

Prifysgol Wreccsam Wrexham University

Module specification

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Module Code	SWK523
Module Title	Research for Social Work Practice
Level	5
Credit value	20
Faculty	Social and Life Sciences
HECoS Code	100503
Cost Code	GASW

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Is the module core or option for this programme
BA (Hons) Social Work: Qualified Status	Core
BA (Hons) Social Welfare (exit/alternative award)	Core

Pre-requisites

None

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	30 hrs
Placement tutor support	0 hrs
Supervised learning e.g. practical classes, workshops	0 hrs
Project supervision (level 6 projects and dissertation modules only)	0 hrs
Total active learning and teaching hours	30 hrs
Placement / work based learning	0 hrs
Guided independent study	170 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	200 hrs

For office use only	
Initial approval date	16/08/23
With effect from date	01/09/23
Date and details of revision	
Version number	1

Module aims

This module will enable students to understand and analyse basic social science research. It aims to introduce and develop students' understanding of the evidence base, and the agencies that generate it, for social work practice. At the core of this module is the critical assessment of research methodologies, the ideas that underpin them, and the skills of analysis and argument that inform our understanding of competing evidence within a social work context.

Students will have the opportunity to develop their skills of critical appraisal of the research process, leading in semester 2 to the production of a research proposal that will link to their level 6 dissertation module. Key social work values will be apparent throughout, such as the centrality of the anti-oppressive agenda that guides social work research, and the Welsh context within which it should be understood.

Module Learning Outcomes - at the end of this module, students will be able to:

1	Demonstrate a critical understanding of the research process and its constituent methodological elements.
2	Critically appraise research evidence as presented in the field of Social Work.
3	Apply detailed knowledge and understanding of the research process in developing a research proposal that leads to the level 6 dissertation module.
4	Present a reflective appreciation of the impact of research for individuals and communities within the context of Welsh social work.

Assessment

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

This section outlines the type of assessment task the student will be expected to complete as part of the module. More details will be made available in the relevant academic year module handbook.

Assessment 1 – Critical Appraisal which provides a critical evaluation of a recent journal article accounting for primary research to inform social work practice. 1, 500 words +10%

Assessment 2 – a Research Proposal on a specific area of practice –to inform level 6 dissertation studies. 1, 000 words +10%.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)
1	1, 2	Written Assignment	70%
2	3, 4	Written Assignment	30%

Derogations

Only two attempts at the assignment.

Students must achieve at least 40% pass mark for each assessment element to pass the module and the module is not eligible for compensation.

Learning and Teaching Strategies

This will include interactive lectures, group work, workshops/seminars, e-learning, the use of case studies, and the contributions of visiting speakers (researchers within Social Work and members of Outside In).

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- Introduction to the module: what is social research?;
- 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;
- Data collection, sampling, data analysis;
- Research ethics and consent;
- Exploration of the role of individual and carer involvement in the co-production of social work knowledge;
- Evidence-based practice and the 'research-aware' social practitioner;
- Participatory Action Research (PAR);
- Creative Methods in the Arts and Social Work;
- Action-research;
- Case studies from social work/social care practice;
- How to write a research proposal.

Indicative Bibliography:

Please note the essential reads and other indicative reading are subject to annual review and update.

Essential Reads

Bell, L. (2017), *Research Methods For Social Workers*. London: Palgrave.

Other indicative reading

Alston, M. and Bowles, W. (2012), *Research for social workers: an introduction to methods* (2nd edn) London: Routledge.

Best, S. (2012), *Understanding and Doing Successful Research: Data Collection and Analysis for the Social Sciences*. London: Routledge.

Bryman, A. (2012), *Social Research Methods*. 3rd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press

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

Humphries, B. (2008), *Social Work Research for Social Justice*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Whitaker, A. (2012), *Research Skills for Social Work*. 2nd ed. London: Sage/Learning Matters.

Silverman, D. (2013), *Doing Qualitative Research*. 4th ed. London: Sage.

Employability – the University Skills Framework

Each module and programme is designed to cover core Graduate attributes with the aim that each Graduate will leave the University having achieved key employability skills as part of their study. The following attributes will be covered within this module either through the content or as part of the assessment. The programme is designed to cover all attributes and each module may cover different areas.

Core Attributes

Engaged
Enterprising
Creative
Ethical

Key Attitudes

Commitment
Curiosity
Resilience
Confidence
Adaptability

Practical Skillsets

Digital Fluency
Organisation
Leadership and Team working
Critical Thinking
Emotional Intelligence
Communication