



Module Specification

Research Methods

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Research Methods

Module code: UZVYNC-15-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2024-25

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

College: College of Health, Science & Society

School: CHSS School of Health and Social Wellbeing

Partner institutions: None

Field: Health, Community and Policy Studies

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 module provides an introduction and critically examination of a range of research methodologies with particular focus on epidemiology and population-based public health research. The module explores the key features of quantitative and qualitative methodology, the processes of systematic review and service evaluation. The module explores the key features of epidemiological investigation, examines key terminology, ideas and concepts concerning quantitative and qualitative methodology, and teaches the principles of quantitative and

qualitative methods, skills for undertaking primary research and for interpreting published epidemiological research.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: 1) To teach the principles of a range of research methodologies
2) To explore the value of quantitative and qualitative methodologies to health research
3) To understand and develop critical insight into the strengths and limitations of a variety of health-based research methods
4) To learn how to use and interpret basic statistical methods
5) To apply epidemiological principles and methods to quantitative health research designs

Outline syllabus: The syllabus typically covers the following:

Introduction to a range of research methodologies
Characteristics, strengths and weaknesses of research methods
Basic descriptive and inferential statistics
Controlling for bias and confounding in epidemiological studies
The concept of evidence-based policy and practice
Searching for evidence in public health research
Tools and techniques in critical appraisal
Qualitative research methods and how to apply these in public health contexts
Quantitative evidence synthesis including systematic review
Processes involved in conducting service evaluations
Sourcing and retrieving public health data ethically

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Scheduled learning includes lectures, seminars, group work and workshops. Taught sessions are also supported by online learning materials and recorded lectures. The teaching draws upon academic expertise from across the programme team and seeks to build knowledge and understanding through didactic and group-based active learning workshops. These interactive

sessions are designed to support students in clarifying and reinforcing their knowledge and understanding, in interpreting and critiquing published evidence and for actively engaging in problem solving exercises. Independent learning includes guided essential reading, workshop preparation, and assignment preparation and completion. All timetabled teaching is supplemented with online learning materials, including recorded lectures, instructional videos and podcasts, and technical and digital research tools.

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

MO1 Exhibit understanding of critical awareness and understanding of the principles and methods utilised in a range of research methods

MO2 Demonstrate understanding, interpretative skills and the ability to undertake basic analysis for public health research

MO3 Evidence critical understanding of methods and approaches to be able to effectively design a research project

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 114 hours

Face-to-face learning = 36 hours

Total = 150

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/B7BF8A04-EE1D-DBCF-3CFA-B40B27DF7B1A.html?lang=en&login=1) via the following link <https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/B7BF8A04-EE1D-DBCF-3CFA-B40B27DF7B1A.html?lang=en&login=1>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Presentation: A 45 minute defended oral presentation of proposal for the Research Project which allows the student the opportunity to demonstrate justification of choice of topic and proposed method of investigation.

45 minutes to allow for appropriate distribution of presented content and further probing of the students understanding through Q and A.

Summative feedback will be given on the strengths and weaknesses of the project plan with particular reference to methodological clarity, feasibility and ethicality.

The assessment strategy is designed to support students in preparing to complete a well designed and evaluated research project based around a topic relevant to Environmental Health practice

Assessment tasks:

Presentation (First Sit)

Description: Presentation (45 minutes)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Presentation (Resit)

Description: Presentation (45 minutes)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested:

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Environmental Health [Frenchay] MSc 2024-25

Environmental Health [Frenchay] MSc 2023-24