Module Code:	PSY412

Module Title:	An Introduction to Research design

Level:	4	Credit Value:	20

Cost Centre(s):	GAPS	JACS3 code:	C800

School:	Social & Life Sciences	Module Leader:	Joshua Payne

Scheduled learning and teaching hours	36 hrs
Guided independent study	164 hrs
Placement	0 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	200 hrs

Programme(s) in which to be offered (not including exit awards)	Core	Option
BSc (Hons) Psychology	✓	☐

Pre-requisites
None.

Module Aims

- To introduce students to the nature, philosophy and scope of research methods in psychology.
- To enable students to acquire a basic level of knowledge and understanding of the research process and research methods.
- To provide students with an introduction to statistics and qualitative data analysis.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Key skills for employability

KS1	Written, oral and media communication skills
KS2	Leadership, team working and networking skills
KS3	Opportunity, creativity and problem solving skills
KS4	Information technology skills and digital literacy
KS5	Information management skills
KS6	Research skills
KS7	Intercultural and sustainability skills
KS8	Career management skills
KS9	Learning to learn (managing personal and professional development, self-management)
KS10	Numeracy

At the end of this module, students will be able to		Key Skills	
1	Appreciate the difference between qualitative and quantitative research.	KS1	
		KS5	
		KS6	
2	Discuss the ethical issues inherent in psychological research.	KS6	KS2
		KS5	
		KS1	
3	Explain the research process.	KS1	
		KS5	
		KS6	
4	Describe data collection methods used in psychological research	KS6	KS5
		KS1	
		KS4	
5	Recognise the elements of a research report.	KS10	KS1
		KS6	KS3
		KS5	
6	Apply data analysis techniques	KS3	
		KS4	
		KS10	

Transferable skills and other attributes

-	Study, writing, IT skills.
-	Communication skills.
-	Interpret data effectively.
-	Data analysis

Derogations

None.

Assessment:

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

1. An essay discussing the methodologies and methods utilised within psychological research.
2. A portfolio of tasks that are supported through the practical/workshop sessions.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)	Duration (if exam)	Word count (or equivalent if appropriate)
1	1, 4	Essay	50%	N/A	1,500
2	2, 3, 5, 6	Portfolio	50%	N/A	1,500

Learning and Teaching Strategies:

The module is delivered using a mixture of lectures, seminars and practical/workshop sessions including teaching or guided learning to support the lecture content.

Syllabus outline:

- Role of research in psychology
- Introduction to critical appraisal
- Qualitative and quantitative methods
- Problem definition and hypothesis formation
- Production of research reports (including a group research project)
- Ethics
- Introduction to data collection and analysis (including SPSS)
- Exploratory Data analysis
- Statistical inferences in parametric and non-parametric data investigating differences

Indicative Bibliography:

Essential reading

Textbooks
Bourne, V. (2017). *Starting out in methods and statistics for psychology: A hands-on guide to doing research.* Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press. Resource finder link

Harris, P. (2008). *Designing and reporting experiments* (3rd ed.). Maidenhead: Open University Press. Resource finder link

de Winter, P. & Cahusac, P. (2014). *Starting out in statistics: An introduction for students of human health, disease, and psychology.* Chichester, UK: Wiley Blackwell. Resource finder link

Software
Microsoft Excel: This will be used for a lot of the data analysis elements of this module. You can install Microsoft office for free as part of your university subscription.

Open-access resources
Cuttler, C., Jhangiani, R. S., & Leighton, D. C. (2019). *Research methods in psychology* [4th ed.]. Open-access link

Payne, J. S. (2020): PSY412: Introduction to Research Methods [Curated open-access chapters from the NOBA project]. Open-access link

Wendorf, C. (2019). Statistics for Social Science: A sourcebook of basic statistical methods [online summary notes on reporting results and analyses]. Open-access link

Other indicative reading

Greenhalgh, T. (2019). *How to read a paper: The basics of evidence-based medicine and healthcare.* London, UK: WILEY Blackwell. Online chapters

Rowntree, D. (2018). *Statistics without Tears: An Introduction for Non-Mathematicians.* London, UK: Penguin

Vickers, A. (2010). *What is a p-value anyway? 34 Stories to Help You Actually Understand Statistics.* New York, NY: Pearson.

Journals

No specific journals required for this module but every opportunity will be taken to introduce students to original articles.