CORPORATE AND ACADEMIC SERVICES

MODULE SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Basic Data						
Module Title	Postgraduate Dissertation					
Module Code	UINVL5-60-M	Level	M	Version	3.1	
Owning Faculty	Hartpury	Field	Animal & Land Science			
Contributes towards	MSc Applied Performance Analysis in Sport MSc Equine Science MSc Professional Development in Sports Coaching MSc Sports Coaching MSc Strength and Conditioning MSc Veterinary Physiotherapy					
UWE Credit Rating	60	ECTS Credit Rating	30	Module Type	Project	
Pre-requisites	None	Co-requisites	None			
Excluded Combinations	None	Module Entry requirements	None			
Valid From	01 September 2021	Valid to	01 September 2024			

CVC Approval Date	22 February 2021

Part 2: Learning and Teaching	
Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this module students will be able to: 1 Relate a review of available literature to critical discussion of their own investigation (A). 2 Design a research project to apply appropriate methods to address a research question (A). 3 Critically justify suitable research techniques (A). 4 Analyse and present research data appropriately (A). 5 Present and communicate in a professional and academically rigorous manner, in both written and verbal formats (A). 6 Manage time towards both short and long term goals (A).

Syllabus Outline	1 Students will develop a research project in their area of interest. While the research thesis is largely undertaken by the student working alone, regular contact with their supervisors is essential for the successful completion of this module. The project will be developed and agreed after an assessment of the student interests and the feasibility of the project. Each project will be allocated a supervisor. Each student project will be individual but this does not preclude students from working in project teams, in which case individual aspects of the projects will be clearly identified. 2 All students will complete and submit a written research proposal detailing their proposed title, rationale and methodology. In addition, a risk assessment and ethical approval forms must also be completed. The proposal, risk assessment form and ethical approval form must be approved and signed by the supervisors before data collection commences. If there are any ethical considerations then ethical approval will be sought from the Faculty Ethics Sub-Committee and data collection cannot begin until the project has been approved by the Ethics Sub-Committee.
Teaching and Learning Methods	The module is student led and focused. Learning is through in-depth research practice, critical reviewing of key scientific literature and reference materials. Students will submit a research proposal for scrutiny, and will have the opportunity to present a justification for the research question and project progress including methodology and timeline to academics to receive constructive and supportive comments. They will then work with a supervisor to develop and complete their project. Students will attend tutorials and group sessions; however, the majority of the module will involve independent learning. It is expected that students will engage with independent learning as this is an essential component of such a research focused postgraduate module. Students will not be able to complete the module successfully without undertaking the required amount of independent learning. This independent learning will include a combination of individual, pair and group work. Conferencing technologies (including videoconferencing) will be used in conjunction with the virtual learning environment (VLE), email and telephone calls to keep in touch with students between teaching blocks. ***Scheduled Learning*** Includes lectures, seminars and tutorials. ***Independent Learning*** Includes hours engaged with research, analysis, essential reading, assignment preparation and completion etc. These sessions constitute an average time per level as indicated in the table below. ***Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) (or equivalent)*** This module is supported by a VLE where students will be able to find all necessary module information. Direct links to information sources will also be provided from within the VLE.

Key Information Sets Information	Key Information Sets (KIS) are produced at programme level for all programmes that this module contributes to, which is a requirement set by HESA/HEFCE. KIS are comparable sets of standardised information about undergraduate courses allowing prospective students to compare and contrast between programmes they are interested in applying for.

Key Information Set – Module Data

Number of credits for this module

	60

Hours to be allocated	Scheduled learning and teaching study hours	Independent study hours	Placement study hours	Allocated Hours
600	20	580	0	600

The table below indicates as a percentage the total assessment of the module which constitutes:

1   *Written Exam:* Unseen written exam, open book written exam, In-class test.
2   *Coursework:* Written assignment or essay, report, dissertation, portfolio, project.
3   *Practical Exam:* Oral Assessment and/or presentation, practical skills assessment, practical exam.

