

**MODULE SPECIFICATION FORM**

Module Title:	Research Foundations in Health & Social Care	Level:	5	Credit Value:	20
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Module code:	SOC524	Cost Centre:	GANG	JACS2 code:	L510
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Trimester(s) in which to be offered:	1	With effect from:	September 2013
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<b>Office use only:</b> To be completed by AQSU:	Date approved:	September 2013
	Date revised:	-
	Version no:	1

Existing/New:	New	Title of module being replaced (if any):	N/A
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Originating Department :	Health Sciences & Applied Social Sciences	Module Leader:	Gill Truscott
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Module duration (total hours)	200 hours	Status: core/option/elective (identify programme where appropriate):	Core
Scheduled learning & teaching hours	40 hrs		
Independent study hours	160 hrs		

Percentage taught by Departments other than originating Departments (please name other Departments):	None
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Programme(s) in which to be offered:	FdA Health & Social Care	Pre-requisites per programme (between levels):
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**Module Aims:**

This module will establish the significance of research within health & social care practice. It aims to identify fundamental research concepts and methods used in health & social care and will enable the student to develop a critical understanding of research processes in order to enhance service user care and interventions.

## Expected Learning Outcomes

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

### Knowledge and Understanding:

1. Relate the purpose and use of research to their relevant areas of health & social care practice and distinguish research-based evidence from other types of knowledge and information.
2. Evaluate the value and risks of research in health & social care, including its influence on and application to best practice.
3. Differentiate between qualitative and quantitative approaches to research, comparing and contrasting their relative merits and application to health & social care practice.
4. Analyse research findings and appraise the strengths and weaknesses of research studies in order to apply to current issues in service user care and interventions.

### Transferable/Key Skills and other attributes:

Academic writing

Database searching / IT skills

Systematic enquiry/ managing information / use of evidence

Critical appraisal

Application of research evidence to current issues in related health & social care fields

### Assessment:

The students will be expected to submit a written critique of one research study, from a choice of two preselected articles; one qualitative and one quantitative. They will consider the research methods employed within the study and determine its value within their relevant field of health & social care practice.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting	Duration (if exam)	Word count (or equivalent if appropriate)
1	1 – 4	Essay	100%		3000

### Learning and Teaching Strategies:

Interactive lectures, group work and discussion, directed study and presentations. Moodle™ will be available to enable students to offer support to each other. Students will have access to audio, email and group tutorial support.

**Syllabus outline:**

Knowledge acquisition including systematic enquiry and anecdotal evidence. Key features of the research process; Qualitative and quantitative research approaches / Research terminology / Database searching and selection / Formulating a research question / Sampling methods & recruitment / Data collection and analysis methods / Quality issues in research - trustworthiness and rigour in qualitative research / reliability and validity in quantitative research / Research ethics / Research critique / The application of research to health & social care practice and its impact on contemporaneous issues.

**Bibliography**

Essential reading:

Cottrell, S. (2005), *Critical Thinking Skills: Developing Effective Analysis and Argument*. Basingstoke: Palgrave.Moule,

M. Hek, G. (2011), *Making Sense of Research: An Introduction for Health & social care Practitioners*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. London: SAGE Publications Ltd.

Neale, J. (ed.) (2009), *Research Methods for Health & social care*. Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan.

Punch, K.F. (2005), *Introduction to Social Research: Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches (Essential Resource Books for Social Research)*. 2nd ed. London: SAGE Publications Ltd.

**Other indicative reading:**

Bryman, A. (2012), *Social Research Methods*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Oxford University Press.

Cresswell, J.W. (2009), *Research Design. Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches*. London: SAGE Publications Ltd.

Locke, L.F; Silverman, S.J; Spirduso, W.W; (2010) *Reading and Understanding Research*. 3rd ed. London: SAGE Publications Ltd.

Silverman, D; (2010), *Doing Qualitative Research*. 3rd ed. London: SAGE Publications Ltd.