Module Specification

Advanced Research Topics

Version: 2026-27, v1.0, Approved

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Advanced Research Topics

Module code: UBLLDQ-30-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2026-27

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

College: College of Arts, Technology and Environment

School: CATE School of Architecture and Environment

Partner institutions: None

Field: Architecture and the Built Environment

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: The context of social research is one of rapid technological changes, shifting socio-political contexts, and an increased need for effective communication to counter populist counter narratives whilst still meeting the key requirements of contributing to the extension of knowledge and providing useful information to stakeholders and decision makers. Building on the methodological foundations established in the first term of the Programme, this module develops advanced research competencies responsive to the above considerations, and essential for

contemporary professional research practice.

Advanced Research Topics develops capability in emerging research tools, transdisciplinary integration, ethical and audience-aware communication, and evidence-for-policy evaluation and impact design through scaffolded learning, dialogic pedagogy, and authentic assessments.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: This module aims to develop the advanced research competencies required for effective professional practice in contemporary social research. Recognising that researchers today operate within rapidly evolving technological, political, and social landscapes, the module prepares students to work across disciplinary boundaries, engage meaningfully with diverse stakeholders, and translate research evidence into accessible and impactful outputs.

Outline syllabus: The module will equip students to conduct independent social research in a variety of academic and professional settings (such as governments, NGOs, consultancies, etc.).

Indicative examples of topics covered in this module include:
Contemporary research tools,
Transdisciplinarity,
Evidence for Policy,
Science Communication, and
Research Impact & Evaluation.

Topics areas will be periodically reviewed in response to the rapidly changing context of social research, or to ensure alignment with revised SWDTP training priorities.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: This module is designed using constructive alignment between learning outcomes, teaching activities, and assessments. The

sequence of learning, starting with Contemporary Research Tools, to Transdisciplinary Research, followed by Science Communication, and ending with Evidence for Policy, creates a longitudinal, scaffolded learning journey that moves from methodological developments, to integration, communication, and policy impact.

The teaching approach draws on Laurillard's Conversation Framework, embedding iterative cycles of modelling, guided practice, peer dialogue, and reflection. Students are supported to critique theory, and rehearse practical skills around contemporary research tools, transdisciplinarity, evidence for policy, science communication, and research impact and evaluation..

A flipped classroom approach, combining workshops, hands on tool demonstrations, with practical tasks such as communication labs and policy evaluation sprints ensure active, dialogic learning.

This approach will ensure that the value of in-person teaching sessions is maximised, by focussing on critical, discursive engagements rather than traditional didactic knowledge presentation across twelve three-hour sessions, enabling critical engagement with the complex of the module's key topics.

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

MO1 Critique and apply a range of discipline-affiliated contemporary research tools.

MO2 Analyse and integrate transdisciplinary approaches to address complex social research problems.

MO3 Synthesize and communicate research evidence clearly and appropriately for policymakers and a broad range of stakeholders.

MO4 Design, monitor, and evaluate research projects and identify pathways for maximising research impact.

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 264 hours

Face-to-face learning = 36 hours

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/index.html

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The assessment strategy comprises four authentic assessments, a critical reflection on a research tool, a stakeholder map with TDR analysis, a communication output with rationale, and an evaluation framework with impact plan. These mirror real outputs in research, collaboration, communication, and policy environments, while supporting iterative feed forward across tasks. All assessment tasks will be defined in response to students disciplinary interests or research area. The approach aligns strongly with FHEQ Level 7 expectations for critical awareness, methodological justification, advanced communication, and reflexive professional practice. The portfolio approach is required to enable students to demonstrate competencies and critical analysis skills across a number of domains, which collectively contribute to their development as professional researchers.

Formative assessment is embedded throughout the module through in-class activities, discussion board engagement, and one-to-one feedback sessions on draft work. These provide opportunities to observe and assist students' skills development, check appropriate use of referencing protocols, and ensure academic integrity.

The Portfolio is composed by the following, equally weighted elements:
1) A critical reflection on a chosen contemporary research tool (1000 words)

2) A stakeholder mapping and analysis process assessing and critiquing the value of transdisciplinarity in a selected case study (1000 words)

3) Production of focussed science communication output:

EITHER

- A policy briefing for a Member of Parliament (500 words)

OR

- A poster for public audience (200-500 words depending on chosen audience characteristics)

AND

A reflexive bulleted table explaining and justifying the selection of evidence, material and strategy for the audience (500 words)

4) An oral presentation outlining the development of an evaluation framework and impact plan for their research project, or a selected case study within their discipline (15 minute presentation with 5 minute for Q&A, on-line or in-person).

Resit Portfolio – a similar brief to that described above, which may require some topic or case study changes.

Assessment tasks:

Portfolio (First Sit)
Description: Portfolio (4000 word equivalent).
Weighting: 100 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Portfolio (Resit)
Description: Portfolio (4000 word equivalent).
Weighting: 100 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Social Research [Frenchay] MRes 2026-27

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