depth':

Interpretation and analysis: Psychoanalytic debates, Non positivistic approaches to validity: dialogic models of objectivity, Making sense of data: interview tapes and transcripts, notes of observations, fieldwork notes, reflexive diaries, imagery, etc., The uses and limitations of computer software packages in data analysis, The ethics of 'depth analysis'.

### **Part 3: Teaching and learning methods**

**Teaching and learning methods:** Scheduled learning includes lectorials, tutorials, project supervision; work based learning

Lectorials will be used to both introduce and discuss key psycho-social themes,

concepts and debates already existing in the area of emotion, affect and society.

Lectorials allow a form of interactive delivery, whereby discussion and connections between students' present work and/or past professional experience and content may influence lecture content delivery.

Workshops will include peer supervision and data analysis processes and other practice orientated activities.

Tutorials will be aimed at guiding students through their learning and at facilitating students to create a bespoke learning contract and assessment portfolio.

Independent learning includes hours engaged with essential reading, assignment preparation and completion etc. Scheduled sessions may vary slightly depending on the module choices students make.

Blackboard will be used to facilitate learning through providing guidance and learning materials.

The work environment, whether based on paid employment or volunteering, is also a source of experiential learning and specific skills acquisition required for the module.

**Module Learning outcomes:** On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

**MO1** A critical grasp of the epistemological implications of the existence of the unconscious in its dynamic and relational forms

**MO2** An understanding of the connections between i) different ways of knowing and different methods of inquiry, ii) processes of inquiry and processes of intervention

**MO3** A detailed grasp of the implications of an understanding of the internal world for traditional qualitative research methodologies, particularly interview and observation based forms of inquiry

**MO4** An appreciation of a variety of new methods of inquiry into the unconscious life of the individual, organisation and society

**MO5** The skills necessary to operationalise at least two psycho-social methods of inquiry in relation to own area of practice

**MO6** A reflexive awareness of the ethical issues posed by 'deep inquiry' methods of data generation and analysis

**Hours to be allocated:** 300

**Contact hours:**

Independent study/self-guided study = 175 hours

Placement = 100 hours

Face-to-face learning = 25 hours

Total = 300

**Reading list:** The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/uzsn7u-30-m.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/uzsn7u-30-m.html>

## **Part 4: Assessment**

**Assessment strategy:** The assessment strategy is to create a bespoke assessment of work based learning, with reference to psycho-social theoretical approaches. It therefore depends on the learning contract negotiated with the facilitator. The assessment states that it must be equivalent to a project of 6000 words because some options of assessment will not take the form of written work in the form of an orthodox essay or report. Other options include:

A portfolio of evidence

A presentation with associated reflection

Production of a patient/service user information leaflet or video with associated reflection.

A paper or letter prepared for publication with associated reflection.

Clearly where there are different options for assessment there will need to be guidelines so that students and academic staff can have confidence that assessments are comparable. Assessment strategies need to meet three criteria:

- That the negotiated learning outcomes related to the module outcomes are met
- That the correct academic level is reached
- That the learning, including assessment, represents 300 hours of study, nominally.

**Assessment tasks:****Portfolio (First Sit)**

Description: Portfolio equivalent to 6000 words

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6

**Portfolio (Resit)**

Description: Portfolio equivalent to 6000 words

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6

**Part 5: Contributes towards**

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study: