



Module Specification

Research Design for Psychology

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Research Design for Psychology

Module code: USPJSX-30-0

Level: Level 3

For implementation from: 2026-27

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: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: The module will introduce students to appropriate research and lab-based skills, and explore the fundamental research designs in Psychological research, both in quantitative and qualitative methods. Students will also be introduced to the key transferable skills in relation to data management, filing systems, referencing systems, and writing a research report.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: With Psychological research in mind, students will be introduced to the fundamentals of quantitative and qualitative research designs in Psychology.

They will also learn important skills and scientific processes in Psychology, such as open science, collecting data (in-person, lab-based, and online), organising datasets, writing a research proposal, and reading a research report.

Outline syllabus: The module syllabus will typically include introduction to the scientific process, quantitative and qualitative designs, working with datasets, software and lab-based skills, and building research proposals in Psychology.

Students will receive practical introduction to selected research designs, methods, and data analysis - including experiments and surveys; interviewing; psychophysiological measurement techniques and psychometrics; descriptive and inferential statistics using both paper and pencil and statistical software. The practicals are introduced at a beginner's level to prepare students for the rest of the programme.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The module is delivered as a mixture of lectures, workshops and laboratory based activities.

A variety of learning approaches will be used. Taught sessions will utilise Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) where possible, to support the pedagogy of Inductive Learning, where the students will engage in facilitated activities such as group discussion, group data collection, case studies, problem-based learning etc.

Workshop sessions will provide opportunities for data handling and interpretation, lab-based activities, problem-solving and discussions with academic staff.

Student independent learning will be supported with interactive revision material, workbooks, and the University's E-Learning Environment.

Scheduled learning: includes lectures and workshop.

Independent learning: includes hours engaged with essential reading, assignment preparation, and completion. Students will be given further assessment support through the workshops.

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

MO1 Demonstrate an understanding of the scientific processes in psychological research across qualitative and quantitative designs.

MO2 Compare and contrast between different psychological studies in terms of strengths and limitations.

MO3 Propose an appropriate research design given a research question.

MO4 Use scientific literature to support and justify a research proposal.

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/uspjsx-30-0.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/uspjsx-30-0.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Assessment 1: Reflective piece

Description: Psychology Participant Pool (2 participant pool credits) and 500-word (maximum) reflection

Students to complete two participant pool credits by taking part in a minimum of two different studies on Psychology participant pool, and write maximum 500 words of

reflection on their experience as a participant. Specifically, students should compare at least two of the studies that they participated in, in relation to research ethics, methods of data collection, and reflection on what they have learned.

Assessment 2: Written assignment

Description: 1000-word (maximum) mini research proposal

Students to choose one from provided research questions. They will need to write up their mini research proposal in maximum 1000 words, with three recommended sections:

Part 1: Explain the proposed research design (justify in relation to the chosen research question, referencing published literature)

Part 2: Critical Evaluation of the Proposed Research Methodology

Part 3: Ethical Considerations

Formative support:

To complete the summative assessments, students will have formative opportunities, such as working on academic writing and referencing, and looking at examples of reflexive writing in workshops. Research proposal templates will also be provided.

Assessment tasks:

Reflective Piece (First Sit)

Description: Psychology Participant Pool (2 participant pool credits) and 500-word reflection

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: Students to choose one from provided research questions and write up their mini research proposal in the form of a 500-word poster.

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4

Reflective Piece (Resit)

Description: Psychology Participant Pool (2 participant pool credits) and 500-word reflection

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: Students to choose one from provided research questions and write up their mini research proposal in the form of a 500-word poster.

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study: