Module Specification

Dissertation

Version: 2023-24, v2.0, 16 Jul 2023

Contents

Part 1: Information

Module title: Dissertation

Module code: UZVSMT-45-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 45

ECTS credit rating: 22.5

Faculty: Faculty of Health & Applied Sciences

Department: HAS Dept of Social Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Field: Health, Community and Policy Studies

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 Dissertation is a self-directed learning experience that provides the opportunity for students to evaluate, reflect upon and research a complex public health issue, problem, practice or intervention. It builds upon learning acquired from the taught MSc Public Health curriculum, allowing students to integrate and apply their knowledge and understanding and demonstrate exploratory, analytical, organisational and communication skills. The Dissertation is an enquiry-based

project that utilises investigative, research or evaluation methodologies students have learnt from the taught public health curriculum.

Features:

Independent, self-directed project

Utilises primary or secondary research or evaluation methodologies

Integrates learning from the MSc Public Health curriculum

Educational aims:

To introduce students to designing, managing and executing a research or evaluation project within a limited time frame

To learn about how to search for, synthesise, critically appraise and interpret a comprehensive body of literature relevant to a specific research or evaluation problem.

To demonstrate practical skills in applying a relevant research or evaluation methodology and methods.

To show understanding of research quality and rigour, applying appropriate critical appraisal and quality techniques to a research design.

To maintain legal and ethical standards of research practice, demonstrating knowledge, understanding and, where applicable, adherence to research governance, ethics and data management regulations.

To display academic writing skills through the production of an appropriately referenced and structured dissertation.

Outline syllabus:

One-to-one supervision is provided by an academic supervisor for the duration of the dissertation. The supervisor provides guidance and coaching to support the student in initiating and managing their self-directed project, and specifically in developing their project management skills, creating a research question, developing project aims and objectives, advanced literature searching, methodology and design, navigating ethical and governance requirements, and communication through writing and presentation skills. Students can draw from a range of investigative, research and evaluation methodologies that include primary and secondary quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods, and secondary evidence synthesis (e.g. systematic review, meta-ethnography, realist synthesis, scoping review).

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods:

The module is supported by group tutorials early on in the module, self-directed online learning resources and one-to-one academic supervision throughout the module. Academic supervision is guided by a set of principles and a supervision contract agreed between student and supervisor on commencement of the dissertation project.

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

> **MO1** Design and execute a research or evaluation project utilising appropriate methodologies.
>
> **MO2** Synthesise, critically appraise and interpret published research evidence to develop a theoretical framework for a specific research or evaluation question.
>
> **MO3** Demonstrate knowledge, understanding and critical insight into research and evaluation methodologies and methods.
>
> **MO4** Maintain legal and ethical standards of research practice, demonstrating knowledge, understanding and, where applicable, adherence to research governance, ethics and data management regulations.
>
> **MO5** Contribute to theoretical and methodological debates in the subject area relating to a research problem

Hours to be allocated: 450

Contact hours:

> Independent study/self-guided study = 410 hours
>
> Face-to-face learning = 40 hours
>
> Total = 450

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/uzvsmt-45-m.html

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The summative assessment for this module is as follows: 15,000 dissertation

This module is assessed by completion of a summative dissertation that is submitted on completion of an integrative project. Students undertake a project utilising investigative, evaluation or research project skills and a selected methodological approach.

The purpose of this assignment is to provide the opportunity for students to evaluate, reflect upon and research a complex public health issue, problem or practice. It builds upon learning acquired from the taught MSc Public Health curriculum, allowing students to integrate and apply their knowledge and understanding of research and evaluation and to demonstrate exploratory, reflective, analytical, organisational and communication skills.

The module is supported by a series of formative stages. The Research and Project Management Skills module operates as a key planning and review stage for the dissertation project when students develop their project idea into a proposal through a sequence of supportive, interactive action learning workshops. For the full duration of the dissertation, students are allocated a supervisor who guides them through the developmental stages of their project through to final submission These stages include finessing the research proposal, providing guidance, proofreading and sign-off on research governance processes, reviewing and commenting on draft chapters and maintaining regular monthly supervision and commentary on their progress. Students have access to published dissertations via the electronic library and scheduled and pre-recorded skills workshops on literature searching, data management and data analysis. This assignment enables students to demonstrate

autonomy and to integrate learning from across the master's programme and to apply this to a real world public health phenomenon.

Assessment tasks:

Dissertation (First Sit)

Description: 15000 word dissertation

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Dissertation (Resit)

Description: 15000 word dissertation

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Public Health [Frenchay] MSc 2023-24

Public Health {JEP}[Hainan] MSc 2022-23

Public Health [Frenchay] MSc 2022-23