



University of the
West of England

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

| Part 1: Information | |
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| Awarding Institution | UWE |
| Teaching Institution | UWE. Two compulsory modules will be delivered via the South West Doctoral Training Partnership in association with the University of Bristol, Bath and Exeter. |
| Delivery Location | UWE Frenchay Campus. The two compulsory modules delivered by the SWDTP will take place at other universities within the SWDTP (Bath, Exeter, Bristol), and the location will vary from year to year. |
| Study abroad / Exchange / Credit recognition | Not applicable |
| Faculty responsible for programme | Environment and Technology |
| Department responsible for programme | Geography and Environmental Management |
| Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body Links | None |
| Highest Award Title | MRes Social Research (Sustainable Futures) MRes Social Research (Health and Wellbeing) |
| Default Award Title | |
| Interim Award Titles | Post Graduate Diploma in Social Research (Sustainable Futures) Post Graduate Diploma in Social Research (Health and Wellbeing) Post Graduate Certificate in Research Methods Post Graduate Certificate in Interdisciplinary Social Research |
| UWE Progression Route | Not applicable |
| Mode of Delivery | Full time one year Part time two years |
| ISIS code/s | |
| For implementation from | September 2017 |

Part 2: Description

The MRes Social Research will specifically provide ESRC recognised research training to prepare students for an ESRC funded PhD studentship within a Doctoral Training Partnership, and specifically those awarded studentships through the South West Doctoral Training Partnership (SWDTP).

It also provides a training route way for students considering applying for other ESRC post-doctoral training partnerships in the UK or other PGR funding opportunities as a +3 PGR student.

The MRes Social Research is mapped onto two SWDTP pathways – Sustainable Futures and Health and Wellbeing. The Sustainable Futures pathway draws on teaching provided by staff within the Department of Geography and Environmental Management and Architecture and Built Environment (FET); and the Health and Wellbeing pathway additionally draws on teaching and supervision from Health and Applied Sciences; both pathways will include modules co-taught by equivalent research leaders from partner institutions in the SWDTP at Bath, Bristol and Exeter Universities.

These pathways may expand to include other fields in the future.

The MRes Social Research main aim is to develop students' understanding of the philosophy and practice of applied research within the two interdisciplinary pathways. The structure mirrors the format of the MRes (Sustainable Futures) and MRes (Health and Wellbeing) offered by the other universities in the SWDPT with core research training modules and dissertation, and optional modules relating to the pathway.

The educational aims of the programme are:

- To equip students with the knowledge and skills to undertake independent interdisciplinary research
- To enable students to critically evaluate evidence, design and undertake systematic and rigorous research.
- To promote creative and innovative thinking in research design, methods and impact specifically in the context of future trajectories for sustainability and health and wellbeing
- To provide cultural setting of high quality research practice and knowledge production in which students can participate and learn within a research community
- To equip students with advanced analytical skills and high quality communication skills for moving onto a PhD programme, or working in a research environment (e.g. public sector research)

The programme is primarily designed to provide training for students on a 1+3 PGR route, or wishing to apply for social science orientated PGR studies. It will also offer an appropriate level research training for students to be employed in public sector or commercial social research.

Programme requirements for the purposes of the Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR)

Graduates will be able to critically engage with the philosophical underpinnings of research design; develop practical skills for collecting and analysing qualitative and quantitative data; develop academic writing skills. In addition it will develop knowledge and skills for working in applied and interdisciplinary research fields.

Regulations

B: Approved to University Academic Regulations and Procedures

Part 3: Learning Outcomes of the Programme

The MSc Social Research was specifically initiated to provide students who are undertaking ESRC funded doctoral training through the SWDTP an opportunity to develop **in depth knowledge and practice of social research** as the 1+ in the 1+3 ESRC training model. The learning outcomes provided here therefore focus on the research training element of the programme, and provide indicative information regarding the pathway opportunities for specialist subject knowledge. Due to the number of specialist option modules it is not feasible to identify the specifics of each of these modules here.

