



Module Specification

Conducting and Evaluating Psychological Research

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Conducting and Evaluating Psychological Research

Module code: USPK7Y-30-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

Faculty: Faculty of Health & Applied Sciences

Department: HAS Dept of Social Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Field: Psychology

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: Yes

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Not applicable

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: See Learning Outcomes.

Outline syllabus: Specific syllabus will be in part dependent on the programme to which this module contributes. All programmes will have a core syllabus to cover the key material and ensure the learning outcomes are met.

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

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The module will be run using both face-to-face class teaching and virtual distance learning. Students will be expected to attend scheduled timetabled sessions and complete any essential readings or preparation for timetabled sessions. They will also be expected to engage in directed study, further reading and group based online discussions as well as independent study. There will be 300 hours of learning.

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.

Scheduled learning: includes face-to-face or online lectures and seminars (54 hours).

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 scheduled learning, guided study and self-directed study (118 hours), and assignment preparation and completion (80 hours).

Virtual Learning: This module will be supported by a range of online learning environments, such as Blackboard where a wide range of course materials will be available. Students will be expected to access and engage with these materials

throughout the module. Discussion boards will be enabled for student use and facilitated/moderated by the module leader and course team.

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

MO1 Explain the purpose and characteristics of a range of different qualitative and quantitative research methods.

MO2 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.

MO3 Critically evaluate research within its appropriate methodological context.

MO4 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.

MO5 Defend the use of a range of research designs and associated methods of analysis.

MO6 Show competence in the use of a range of data collection methods and analytical techniques as used in psychology and the social sciences.

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 246 hours

Face-to-face learning = 54 hours

Total = 300

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/uspk7y-30-m.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/uspk7y-30-m.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: 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. Each section has a word-count limit of 1000 words.

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.

Assessment tasks:

Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: Mini-systematic review (2000 words)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3

Examination (Online) (First Sit)

Description: Online examination (24 hours)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: Mini-systematic review (2000 words)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3

Examination (Online) (Resit)

Description: Online examination (24 hours)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Sport and Exercise Psychology [Frenchay] MSc 2023-24

Sport and Exercise Psychology [Frenchay] MSc 2023-24

Health Psychology [Frenchay] MSc 2023-24

Health Psychology [Frenchay] MSc 2023-24

Occupational Psychology [Frenchay] MSc 2023-24

Occupational Psychology [Frenchay] MSc 2023-24