



MODULE SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Information			
Module Title	Conducting and Evaluating Psychological Research		
Module Code	USPK7Y-30-M	Level	M
For implementation from	September 2019		
UWE Credit Rating	30	ECTS Credit Rating	15
Faculty	Health and Applied Sciences	Field	Psychology
Department	Health and Social Sciences		
Contributes towards	MSc Health Psychology, MSc Sports & Exercise Psychology, MSc Occupational Psychology (compulsory) MRes Social Science (optional)		
Module Type	Standard		
Pre-requisites	None		
Excluded Combinations	None		
Co- requisites	None		
Module Entry Requirements	None		

Part 2: Description
<p>The module is run using both face to face class teaching and virtual distance learning. Students are expected to attend scheduled timetabled sessions – via either face to face or online delivery, and complete any essential readings or preparation for timetabled sessions. They are also be expected to engage in directed study, further reading and group based online discussions as well as independent study. There are 300 hours of learning.</p> <p>The module is run as a series of lectures and workshop activities in which students are expected to actively engage with the material and to contribute to the sessions. The material is presented in both face-to-face workshops and online lecture content, and guided tasks. These activities will be supported and elaborated on via asynchronous discussions, and self-tests.</p> <p>Scheduled learning: includes face-to-face or online lectures and seminars (54 hours).</p> <p>Independent learning: includes hours engaged with essential reading (48 hours), further reading, engaging in asynchronous online discussion, preparation for face-to-face workshops and other schedule learning, guided study and self-directed study (118 hours), and assignment preparation and completion (80 hours).</p> <p>Virtual Learning: This module is supported by a range of online learning environments, such as Blackboard where a wide range of course materials are available. Students are expected to access and engage with these materials throughout the module. Discussion boards are enabled for student use and facilitated/moderated by the module leader and course team.</p> <p>Specific syllabus is in part dependent on the programme to which this module contributes. All programmes have a core syllabus to cover the key material and ensure the learning outcomes are met.</p>

Qualitative methods:

- Foundations of qualitative research – epistemological/ontological assumptions and key theoretical concepts (subjectivity, reflexivity, Big Q vs. small q, experiential vs. critical), qualitative research design (recruitment and sampling, research ethics)
- Collecting qualitative data – methods such as interviews, focus groups, qualitative surveys (key assumptions and implementation), visual methods, transcription of audio data
- Analysing qualitative data – methods such as thematic analysis, interpretative phenomenological analysis and discourse analysis (key assumptions and implementation), developing practical skills in coding and theme/category development
- Quality – ensuring and determining quality, checklist criteria, quality strategies and techniques

Quantitative methods:

- The scientific methods -formulation of research questions, scientific hypotheses, study design, statistical hypotheses, exploratory data analysis, statistical inference, power, external and internal validity, scientific inference
- Understanding relationships in data using correlation and regression techniques
- Measurement and assessment

Mixed methods research:

- Multi-method research, methodological pluralism, qualitative and quantitative-driven designs, the incompatibility thesis

Critically evaluating research:

- Systematic reviews, selecting and appraising high quality evidence, qualitative synthesis, 'gold standards' for quantitative and qualitative research, appraisal tools
- The application of checklist criteria and appraisal tools to published research

Generic Graduate Skill	Specific Strand	Introduced	Developed	Evidenced
1. Communication	Written styles		X	X
2. Professionalism				
3. Critical Thinking	Critical thinking; Critical debate; Analysis; Research		X	X
4. Digital Fluency	Use of standard software	X	X	X
5. Innovative and Enterprising				
6. Forward Looking				
7. Emotional Intelligence				
8. Globally Engaged	Global awareness			X

Part 3: Assessment

Assessment for the module comprises a written exam and a mini-systematic review coursework assignment.

The exam comprises two sections, A and B. Section A assesses students' understanding of qualitative research and section B assesses students' understanding of quantitative research. The exam is designed to enable students to apply their knowledge and understanding of qualitative and quantitative research methods and data analysis to the discussion and evaluation of specific examples of research.

The coursework comprises a 2000 word mini-systematic review of research on a topic related to the students' programme of study. Students will be expected to critically review a small number of research articles on a topic of their choice (but related to their programme of study), and select and apply appropriate quality criteria for assessing the strengths and weaknesses of the research articles and the quality of evidence they provide.

Identify final timetabled piece of assessment (component and element)

Component A

% weighting between components A and B (Standard modules only)

A:


50%

B:

50%

First Sit

Component A (controlled conditions)		Element weighting
Description of each element		
1. Written exam (2 hours)		100%
2. N/A		
Component B		Element weighting
Description of each element		
1. Mini-systematic review coursework (2000 words)		100%
2. N/A		
Resit (further attendance at taught classes is not required)		
Component A (controlled conditions)		Element weighting
Description of each element		
1. Exam (2 hours)		100%
2. N/A		
Component B		Element weighting
Description of each element		
1. Mini-systematic review coursework (2000 words)		100%
2. N/A		
Part 4: Learning Outcomes & KIS Data		
Learning Outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this module students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Explain the purpose and characteristics of a range of different qualitative and quantitative research methods (component A) 2) Demonstrate an awareness of the relationship between methods, methodologies, epistemologies, and ontologies, and an understanding of the commonalities and disjunctions between different theoretical frameworks, and different qualitative and quantitative methods of, and approaches to, data collection and analysis (component A) 3) Critically evaluate research within its appropriate methodological context (components A and B) 4) Show an understanding of the assumptions underpinning a range of key concepts in qualitative, quantitative and mixed-methods research such as validity, reliability, representativeness, generalisability, subjectivity and reflexivity (component A) 5) Defend the use of a range of research designs and associated methods of analysis (component A) 6) Show competence in the use of a range of data collection methods and analytical techniques as used in psychology and the social sciences (component A) 	
Key Information Sets Information (KIS)		

	Key Information Set - Module data					
Contact Hours	Number of credits for this module				30	
	Hours to be allocated	Scheduled learning and teaching study hours	Independent study hours	Placement study hours	Allocated Hours	
	300	54	246	0	300	
Total Assessment	The table below indicates as a percentage the total assessment of the module which constitutes:					
	<p>Written Exam: Unseen or open book written exam Coursework: Written assignment or essay, report, dissertation, portfolio, project or in class test Practical Exam: Oral Assessment and/or presentation, practical skills assessment, practical exam (i.e. an exam determining mastery of a technique)</p>					
	Total assessment of the module:					
	Written exam assessment percentage				50%	
	Coursework assessment percentage				50%	
	Practical exam assessment percentage				0%	
					100%	
Reading List	https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/1AE1E4F8-9912-DC7A-36DB-B26BDB4525D0.html					

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