



## **Module Specification**

### **Research Methods in Psychology**

Version: 2026-27, v2.0, Approved

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## Part 1: Information

**Module title:** Research Methods in Psychology

**Module code:** USPYRF-15-M

**Level:** Level 7

**For implementation from:** 2026-27

**UWE credit rating:** 15

**ECTS credit rating:** 7.5

**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:** This module will equip students with a critical understanding of quantitative and qualitative research methods. It will also give students practical research skills in relation to key methods of data collection and analysis and support students in developing their skills of communicating research findings clearly and accurately.

**Features:** Not applicable

**Educational aims:** This module aims to:

Develop students understanding of quantitative and qualitative research methods

Equip students with practical research skills in relation to key methods of data collection and analysis

Support the students' ability to communicate research findings

Allow students to be able to identify good practice in psychological research methods

**Outline syllabus:** The syllabus will typically include:

Quantitative methods:

An introduction to the scientific method - formulation of research questions, scientific hypotheses, study design, statistical hypotheses, exploratory data analysis, statistical inference, power, external and internal validity

An introduction to quantitative designs, including advantages and limitations of experimental, quasi experimental and correlational research procedures and data collection methods including questionnaires, observation, experiments, psychometrics

An introduction to quantitative analysis, including introducing the importance of understanding effect size and power calculations; methods of analysis such as simple and complex designs using ANOVA, correlation and regression; introduction to more complex analytical techniques such as factor analysis and meta-analysis.

Qualitative research:

An introduction to the foundations of the epistemological/ontological assumptions and key theoretical concepts (e.g., subjectivity, reflexivity), qualitative research design (e.g., recruitment and sampling, research ethics), ensuring quality and rigor.

An introduction to qualitative designs and data collection methods including interviews and focus groups and textual methods such as qualitative surveys.

An introduction to qualitative analysis, including methods such as thematic analysis, interpretative phenomenological analysis, and discourse analysis.

### **Part 3: Teaching and learning methods**

**Teaching and learning methods:** Teaching and learning methods: A variety of learning approaches will be used to support all students in developing an in-depth understanding and critical appreciation of qualitative and quantitative research methods. Taught sessions at UWE will be interactive, including lectures, tutorials, seminars, workshops, debates, case studies, problem-based learning.

Scheduled learning activities:

Interactive lectures, seminars, lab-based practical classes and workshops.

Scheduled contact time is structured around a series of interactive lectures that introduce the key concepts, identify current levels of understanding and pin-point areas of scientific uncertainty. Theory is under-pinned by focussed analysis of selected areas informed by current research and/or emerging areas of interest within research/industry/or popular media arenas.

Independent learning includes hours engaged with essential reading, case formulation preparation, and assessment preparation, peer-peer learning.

The module will be supported by a range of technology, ensuring course materials are always accessible. Students will be expected to access reading materials through our online platform for the module and engage with additional activities such as accessing video and weblinks. Discussion boards will be enabled for student use, facilitated by the module leader.

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

**MO1** Demonstrate critical understanding of quantitative and qualitative approaches to psychological research (methods and methodologies), the design

and use of data collection tools, and their relationship to analysis and interpretation.

**MO2** Demonstrate an awareness of the key concepts underpinning qualitative and quantitative research (epistemologies, and ontologies), and the ethical implications of these commitments (including validity, reliability, generalisability, and reflexivity).

**MO3** Show competence in the use of key psychological/social science methods and analysis approaches, across the remit of quantitative and qualitative research paradigms.

**Hours to be allocated:** 150

**Contact hours:**

Independent study/self-guided study = 114 hours

Face-to-face learning = 36 hours

**Reading list:** The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/821F06FA-F798-B205-7296-11C8F67F342A.html?lang=en-GB&login=1) via the following link <https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/821F06FA-F798-B205-7296-11C8F67F342A.html?lang=en-GB&login=1>

## **Part 4: Assessment**

**Assessment strategy:** The assessment for this module is designed to allow students to showcase a theoretically informed and practically executed knowledge base in both quantitative and qualitative research methods.

Summative Assessment Task:

Portfolio Assessment (equivalent to 2500 words)

Qualitative Research: Full Report. including; Abstract; Introduction; Methodology; Findings & Interpretation; Discussion

Quantitative Research: Theory & Applied practice

Each research approach will cover:

Research study design and critical appraisal skills (e.g. research question refinement and method development)

Practical research skills (e.g. data collection, analysis, interpretation and presentation).

Research Engagement (e.g. forum and study participation)

**Assessment tasks:**

**Portfolio (First Sit)**

Description: To include tasks such as:

- A full qualitative research report
- Practical application of skills: research project design; regular engagement activities.

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

**Portfolio (Resit)**

Description: To include tasks such as:

- A full qualitative research report
- Practical application of skills: research project design; regular engagement activities.

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

## **Part 5: Contributes towards**

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Psychology (Conversion) [Frenchay] MSc 2025-26

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