



Module Specification

Research in Counselling and Psychotherapy

Version: 2025-26, v3.0, 31 Jan 2024

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Research in Counselling and Psychotherapy

Module code: USPKFG-30-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2025-26

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

College: College of Health, Science & Society

School: CHSS School of Social Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Field: Psychology

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: Professional Practice, Skills and Supervision 2 2024-25,
Professional Practice: Personal Development 2 2024-25, Theory and Practice in
Counselling and Psychotherapy 2 2024-25

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: Evidencing Work Based Learning – Counselling and Psychotherapy
2025-26

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Increasingly, ethical professional practice in counselling and psychotherapy requires sufficient research awareness to enable you to access continuing professional development opportunities and evaluate research relevant to your practice.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: See Learning Outcomes

Outline syllabus: The application of scientific research methods in counselling and psychotherapy is not uncontroversial, as there is good reason to believe that therapy is like an art or craft that evolves in response to the creativity and spontaneity of the co-created relationship. With this in mind, the module adopts a methodological pluralism that acknowledges the multifaceted and contextualised approach to research inquiry in counselling and psychotherapy. You will be introduced to both quantitative and qualitative research methods, and develop the ability to evaluate and critique evidence relevant to your practice in counselling and psychotherapy.

Scheduled teaching and learning will consist of workshops, tutorials and online materials introducing the key research methods used in counselling and psychotherapy. You will be mentored, by a research supervisor, in formulating a proposal which describes a manageable (i.e., in terms of resources, time, etc.) piece of work.

This will help you to reflect carefully on the ethical implications for both you, the inquirer and participants (if any) before embarking on the research itself. The research proposal will further help you consider what steps are necessary to ensure you conduct your research in an ethically sound manner, by ensuring for example the confidentiality and wellbeing of researcher and research participant(s) alike. The research proposal will also provide you with the foundations to then carryout a feasible, independent study and support you in demonstrating the application of research methods in a counselling context through the completion of a research report.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Generic Graduate Skill:

Communication - Oral and Written - D & E

Professionalism - Oral and Written - D & E

Critical Thinking - Oral and Written. Independent study and analysis of data - I, D & E

Innovative and Enterprising - Research project - I, D & E

Forward Looking - Relevance of research project - D & E

Globally Engaged - Dissemination of research - I

Key:

I - Introduced

D - Developed

E- Evidenced

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

MO1 Demonstrate a systematic understanding and critical awareness of topics that are informed by the forefront of the discipline of counselling/psychotherapy.

MO2 Show a critical awareness of the history of ideas, the cultural context, and social and political theories that inform and influence the practice of counselling and psychotherapy.

MO3 Demonstrate how an appropriate methodology may be both independently, and ethically identified for inquiring about complex problems or those of an unfamiliar or unpredictable nature.

MO4 Provide a critical discussion and analysis of complex concepts, and carry out a research project (i.e., systematic review or case study) both independently and with some originality

MO5 Attend and contribute to research supervision meetings

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

Total = 300

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

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: This module has two assessment tasks:

1. Research project (Written assignment)

Students will be expected to produce a substantial research project of 5,000 words (or equivalent) focussing on an identified topic relating to counselling practice. This may take the form of an empirical research project (e.g. using focus groups, questionnaires semi-structured interviews, interviews on a particular topic), systematic review or extended systematic case study informed by wide current understandings in the discipline. The research assignment provides evidence of the learner's ability to apply both ethically and methodologically appropriate methods in a counselling and psychotherapy context. The report will be based on research methods introduced at the commencement of the module.

Students will be able to submit a draft of their projects for tutor comments and can use this feedback to inform their assessment submission.

2. Attendance report - This consists of 80% minimum attendance at taught sessions (calculated by number of sessions) - Pass/Fail

Assessment tasks:

Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: Research Report

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Report (First Sit)

Description: This consists of 80% minimum attendance at taught sessions (calculated by number of sessions)

Weighting:

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO5

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: Research Report

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Report (Resit)

Description: This consists of 80% minimum attendance requirement at taught sessions (calculated by number of sessions)

Weighting:

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO5

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Counselling and Psychotherapy [Frenchay] MA 2023-24

