



Module Specification

Research in Context

Version: 2023-24, v2.0, 31 Jul 2023

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Research in Context

Module code: UBG MVP-30-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

College: Faculty of Environment & Technology

School: 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: This module closely connects the student to the development of their dissertation topic (MRes) or pathway theme (MSc Social Research).

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: See Learning Outcomes

Outline syllabus: The first half of the module will focus on how knowledge is produced (i.e. epistemology and ontology). It will utilize student lead workshops to

explore how different philosophical perspectives (e.g. scientific paradigms, sociology of scientific knowledge, critical realism, feminism etc) shape research to be evaluated through individual presentations.

The second half of the module provides the students with support in developing their critical thinking and writing skills focused on selected research publications in the students' selected subject area.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The students' supervisors will meet with their student and provide an advisory role in the selection of key research publications, firstly to connect with the workshops, and secondly to develop a critical report or essay evaluating the theory, evidence and research gaps.

Scheduled learning will include Introductory session, advanced library skills session, 6 seminar/workshop sessions including assessed presentations, two progress workshops to support student writing, and supervision of individual research. It is expected that the student will become increasingly independent over the course of the module, supported by the module's online Discussion Board forum through Blackboard or similar VLE.

Independent learning will include 282 hours engaged with essential reading, assignment preparation and completion etc.

The module will offer 18 hours of group contact time. The module will have 6 philosophy seminars/workshops, and 1 advanced library skills session. A further two progress workshops supporting critical writing skills will be provided. Students will have a minimum of two one-to-one meetings with their dissertation supervisors over the period of the module.

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

MO1 Demonstrate a critical awareness of and engagement with current issues and/or methodological or practice developments in their discipline.

MO2 Critically evaluate the utility of a range of advanced theories, philosophical thinking and methodological approaches in their discipline.

MO3 Defend an epistemological and ontological position related to their field of research.

MO4 Compose a comprehensive literature review in an area relevant to their extended project/dissertation.

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 282 hours

Face-to-face learning = 18 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/ubgmv-30-m.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ubgmv-30-m.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Formative assessment for the literature review will be provided through discussion of work in progress at the writing workshops and within individual meetings with dissertation supervisors. Formative assessment will offer an opportunity to observe and assist the students' skills development, and check that students are using appropriate referencing protocols and not plagiarising.

These assessments will provide i) intermediate and end of module feedback, and ii) to assess the student's comprehension of their reading in a) written form with appropriate references and b) through a presentation which includes oral communication skills.

The Assessments:

Presentation (20 minutes) - The student will give an individual presentation evaluating philosophical perspectives, and defending a selected epistemological and ontological position relevant to their field of research. Presentations will be recorded for moderation purposes and a paper copy of any slides/ visuals and references used will be submitted.

Written Assignment (4000 words) Literature Review - The student will compile a Literature Review that critically evaluates theory, method and/or practice approaches, and evidence in their field of research.

Resit Presentation - a similar brief to that described above, which may include some questions changes.

Resit Written Assignment - a similar brief to that described above, which may include some topic changes.

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

Description: Individual presentation (20 minutes)

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: Literature review (4,000 words)

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO4

Presentation (Resit)

Description: Presentation (20 minutes)

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: Resubmission of a revised literature review

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Social Research (Sustainable Futures) [Frenchay] MRes 2023-24

Social Research (Sustainable Futures) [Frenchay] MRes 2023-24

Social Research (Health and Wellbeing) [Frenchay] MRes 2023-24

Social Research (Health and Wellbeing) [Frenchay] MRes 2023-24