

## MODULE SPECIFICATION FORM

Module Title: Research for Social Workers	Level: 5	Credit Value: 20
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Module code: SOC 513	Cost Centre: GASW	JACS2 code*: L310
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*\*please contact Student Data Services for further guidance if necessary*

Semester(s) in which to be offered: 2	With effect from: September 2011
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<b>Office use only:</b> To be completed by AQSU:	Date approved: Sept 2011 Date revised: Sept 2013 Version no: 2
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Existing	Title of module being replaced (if any): N/A
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Originating Academic area: Social Work	Module Leader: Wulf Livingston
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Module duration (total hours) 200 Scheduled learning & teaching hours 60 (direct) 60 (self-directed) Independent study hours 80 Placement hours 0	Status: core/option/elective (identify programme where appropriate): core
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Percentage taught by Subjects other than originating Subject (please name other Subjects): None
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Programme(s) in which to be offered:  BA (Hons) Social Work: Qualified Status BA (Hons) Social Welfare (exit/alternative award only)	Pre-requisites per programme (between levels):	Co-requisites per programme (within a level):
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#### Module Aims:

1. To enable students to understand and assess basic social science research methodologies and to achieve competence and appreciation of electronic data retrieval.
2. To introduce and develop students' appreciation of the key research traditions that are used as a means of effective social work intervention.
3. To encourage *critical assessment* of research methodologies and the ideas and values that underpin them.
4. To encourage the *application* of relevant social research and evaluation methods to social work practice, with reference to anti-discriminatory practice.
5. To introduce and develop skills of analysis, evaluating competing evidence in the development of a convincing argument.
6. To encourage the use of a diverse range of skills and methods in the investigation and presentation of data and research findings.

#### Expected Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module, students should be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding:

1. Compare and contrast methodological concepts and research evidence.
2. Analyse information gathered, weighing up competing evidence and modifying their viewpoint in light of new information.
3. Assess evidence from international research on the design and implementation of effective social work intervention in an anti-discriminatory context.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the different information technologies for a variety of purposes, including professional communication, presentation of research proposals/findings, and information searching.
5. Apply relevant data analysis and evaluation methods to practice, in a service user/carer context..

Transferable/Key Skills and other attributes:

Analytical skills  
Anti-discriminatory practice base  
Reflective and reflexive skills  
Presentation skills

Communication skills through group work and through the presentation of materials.  
 Written skills  
 Development of IT skills and contributing to ECDL requirements

Assessment: please indicate the type(s) of assessment (eg examination, oral, coursework, project) and the weighting of each (%). **Details of indicative assessment tasks must be included.**

**Indicative assessments:**

Assessment One

-Students will critically evaluate a selected research article in the field of social care,

Assessment Two

-Students will develop a research proposal for a small scale evaluation of an aspect of provision in respect of their 80 day Practice learning Opportunity (SOC 519), drawing on the knowledge that has been acquired about methods and methodologies during the module. The assessment will be provided in a report format

For students on the BA (Hons) Social Work:Qualified Status programme:

All elements of assessment must be passed;

Two attempts only are permitted for the assessment of this module.

Assessment	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting	Duration (if exam)	Word count or equivalent if appropriate
1	1,2,5	Critical review of a research article (Report)	60%	n/a	2,000
2	1,3,4,5	Research proposal using PowerPoint	40%	n/a	1,000

Learning and Teaching Strategies: This will include interactive lectures, group work, workshops/seminars, e-learning, the use of case studies, and the use of visiting speakers (researchers within the Social Sciences).

Syllabus outline:

**Semester One:** Introduction to the module: what is social research?; introduction to assignment one; What has social research got to do with social work/social care?; the research process: methods and methodologies – an overview; positivism/interpretivism; quantitative/qualitative methods; triangulation; Case study: the interview method; The survey/questionnaire method; participant observation, use of focus groups; applying to case studies from social work/care; Sampling strategies;

**Semester Two:** Evidence-based practice and the 'research-aware' social practitioner; narrative methods; critical discourse analysis; action-research; case studies from social work/social care practice; research ethics; how to write a research project (assignment 2).

Empty rectangular box for additional notes or comments.

## Bibliography

### Essential reading:

Alston, M. and Bowles, W (2012) *Research for social workers: an introduction to methods* (3rd edn) London:Routledge.

Bryman, A. (2008) *Social Research Methods. (3rd edn)* Oxford, Oxford University Press (\*Key Text)

D'Cruz, H. and Jones, M. (2006) *Social Work Research –Ethical and Political Contexts* London; Sage.

Gilbert, N. (2008) *Researching Social Life (3rd edn)* London: Sage.

Hart, C. (2006) *Doing a Literature Search.* London: Sage.

McLaughlin, H. (2007) *Understanding Social Work Research.* London; Sage.

### Other indicative reading:

Association of Directors of Adult Social Services. (2010) *Guidelines for people who want approval for multi-site social services research project*  
<http://www.adass.org.uk/images/stories/Guidelines%20for%20applicants%2011.1.10.pdf>  
(accessed 18-03-2010).

British Sociological Association. (2004) *Statement of ethical practice for the British Sociological Association*, Durham, British Sociological Association.

Cresswell, J.W. (2009), *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods approaches*, 3rd ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

De Vaus, D. (2005) *Research design in social research*, London, Sage.

Locke, L.F. and Silverman, S. & Spirduso, W.W. (2009), *Reading and Understanding Research*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Pawson, R., Boaz, A., Grayson, L., Long, A. and Barnes, C. (2003) *Types and quality of knowledge in social care: SCIE Knowledge Review 03*, London, Social Care Institute of Excellence

Silverman, D (2010) *Doing qualitative research*, London, Sage.