

Module specification

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Module code	PSYON704
Module title	Research Proposal
Level	7
Credit value	15
Faculty	Faculty of Social and Life Sciences
HECoS Code	100959
Cost Code	GAPS

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Is the module core or option for this programme
MSc Psychology	Core
MSc Forensic Psychology	Core
MSc Educational Psychology	Core

Pre-requisites

None

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	15 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	15 hrs
Placement / work based learning	0 hrs
Guided independent study	135 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	150 hrs

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Initial approval date	18.5.21
With effect from date	September 21
Date and details of revision	March 2023 – correction to assessment weighting, minor wording change to LO3, Module Aims and Syllabus.
Version number	2

Module aims

This module supports students in developing an appropriate research proposal that will form the basis of the dissertation. This module will provide support and guidance on conducting a literature review, identifying and constructing an appropriate methodology, and development of a data analysis plan. Students will also be required to submit an ethics application alongside the proposal. Feedback will be provided that can be utilised to improve the quality feasibility, and ethical standards of the project as needed.

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

1	Produce a research proposal focused on a substantive question in a relevant area of psychology, with appropriate scope.
2	Produce a critical, balanced, and well thought out research proposal as the basis for the dissertation
3	Apply ethical principles to research and demonstrate satisfactory consideration of potential ethical issues and mitigations

Assessment

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

Students will be expected to submit a completed research proposal, that includes a literature review, methods section, ethical considerations and data analysis plan (2500 words).

Students enrolled on MSc Educational Psychology and MSc Forensic Psychology programmes should propose a study on a topic within the relevant discipline.

In addition, students will be required to submit a complete ethics application. The ethics application must demonstrate consideration of specific ethical problems and mitigations, that must require only minor amendments to pass. The ethics application must also include all additional supplementary documents. Students will not be able to continue onto module PSYON712 Dissertation if they do not receive a pass for their ethics application.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)
1	1, 2	Written Assignment	100%
2	3	Coursework	Pass/Fail

Derogations

None

Learning and Teaching Strategies

The overall learning and teaching strategy will include a series of lectures with accompanying media resources. There will be a mix of supporting notes/along with directed study for students to complete as they work through the material to prepare each section of the research proposal. Students will be guided and supported through the Ethics process via lectures, supporting notes and additional resources.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- Conducting a literature review
- Constructing a research proposal
- Developing a research design and methodology
- Creating a data analysis plan
- Ethical review process

Indicative Bibliography:

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

Essential Reads

McMillan, K., & Weyers, J. (2015). *How to Complete a Successful Research Project*. Pearson

The books below have been chosen to support specific types of research project. It is likely you will only need to purchase one to support your dissertation.

For experimental research projects

Harris, P., Easterbrook, M. J., & Horst, J. S. (2021). *Designing and reporting experiments in Psychology* (3rd ed.). Routledge. Second edition available as Ebook at WGU

For questionnaire-based research projects

Patten, M. L. (2016). *Questionnaire Research: A Practical Guide* (4th ed.). Taylor & Francis. Available on Perlego

For qualitative research projects

Sullivan, C., & Forrester, M.A. (2018). *Doing qualitative research in psychology* [2nd ed.]. SAGE. Available on Perlego

Employability skills – the Glyndŵr Graduate

Each module and programme is designed to cover core Glyndŵr Graduate Attributes with the aim that each Graduate will leave Glyndŵr 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