A. Knowledge and Understanding (subject specific)

1. Read critically and contribute to the literature relating to research in Sustainability or Health and Wellbeing across a range of disciplines (ESD)
2. Research philosophy – understanding of how is knowledge produced (ie different epistemological and ontological positions)
3. Research design – how to design a research project and knowledge of different research strategies
4. Qualitative data collection techniques – specific methods covered are interviews/focus groups; documents and visual data, participant observations
5. Qualitative data analysis – how to code and interpret qualitative data; how to use NVivo
6. Quantitative data collection – surveys, secondary data, etc
7. Quantitative data analysis – a range of statistical tests (e.g. descriptive and inferential)
8. Interdisciplinary skills – drawing evidence from different theoretical paradigms and approaches and communicating across disciplinary boundaries (ESD)
9. Specific subject knowledge relating to the topic of Sustainable Futures or Health and Wellbeing connected to optional modules selected and dissertation topic (ESD)

B. Intellectual Skills (generic)

As indicated above, the intellectual skills will include

10. Critically evaluating and synthesizing evidence through written assignments and oral presentations (ESD)
11. Identifying how problems can be solved through appropriate research strategies (ESD)
12. Collecting and managing data ethically and securely
13. Testing hypotheses/answering research questions with primary and/or secondary data using appropriate analytical techniques
14. Constructing credible arguments through written assignments and oral presentations

C. Subject/Professional/Practical Skills (subject specific)

The focus of the course is developing research skills for a research career (specifically leading to PhD research programmes).

15. Gather and systematically review existing evidence
16. Generate new evidence through:
 - i. Qualitative data analysis – how to code and interpret qualitative data
 - ii. Quantitative data analysis – a range of statistical tests
17. Ability to communicate research evidence to expert and lay audiences
18. Subject specialist knowledge related to the pathway theme of Sustainable Futures or Health and Wellbeing.

D. Transferable Skills and other attributes (generic)

Part 3: Learning Outcomes of the Programme

Students will be expected to develop the following generic/transferable skills

19. Writing clear and concise arguments
20. Numerical skills (statistics)
21. Presentation skills
22. Specific IT skills for quantitative and qualitative analysis
23. Generic IT skills, including relevant academic data base/web searches
24. Time management and project management
25. Initiative and personal responsibility including health, safety and risk assessment
26. Independent learning skills suitable for continuing professional development

| <i>Learning Outcomes:</i> | Module No: UBGMRQ-15-M | Module No: UBGMS9-15-M | Module No: UZVY4N-15-M | Module No: UBGMV8-30-M | Module No: UBGMP-30-M | Module No: UBGMR9-60-M |
|---|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| A) Knowledge and understanding of: | | | | | | |
| 1 | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 2 | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 3 | X | X | X | X | | X |
| 4 | | | | X | | X |
| 5 | | | | X | | X |
| 6 | | | | X | | X |
| 7 | | | | X | | X |
| 8 | X | X | X | | X | X |
| 9 | | | | | | |
| (B) Intellectual Skills | | | | | | |
| 10 | X | X | X | | X | X |
| 11 | X | X | X | | | X |
| 12 | | | | X | | X |
| 13 | | | | X | | X |
| 14 | X | X | X | X | X | X |

Part 3: Learning Outcomes of the Programme

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|-----------|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| | (C) Subject/Professional/Practical Skills | | | | | | |
| 15 | | x | x | | | | |
| 16 | | | | | x | x | X |
| 17 | | | | | X | X | X |
| 18 | | | | | X | X | X |
| | (D) Transferable skills and other attributes | | | | | | |
| 19 | | X | X | | X | X | X |
| 20 | | x | x | | X | X | X |
| 21 | | X | X | | X | X | X |
| 22 | | | | | x | | x |
| 23 | | | | | x | | x |
| 24 | | X | X | | X | X | X |
| 25 | | | | | X | X | X |
| 26 | | | | | | x | x |

