

**MODULE SPECIFICATION FORM**

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| Module Title: Independent Study | Level: 6 | Credit Value: 40 |
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| Module code: SPT609<br>(if known) | Cost Centre: GASP | JACS2 code: C600 |
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| Semester(s) in which to be offered: 1&2 | With effect from: September 2009 |
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| <b>Office use only:</b><br>To be completed by AQSU: | Date approved:<br>Date revised:<br>Version no: |
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|-------------------|--|
| Existing/New: New | Title of module being replaced (if any): |
|-------------------|--|

|                           |                             |                |                   |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Originating Academic Area | Sport and Exercise Sciences | Module Leader: | Dr Michael Graham |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-------------------|

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| Module duration (total hours)       | 400 | Status: core/option/elective (identify programme where appropriate): |
| Scheduled learning & teaching hours | 56  |  |
| Independent study hours             | 344 |  |
| Placement hours                     | 0   |  |

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|--|------|
| Percentage taught by Subjects other than originating Subject (please name other Subjects): | Core |
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| Programme(s) in which to be offered: | BSc (Hons) Sport and Exercise Sciences<br>BSc (Hons) Sport Coaching | Pre-requisites per programme (between levels): | Research Methods |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|------------------|

### Module Aims:

This module aims to:

1. Develop students' knowledge of and ability to apply research methods used in Sport and Exercise Sciences and Sport Coaching research.
2. Enhance students' ability to identify an issue to which solutions and/or recommendations can be addressed.
3. Integrate and further develop aspects of the taught programme through the independently led completion of the independent study project.
4. Develop students' initiative and independence in their learning, through selecting and implementing a suitable research topic.
5. Culminate in a thorough and comprehensive written report of students' research.

### Expected Learning Outcomes

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

1. Identify and select a suitable research issue that is relevant within contemporary research in a chosen area.
2. Critically review the pertinent research in a chosen area.
3. Use appropriate methods to collect data that address the research issues and questions.
4. Analyse and interpret data, critically discussing findings in relation to the existing knowledge.
5. Present the research in a format that is appropriate to the discipline and that will develop skills relevant to their future careers.

Transferable/Key Skills and other attributes:

Research skills, independent study, the interpretation of complex data, and academic writing.

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.**

*Assessment*

Assignment Title: Independent Study

Coursework - 100% of module

Ethical Approval is required BEFORE data can be collected: Using the SES ethics form students will demonstrate an understanding of a pertinent research area.

Completion of the pro-forma will include detailed assessment of the timescale for the conclusion of the Independent study. This will include information on the completion of each section (literature review, introduction, methods, data collection, analysis, results, discussion, conclusion and reference section).

Learning outcomes to be assessed in this piece of coursework:

- LO1. Identify and select a suitable research issue that is relevant within contemporary research in their chosen area.
- LO 2. Critically review the pertinent research in their chosen area.
- LO 3. Use appropriate methods to collect data that address the research issues and questions.
- LO 4. Analyse and interpret data, critically discussing findings in relation to the existing knowledge.
- LO 5. Present their research in a format that is appropriate to the discipline and that will develop skills relevant to their future careers.

The final independent study should be approximately 6,000 words in a specified **Journal format** or **Technical report**, or a 30 minute **Presentation &** 3000 word **Report**.

| Assessment number | Learning Outcomes to be met | Type of assessment  | Weighting | Duration (if exam) | Word count (or equivalent if appropriate)   |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---|-----------|--------------------|---|
| 1                 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5               | Report<br><br>Ethical Approval & Journal Article/ or Technical Report/ or Presentation & Report | 100%      |                    | Journal Article or Technical Report (6000 words) or Presentation (30 minutes) & Report (3000 words) |

Learning and Teaching Strategies:

The module is essentially self-directed. As a guide, students can expect up to 4 hours of tutor time (in the form of individual meetings and online support) during the year. Students will be asked to attend some compulsory sessions (e.g. writing up the Independent Study). There will be a seminar programme to facilitate discussion amongst students who are using similar techniques of data collection and analysis. This will act as a catalyst to the establishment of student-led peer support groups. In addition, students are encouraged to attend refresher lectures and seminars pertinent to their chosen research area that is running as part of the

Research Methods level 5 module. If students require further help, they will have become too dependent on the tutor and will not meet the module aims, outcomes and philosophy.

Students are expected to meet with their tutors at least once per month. There are a number of compulsory meetings that students must attend: 1) after submission of CW1 to obtain feedback and agreement on the research topic and methods of data collection; and at least three weeks prior to submission to review progress made on the reporting of the research findings.

Following recommendations from students, the Research Methods (Level 5 module) is being made available to level 6 students in order for them to refresh their knowledge. It is imperative that students request permission, by email and in advance, from the lecturer delivering the session they wish to attend. The team will make every effort to accommodate everyone that wishes to attend but where resources and space are short, priority will be given to the level 5 students and then level 6 students on a first-come-first-served basis. All lecture and seminar notes for level 5 Researching Methods will be made available to level 6 students on Moodle.

The final submission of the third year project will be in the format of a journal article, or technical report, or presentation and short report. This decision will be made in conjunction with the student and supervisor. The decision will be based on students' academic ability relating to their writing style and nature of the topic under investigation.

Syllabus outline:

- The use of quantitative and qualitative methods in research and Independent study presentation.
- Validity and reliability of quantitative methods in research and independent study.

Independent study must include the following sections: a title, an abstract, a literature review, an introduction, methods, data collection, analyses (quantitative, qualitative or mixed-methods), results, discussion, conclusion, references in text and in reference section, appendices.

## **Bibliography**

### Essential Reading:

Field, A. (2009). *Discovering Statistics using SPSS (Introducing Statistical Methods series)* London: Sage Publications.

Gratton, C., and Jones, I. (2003). *Research methods for sport studies*. London: Routledge.

Thomas, J. R., and Nelson, J.K. (2005). *Research methods in physical activity*. Champaign IL: Human Kinetics.

### Indicative Other Reading:

Andrews, D.L., Mason, D.S., and Silk, M.L. (2005). *Qualitative methods in sports studies*. Oxford: Berg.

Denzin, N.K., and Lincoln, Y.S. (2000). (Eds) *Handbook of qualitative research* (2nd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Mason, J. (1996). *Qualitative researching*. California: Sage.

Miles, M. B., and Huberman, M. A. (1994). *Qualitative data analysis: An expanded sourcebook*. California: Sage.

Ntoumanis, N. (2001). *A step-by-step guide to SPSS for sport and exercise studies*. London: Routledge.

Specific research articles recommended according to topic of study.

