



Module Specification

Research Dissertation Project

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Research Dissertation Project

Module code: USSKBC-30-3

Level: Level 6

For implementation from: 2025-26

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

College: College of Health, Science & Society

School: CHSS School of Applied Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Field: Applied Sciences

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: Applied Scientific Practice 2025-26, Applied Scientific Practice 2025-26, Environmental and Field Techniques 2025-26, Forensic Analysis 2025-26, Molecular Cell Biology 2025-26, Research Skills 2025-26, Research Skills 2025-26

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: The compulsory final year research project for students on the following programmes: BSc/MSci Biological Sciences; BSc/MSci Environmental Science; BSc / MSci Forensic Science; BSc/MSci Biomedical Science; BSc/MSci Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science and BSc Integrated Wildlife Conservation. Students undertake an independent research project under the guidance of an academic

supervisor.

Pre-requisites: Students must have passed either (USSJXS-15-2 Applied Scientific Practice AND USSJXR-15-2 Molecular Cell Biology) or (USSK5G-30-2 Environmental and Field Techniques; or USSKAU-30-2 Forensic Analysis; or USSKAP-30-2 Research Skills)

Barred Combinations: Students cannot take USSK5K-30-3 Research Experimental Project alongside USSKBC-30-3 Research Dissertation Project.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: This project module aims to develop skills and knowledge in contemporary scientific research.

Outline syllabus: This is a research project module and does not have a formal syllabus. Students undertake independent research under the guidance of an academic member of staff.

Students will communicate their research as a written report, written in the style of a journal research article. This research article includes a review of the literature which forms the background to the project; the development of aims and objectives; an element of information gathering; analysis and discussion of the project outcomes in the context of the current research literature.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Supervision is tailored to the individual needs of the project and the project student. Contact time may take several forms which are appropriate to the individual project. This will include project progress meetings and may include induction sessions or training e.g. on the use of instrumentation or specialist software.

Students are provided with project specific support on writing systematic reviews,

experimental design and statistical methods. There is additional support around assessments and academic writing provided by the module leader.

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

MO1 Independently investigate a scientific problem and develop an evolving strategy to gain further understanding within their field of research.

MO2 Demonstrate skills in the critical evaluation and synthesis of the scientific research literature and evaluate their own research in the context of the wider published literature.

MO3 Communicate research to academic audience in both written and oral formats.

MO4 Evidence project ownership and management skills e.g. planning, organisation, engagement with research governance. Evidence effort and initiative throughout the project.

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 280 hours

Face-to-face learning = 20 hours

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/usskbc-30-3.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/usskbc-30-3.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Assessment 1: Presentation (30 minutes)

Poster presentation and a 30 minute oral defence of the poster, assessed by the supervisor.

Students will use their poster as a tool to explain their project as if to an academic audience. Students will also be assessed on their project management, which includes factors such as project ownership, planning, organisation, engagement with

research governance and effort and initiative.

Students are supported in the completion of the poster by drop-in assessment support sessions, provided by the Module Leader. Feedback on the poster is designed to feed forward to the completion of the research journal paper.

Assessment 2: Written Assignment (5000 words)

A research journal paper. The structure of the research journal article will be cognisant of current practice in applied science research and will contain an abstract (exempt from word count); an in-depth review of the current research literature pertaining to the project; aims, objectives and hypotheses; a full description of methods/approaches used; a results and discussion section including full data presentation and analysis (which may vary depending on the nature of the project); a discussion of the project findings in the context of current knowledge on the project topic; a conclusion; a full reference list (exempt from word count).

Verbal formative feedback and advice are available to students through 1-2-1 or group meetings with the project supervisor. Supervisors also provide written feedback on one full draft of the research journal paper. Students have access to examples of assessed research journal papers and posters from previous years in the library repository and are further supported by the Dissertation Workbook, provided by Library Services. Students are supported by drop-in sessions, provided by the Module Leader, some of which focus on academic writing.

The individual nature of these assessments reduces the potential for plagiarism and collusion. Both assessments are designed to prepare students for further study at Masters or Doctorate level, where the presentation of research in poster format (at conferences) or as a journal article are important skills.

Assessment tasks:

Presentation (First Sit)

Description: Poster presentation with a 30 minute oral defence.

Weighting: 30 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4

Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: Research Journal Paper (5000 words)

Weighting: 70 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Presentation (Resit)

Description: Poster presentation with a 30 minute oral defence.

Weighting: 30 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: Research Journal Paper (5000 words)

Weighting: 70 %

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:

Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science [Zoo] BSc (Hons) 2022-23

Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science {Foundation} [Zoo] BSc (Hons) 2022-23

Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science [Frenchay] MSci 2023-24

Forensic Science [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Forensic Science [Frenchay] MSci 2023-24

Environmental Science [Frenchay] MSci 2023-24

Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science [Zoo] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Environmental Science [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Applied Biomedical Science {Top-Up} [INTUNI] BSc (Hons) 2025-26

Integrated Wildlife Conservation {Top-Up} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2025-26

Biomedical Science {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][6yrs] MSci 2021-22

Forensic Science {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22

Forensic Science {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][6yrs] MSci 2021-22

Environmental Science {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22

Environmental Science {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][6yrs] MSci 2021-22

Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][6yrs]
MSci 2021-22

Forensic Science {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2022-23

Forensic Science [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2022-23

Forensic Science {Foundation} [Frenchay] MSci 2022-23

Forensic Science [Frenchay] MSci 2022-23

Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Zoo][5yrs] BSc
(Hons) 2021-22

Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science [Frenchay] MSci 2022-23

Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science {Foundation} [Frenchay] MSci 2022-23

Environmental Science {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2022-23

Environmental Science [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2022-23

Environmental Science {Foundation} [Frenchay] MSci 2022-23

Environmental Science [Frenchay] MSci 2022-23

Biological Sciences [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Biological Sciences [Frenchay] MSci 2023-24

Biomedical Science [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Biomedical Science [Frenchay] MSci 2023-24

Biomedical Science [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21

Biomedical Science {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22

Biomedical Science [Sep][PT][Frenchay][8yrs] MSci 2020-21

Biological Sciences {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2022-23

Biological Sciences [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2022-23

Biological Sciences {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][6yrs] MSci 2021-22

Biological Sciences {Foundation} [Frenchay] MSci 2022-23

Biological Sciences [Frenchay] MSci 2022-23

Biological Sciences {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22

Biomedical Science [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2022-23

Biomedical Science {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2022-23

Biomedical Science [Frenchay] MSci 2022-23

Biomedical Science {Foundation} [Frenchay] MSci 2022-23