UWE Bristol | University of the West of England

Programme Specification

Applied Sciences [Sep][PT][Frenchay][2yrs]

Version: 2021-22, v1.0, 28 Dec 2021

Contents

Section 1: Key Programme Details

Part A: Programme Information

Programme title: Applied Sciences [Sep][PT][Frenchay][2yrs]

Highest award: MRes Applied Sciences

Interim award: PGCert Research Methods

Awarding institution: UWE Bristol

Affiliated institutions: Not applicable

Teaching institutions: UWE Bristol

Study abroad: No

Year abroad: No

Sandwich year: No

Credit recognition: No

Department responsible for the programme: HAS Dept of Applied Sciences, Faculty of Health & Applied Sciences

Contributing departments: Not applicable

Professional, statutory or regulatory bodies: Not applicable

Apprenticeship: Not applicable

Mode of delivery: Part-time

Entry requirements: For the current entry requirements see the UWE public website

For implementation from: 01 September 2018

Programme code: C99K12-SEP-PT-FR-C99K12

Section 2: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Part A: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Overview: Important features of this programme include active engagement in research, creativity and development of the responsible researcher. Active engagement in research is afforded by the development of the extended research project, completed under the supervision of engaged academic researchers, and based within the active research ommunity of the faculty's research groups/centres. The creativity inherent in any good research will be demonstrable through the creation of a novel and ambitious research question for this research, beyond the scope of what is traditionally possible with smaller postgraduate projects. All students will engage fully in appropriate research governance, including but not necessarily limited to ethics, in the creation of their project, its instantiation, and reporting.

The programme bears similarity to the first year of a PhD, but is different in important respects. Firstly, it is a self-contained award, which students can utilize after two years. In governance terms, it is managed through modular degree regulations, rather than research degree regulations, making the route through more familiar and in some ways simpler. Most importantly, the programme creates a cohort experience for students on the award, who start and finish simultaneously and share deadlines. This facilitates an academic learning community of applied researchers.

Educational Aims: The educational aims of the programme are:

To equip students with the skills necessary to undertake sustained, independent and innovative research;

To produce a new generation of researchers who are equipped to work in creative and flexible ways;

To provide a demanding environment within which to examine research practices and methodologies;

To enable students to implement a considered, systematic methodology with respect to their own practice and critical analysis;

To equip students for future careers which require postgraduates with a high level of analytical and communication skills, and who are able to pursue complex tasks in an independent, self-disciplined and flexible manner;

To equip students for further high-level research (e.g., PhD).

Key employability attributes as identified with employers, Confederation of British Industry, and the National Union of Students are as follows:

Self-management – your readiness to accept responsibility, flexibility, resilience, selfstarting, appropriate assertiveness, time management, readiness to improve your own performance based on feedback and reflective learning;

Team working – respecting others, co-operating, negotiating, persuading, contributing to discussions, your awareness of interdependence with others;

Problem solving – analyzing facts and circumstances to determine the cause of a problem and identifying and selecting appropriate solutions;

Communication – the application of literacy, ability to produce clear, structured written work and oral literacy, including listening and questioning skills;

Application of numeracy – manipulation of numbers, general mathematical awareness and its application in practical contexts (e.g. estimating, applying formulae and spotting likely rogue figures);

Application of information technology – IT skills, including familiarity with commonly used programmes.

See QAA, Master's Degree Characteristics, March 2010; CBI/NUS Working Towards Your Future (2011).

Programme Learning Outcomes:
On successful completion of this programme graduates will achieve the following learning outcomes.

Knowledge and Understanding

A1.   Debates in their chosen discipline which is at, or informed by, the forefront of their academic discipline, or field of study

A2.   The intellectual traditions within which those debates are situated

A3.   The formulation of advanced research questions that have the potential to generate new knowledge within the field

A4.   The advanced methodologies which underpin rigorous critical and creative approaches to research within the field

A5.   The complex ethical issues involved in conducting and communicating research

Intellectual Skills

B1.   The skills of lucid and self-reflexive argument in written and verbal forms

B2.   The ability to plan, produce and present rigorous, independent and theoretically informed research

B3.   Critical awareness in analyzing and communicating complex, contested and contradictory areas of knowledge

B4.   An independent, original and creative approach to research within the field

Subject/Professional Practice Skills

C1.   Deal with complex and dynamic issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences

C2.   Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level

C3.   Continue to advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level

C4.   Engage actively in a research community

Transferable Skills and other attributes

D1.   The exercise of initiative and personal responsibility

D2.   Decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations

D3.   The independent learning ability required for continuing professional development

Part B: Programme Structure

Year 1
The student must take 60 credits from the modules in Year 1.

Year 1 Compulsory Modules
The student must take 30 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
USSKDB-30-M	Research Training and Professional Development (RTPD) 2021-22	30

Year 1 Optional Modules
30 credits to be studied from the following list of optional modules. The selection should be relevant to the planned extended research project and decision taken in conjunction with programme leader/academic supervisor.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSSK5-30-M	Independent Study 2021-22	30
UZVSMM-15-M	Qualitative Health Research 2021-22	15
UZVSML-15-M	Quantitative Health Research 2021-22	15
USSJGX-30-M	Research Theory and Practice 2021-22	30
UZSN7U-30-M	Researching Beneath the Surface 2021-22	30

Year 2

The student must take 120 credits from the modules in Year 2.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
USSJQP-120-M	Extended Research Project 2022-23	120

Part C: Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) Synopsis

Part D: External Reference Points and Benchmarks

Masters Degree Characteristics statement (2015)

QAA UK Quality Code for Higher Education, Part B: Assuring Academic Standards, Chapter B11: Research Degrees (2012)

QAA The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (2014)

The Concordat to Support Research Integrity (2012)

The design team has also aligned this programme with the University's practice-oriented strategy, as well as the various research strengths of the faculty.

Please simply list for reference- the design and consultation document will ask for a description of how they have been used.

QAA UK Quality Code for HE:

Framework for higher education qualifications (FHEQ)

Subject benchmark statements

Qualification characteristics for Master's degrees

Strategy 2020

University policies: Research Strategy 2020, and other relevant University policies, in particular Academic Regulations and Procedures 2016/2017, the admissions policy. Staff research interests and the faculty's research centre/group strategies have also directly informed the programme. UWE Environment and Sustainable Development Policy is also integral to this programme.

Part E: Regulations

Approved to University Regulations and Procedures.