



Module Specification

Critiquing the Evidence Base

Version: 2025-26, v1.0, Approved

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Critiquing the Evidence Base

Module code: UZSYUP-40-3

Level: Level 6

For implementation from: 2025-26

UWE credit rating: 40

ECTS credit rating: 20

College: College of Health, Science & Society

School: CHSS School of Social Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Field: Sociology and Criminology

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: Building upon the knowledge and skills developed during the pre-requisite modules, this module will provide learners with the opportunity to develop a critical understanding of EBP as it relates to research on crime, crime prevention and developing relevant research skills.

As learners progress through the module they will focus on the way in which research is ethically underpinned and supported through quality processes. This is

directly linked to the ethical principles of policing and encourages students to understand the transferable skills of the investigatory process and application of different types of data.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: This module specifically focuses on preparing the learner for the research project, encouraging critical thinking around the theoretical evidence in terms of its applicability to practice.

The learners will be guided through the epistemological element of academia, creating a broader understanding of data collection, data sets, modes of analysis and representation of data. The culminates in their production of a formative piece, a draft methodology that can contribute to their final project giving them early feedback on this, the ethical approval process and presentation skills related directly to academic research.

Outline syllabus: The module will engage in a detailed examination of the relevance, applicability and rigour of key theories of criminal and victim behaviour and links to issues of location in terms of time and space.

Learners will review available research evidence which underpins these theories and critique the research methods used, the research findings, and finally critically reflect on the practical implications for police practice.

As part of their learning they will engage in the planning of a methodology and the associated methods of data collection. They will also get the opportunity to learn specific research skills that can support objectivity and perspective taking, both of which are crucial to evidence base policing practices.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The module will be delivered using both online through Blackboard and face-to-face teaching where appropriate. The module will include some pre-recorded materials, lectures, workshops, group tasks and guided

independent study.

The variety of teaching methods will support engagement during block periods of teaching but also accommodate the different styles of student learning . Using problem-solving approaches the module will also enable learners to develop key research skills to assist them in becoming evidence-based practitioners.

The learner will link in with their dissertation supervisor providing additional support and guidance as they undertake independent study.

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

MO1 Critically discuss data collection from a variety of evidence based research sources, and communicate value of this for current operational practice.

MO2 Demonstrate practical research design skills such as reviewing literature, development of research question and appreciation of methodological strategies including reflective practice.

MO3 Apply investigative strategies using a limited and defined range of methods

MO4 Demonstrate how problem solving models e.g. Scanning, Analysis, Response and Assessment (SARA) can be used effectively in research.

Hours to be allocated: 400

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 226 hours

Face-to-face learning = 74 hours

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/4E2FF727-9F86-82B7-F916-95410EC86250.html?lang=en-GB&login=1) via the following link <https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/4E2FF727-9F86-82B7-F916-95410EC86250.html?lang=en-GB&login=1>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Assessment: Poster Presentation (30 minutes maximum inclusive of Q&A) on the topic selected for the learners Evidence Based Policing (EBP) Research Project.

Learners will be required to give an executive summary of research questions, relevant theory, literature, and intended methods.

Learners will also need to consider issues related to the practical implementation of research within their work. The poster must include a timeline outlining how the EBP research project could be achieved in practice. The poster should be visually dynamic with a view to disseminating key information to fellow officers.

Formative support:

Learners will have opportunities to gain formative feedback via small group presentations.

Rationale:

This part will assess the learner's knowledge of key debates in EBP, problem solving skills, understanding of theory and methods, and ability to plan, execute and communicate the purpose of a research project.

Learners will have the opportunity to respond to questions about the practical implementation of their research in preparation for their End Point Assessment (EPA).

Assessment tasks:

Presentation (First Sit)

Description: 20 minute poster presentation followed by 10 minute Q&A

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Presentation (Resit)

Description: 20 minute poster presentation followed by 10 minute Q&A

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:

Professional Policing Practice {Apprenticeship-UWE} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24