



Module Specification

Research Techniques

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Research Techniques

Module code: UBGMSM-15-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

Faculty: Faculty of Environment & Technology

Department: FET Dept of Geography & Environmental Mgmt

Partner institutions: None

Field: Geography and Environmental Management

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

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.

Features: Not applicable

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.

In addition to the Learning Outcomes, the transferable skills developed through the module will include:

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

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.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

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

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

MO1 To understand social science debates over the appropriateness of different research methodologies and philosophies

MO2 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

MO3 To demonstrate effective research, analytical, evaluative and appraisal skills and have the ability to reach appropriate, evidence based decisions

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 150 hours

Total = 150

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link

<https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ubgmsm-15-m.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The assessment will be based upon one assessment:
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.

Assessment tasks:**Written Assignment (First Sit)**

Description: Planning research essay (3500 words)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: Planning research essay (3500 words)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested:

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study: