



MODULE SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Information			
Module Title	Research Techniques		
Module Code	UBGMSM-15-M	Level	Level 7
For implementation from	2019-20		
UWE Credit Rating	15	ECTS Credit Rating	7.5
Faculty	Faculty of Environment & Technology	Field	Geography and Environmental Management
Department	FET Dept of Geography & Environmental Mgmt		
Module type:	Project		
Pre-requisites	None		
Excluded Combinations	None		
Co- requisites	None		
Module Entry requirements	None		

Part 2: Description
<p>Overview: Research in the fields of planning, regeneration and the social sciences has assumed greater importance in recent years as governments have embraced so called evidence-based policy making. It is interesting to note that both quantitative and qualitative research is seen as crucial for understanding issues and problems and developing policy responses.</p> <p>Educational Aims: This module considers the design and implementation of planning research. It will train students both to carry out their own academic and professional research work, and to be able to critically appraise the work of others. It offers students grounding in a social science approach to problem formulation and analysis.</p> <p>In addition to the Learning Outcomes, the transferable skills developed through the module will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-directed learning and time management Use of an academic library Carrying out secondary research Development of the ability to construct concise arguments and defend them Writing in professional and academic styles to a high standard

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Outline Syllabus: Module outline:

Designing and doing a research project. Identification of key aims and objectives. Conducting a literature review and analysis of important positions taken in the field. Identification of gaps in knowledge, policy and practice.

Issues and debates in social science research: Research philosophy, theory, methodology; Ontologies and epistemologies; quantitative and qualitative techniques. Ethical issues and planning research.

Quantitative data analyses and statistical techniques. Making numbers count.

Doing questionnaires: Issues of design and delivery: Using the internet for designing, delivering and analysing surveys.

Interviews and focus groups: Qualitative methods and the role and practice of in-depth interviews and focus group techniques.

Archival research and historical sources.

Discourse analysis; critical appraisal of planning documents, policy narratives, maps and spatial representations.

Visual research methods: Using visual imagery as data.

Teaching and Learning Methods: Scheduled learning via on-line module materials and links to additional learning resources.

Independent learning includes essential reading, assessment preparation and completion. Independently managed group based learning will also be required.

Contact time: 0hrs

Assimilation and development of knowledge: 80hrs

Assessment: 70hrs

Total: 150hrs

Part 3: Assessment

The assessment will be based upon one component:

Essay (3,500 words).

A critically reflective essay which will examine the following issues:

Different approaches and methodologies for planning research.

The strengths and weaknesses of different research methods.

The importance of ethical issues to planning research.

First Sit Components	Final Assessment	Element weighting	Description
Written Assignment - Component A	✓	100 %	Planning research essay
Resit Components	Final Assessment	Element weighting	Description
Written Assignment - Component A	✓	100 %	Planning research essay

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Part 4: Teaching and Learning Methods											
Learning Outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Module Learning Outcomes</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Reference</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>To understand social science debates over the appropriateness of different research methodologies and philosophies</td> <td>MO1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>To understand and apply a range of research methods and skills which they might use to conduct research projects and planning fieldwork investigations, including: quantitative data analyses and statistical techniques; questionnaire design; internet surveys; interviews and focus groups; archival research and historical sources; discourse analysis; critical appraisal of planning documents, policy narratives, maps and spatial representations</td> <td>MO2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>To demonstrate effective research, analytical, evaluative and appraisal skills and have the ability to reach appropriate, evidence based decisions</td> <td>MO3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Module Learning Outcomes	Reference	To understand social science debates over the appropriateness of different research methodologies and philosophies	MO1	To understand and apply a range of research methods and skills which they might use to conduct research projects and planning fieldwork investigations, including: quantitative data analyses and statistical techniques; questionnaire design; internet surveys; interviews and focus groups; archival research and historical sources; discourse analysis; critical appraisal of planning documents, policy narratives, maps and spatial representations	MO2	To demonstrate effective research, analytical, evaluative and appraisal skills and have the ability to reach appropriate, evidence based decisions	MO3		
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Reading List	<p><i>The reading list for this module can be accessed via the following link:</i></p> <p>https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ubgmsm-15-m.html</p>										

Part 5: Contributes Towards
<p>This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:</p> <p>Urban and Rural Planning [Feb][DL][Distance][3yrs] MSc 2018-19</p>