Part 4: Programme Structure

This structure diagram demonstrates the student journey from Entry through to Graduation for a typical **full time postgraduate student** including:

- level and credit requirements
- interim award requirements
- module diet, including compulsory and optional modules

In addition to the core modules, students will choose a further 30 credits of optional modules at UWE either in FET or HAS that are relevant to the two pathway themes. Indicative modules are provided below. *Any relevant 15 credit module offered within FET or HAS may be selected in discussion with the pathway lead.*

| | Compulsory Modules | Optional Modules | Interim Awards |
|--------|---|--|---|
| Year 1 | UBGMRQ-15-M Advanced Interdisciplinary Research Design* | Any relevant 15 credit module offered within FET (or HAS for MRes Social Research (Health and Wellbeing)) may be selected in discussion with the pathway lead. Students must select 30 optional credits. | Interim awards: PG Certificate in Interdisciplinary Social Research, 60 credits with at least 40 at level M (on completion of either UBG MVP-30-M or UBG MV8-30-M plus 30 further core credits). |
| | UBGMV8-30-M Research Design and Methodologies | | |
| | UBGMVP-30-M Research in Context | Indicative option modules for MRes Social Research (Sustainable Futures): UBGM8N-15-M Travel Demand Analysis; UBGM8M-15-M Transport Economics and Appraisal; UBGM8Q-15-M Transport Policy and Finance; UBGM8P-15-M Changing Travel Behaviour; UBGLWP-15-M Sustainable Transport Management and Operations; UBGMU4-15-M Introduction to Applied GIS; UBGMXK-15-M Spatial Analytical Methods; UBGMXN-15-M Healthy Cities; UBGMY7-15-M Planning for Conversation; UBGMYN-15-M Grassroots Planning; UBGMF9-15-M Sustainable Development: | PG Certificate in Research Methods, 60 credits with at least 40 at level M (on completion of UBG MVP-30-M and UBG MV8-30-M) |
| | UBGMR9-60-M Dissertation (SWDTP) | | |
| | | | |
| | | PG Diploma in Social Research (Health and Wellbeing), 120 credits with at least 80 at level M (including UZVY4N-15-M) | |

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|--|--|--|--|
| | <p>MRes Social Research (Health and Wellbeing) students take:</p> <p>UZVY4N-15-M Contemporary Debates in Lifestyle Behaviours and Public Health*</p> <p>MRes Social Research (Sustainable Futures) students take:</p> <p>UBGMS9-15-M Contemporary Debates in Sustainability*</p> <p>* SWDTP Shared modules. Delivery will take place at other universities within the SWDTP (Bath, Exeter, Bristol), and the location will vary from year to year.</p> | <p>Principles and Practice; UZVSK9-15-M Creating Sustainable Behaviour Change; UBGMJK-15-M Catchment Hydrology; UBGMV4-15-M Water Management: Challenges for the 21st Century</p> <p>Indicative option modules for MRes Social Research (Health and Wellbeing):</p> <p>UZVRT3-15-M Health Promotion; UZVSMR-15-M Epidemiology of Non-Communicable Disease; UZVSMQ-15-M Health protection; UZVSMN-15-M Public Health Policy and Politics; UZVSMP-15-M Public Health Economics and Policy</p> | |
|--|--|--|--|

Part time:

The following structure diagram demonstrates the student journey from Entry through to Graduation for a typical **part time student**.

| ENTRY | Compulsory Modules | Optional Modules | Awards |
|--------|---|---|--|
| YEAR 1 | UBGMVP-30-M Research in Context | Any relevant 15 credit module offered within FET (or HAS for MRes Social Research (Health and Wellbeing) may be selected in discussion with the pathway lead. | <p>Interim award:</p> <p>PG Certificate in Interdisciplinary Social Research, 60 credits with at least 40 at level M (on completion of either UBG MVP-30-M plus 30 further core credits).</p> |
| | UBGMV8-30-M Research Design and Methodologies | | |
| | | Students must select 30 optional credits. | |
| | | UBGM8N-15-M Travel Demand Analysis; | |