Please note that this is the total of various types of assessment and will not necessarily reflect the component and module weightings in the Assessment section of this module description:

Total assessment of the module:

Written exam assessment percentage	0%
Coursework assessment percentage	75%
Practical exam assessment percentage	25%
	100%

Reading Strategy	*Essential Reading* Core material will be indicated to the student via pre-course material, module guides and through their accessing a dedicated VLE programme presence. No requirement for the purchase of set text(s) will be made and students will have full access to library services, online applications, and inter-library loans. *Further Reading* Students are expected to identify all other reading relevant to their chosen topic for themselves. They will be required to read widely using the library catalogue, a variety of bibliographic and full text databases, and Internet resources. Many resources can be accessed remotely. The purpose of this further reading is to ensure students are familiar with current research, classic works and material specific to their interests from the academic literature and wider professional sources. *Access and Skills* The development of literature searching skills is supported by a library seminar held during Induction. Students will be presented with further opportunities within the curriculum to develop their information retrieval and evaluation skills in order to ensure they are sourcing high quality references so that can maintain academic integrity and avoid plagiarism. Additional support is available through the library services web pages, including interactive tutorials on finding books and journals, evaluating information and referencing.

Indicative Reading List	The following list is offered to provide validation panels/accrediting bodies with an indication of the type and level of information students may be expected to consult. As such, its currency may wane during the life span of the module specification. However, as indicated above, CURRENT advice on readings will be available via other more frequently updated mechanisms, including the module guide.
	• Deane, M. (Current Edition) *Academic Research, Writing and Referencing*. Harlow, UK: Longman.
	• Hofmann, H. (Current Edition) *Scientific Writing and Communication: papers, proposals, and presentations.* Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.
	• Lindsay, D.A. (Current Edition) *Guide to Scientific Writing.* Melbourne, Australia: Longman.
	• Matthews, J.R. and Matthews, R.W. (Current Edition) *Successful Scientific Writing.* Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.
	• Potter, S. ed. (Current Edition) *Doing Postgraduate Research*. London, UK: Sage.
	• Howell, D.A. (Current Edition*) Fundamental Statistics for the Behavioural Sciences.* Belmont, CA: Thomson Brooks/Cole.

Part 3: Assessment

Assessment Strategy	The research article is the product of the student's own research and will be written in the style of an appropriate journal. The choice of journal will be advised and approved by the project supervisor. The research article is also an indicator of the student's abilities to study at Masters degree level and produce a professional research output. The oral presentation will require students to justify their research question by reviewing relevant contemporary literature. The assessment will also require students to outline their progress with their research project to date, identifying and refining their timetable and activities leading up to their submission and gain feedback and support from their supervisor. The poster defence will provide an opportunity for the student to present their findings via an alternative professional research output. Through questioning, this format will allow discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of their project allowing students an opportunity to reflect on the results and process of completing a research project.
	Feedback can be gained from this module in the module delivery, on feedback sheets, on the VLE, in tutorials and in revision sessions.
	A student may apply for alternative means of assessment if appropriate. Each application will be considered on an individual basis taking into account learning and assessment needs. For further information regarding this please refer to the VLE.

Identify final assessment component and element	Poster Defence	

% weighting between components A and B (Standard modules only)	**A:**	**B**:
	100%	0%

First Sit

Component A (controlled conditions) Description of each element	Element weighting
1 Research article (5,000 – 8,000 words)	75%
2 Poster Defence (15 minutes)	15%
3 Oral Presentation (15 minutes)	10%

Resit (further attendance at taught classes is not required)

Component A (controlled conditions) Description of each element	Element weighting
1 Dissertation (12000 words)	80%

2	Oral Examination (20 minutes)	20%
If a student is permitted an **EXCEPTIONAL RETAKE** of the module the assessment will be that indicated by the Module Description at the time that retake commences.		

Approved by: CVC   UINVL5-60-M Postgraduate Dissertation v3.1   Valid from: 010921