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| | | <p>UBGM8M-15-M Transport Economics and Appraisal; UBGM8Q-15-M Transport Policy and Finance; UBGM8P-15-M Changing Travel Behaviour; UBGLWP-15-M Sustainable Transport Management and Operations; UBGMU4-15-M Introduction to Applied GIS; UBGMXK-15-M Spatial Analytical Methods; UBGMXN-15-M Healthy Cities; UBGMY7-15-M Planning for Conversation; UBGMYN-15-M Grassroots Planning; UBGMF9-15-M Sustainable Development: Principles and Practice; UZVSK9-15-M Creating Sustainable Behaviour Change; UBGMJK-15-M Catchment Hydrology; UBGMV4-15-M Water Management: Challenges for the 21st Century</p> <p>Indicative option modules for MRes Social Research (Health and Wellbeing):</p> <p>UZVRT3-15-M Health Promotion; UZVSMR-15-M Epidemiology of Non-Communicable Disease; UZVSMQ-15-M Health protection; UZVSMN-15-M Public Health Policy and Politics; UZVSMP-15-M Public Health Economics and Policy</p> | |
|--|--|---|--|

| | Compulsory Modules | Optional Modules | Awards |
|--------|--|------------------|---|
| YEAR 2 | UBGMRQ-15-M Advanced Interdisciplinary Research Design* | | |
| | <p>MRes Social Research (Sustainable Futures) students take:</p> <p>UBGMS9-15-M Contemporary Debates in Sustainability*</p> <p>MRes Social Research (Health and Wellbeing) students take:</p> <p>UZVY4N-15-M Contemporary Debates in Lifestyle Behaviours and Public Health*</p> <p>* SWDTP Shared modules. Delivery will take place at other universities within the SWDTP (Bath, Exeter, Bristol), and the location will vary from year to year.</p> | | <p>Interim award:</p> <p>PG Certificate in Interdisciplinary Social Research, 60 credits with at least 40 at level M (on completion of either UBG MVP-30-M or UBG MV8-30-M plus 30 further core credits).</p> <p>PG Certificate in Research Methods, 60 credits with at least 40 at level M (on completion of UBG MVP-30-M & UBG MV8-30-M)</p> <p>PG Diploma in Social Research (Sustainable Futures): 120 credits with at least 80 at level M (including UBGMS9-15-M)</p> |
| | UBGMR9-60-M Dissertation (SWDTP) | | PG Diploma in Social Research (Health and Wellbeing), 120 credits with at least 80 at level M (including UBGMS9-15-M) |
| | | | |

Part 5: Entry Requirements

The University's Standard Entry Requirements apply with the following additions/exceptions*:
2:1 or higher degree in an appropriate subject to the pathway choice, or equivalent professional experience.

Part 6: Reference Points and Benchmarks

Set out which reference points and benchmarks have been used in the design of the programme:

[QAA UK Quality Code for HE](#)

- Framework for higher education qualifications (FHEQ)
- Subject benchmark statements
- Qualification characteristics for [Master's degrees](#)

[Strategy 2020](#)

[University policies](#)

The MRes Social Research is designed to meet the objectives of ESRC Post Graduate Training, to be part of an accredited Doctoral Training Centre, and therefore reflects the objectives set out by the ESRC.

<http://www.esrc.ac.uk/files/skills-and-careers/studentships/postgraduate-training-and-development-guidelines-2015/>

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|---|-------------|---------|---|---------------------------------------|
| First CAP Approval Date | 30 May 2017 | | | |
| Revision CAP Approval Date <i>Update this row each time a change goes to CAP</i> | | Version | 1 | Link to MIA (ID 4023) |
| Next Periodic Curriculum Review due date | 2023 | | | |
| Date of last Periodic Curriculum Review | | | | |