

Module Specification

Module Summary Information

1	Module Title	Psychology Dissertation
2	Module Credits	60
3	Module Level	7
4	Module Code	PSY7057

5	Module Overview
<p>Understanding research issues is an essential skill for psychologists operating in an evidence-based paradigm. The ability to produce an in-depth dissertation and present a logical argument using such research is a crucial skill for a successful psychology graduate.</p> <p>This module builds upon learning at in semester one and two and in particular draws upon the skills learnt in the Psychological Research Methods modules (qualitative and quantitative). This module will encourage students to plan, execute and write up a research project which adheres to principles of the Psychology Ethics Committee. The student should seek out research sources to produce an in-depth dissertation that answers their own identified research question or knowledge gap, making a contribution to the existing literature within their chosen topic area. This will be facilitated through critical evaluation of the sources they have selected and used. Students will also be facilitated in using statistical and other specialist software, testing equipment and materials, as well as the use of the psychology laboratories.</p> <p>Students will be allocated a supervisor or supervisory team with whom they should meet on a regular basis and who will be responsible for marking the student's work. These meetings can take place in person or via skype meetings. The student is responsible for managing their own time and the relationship with their supervisor effectively in order to complete the project to the highest possible standard.</p> <p>The module aims to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allow learners to undertake research within a chosen area of interest in psychology that is ethically approved. 2. Build upon students' understanding of the research process as studied in their modules, in order to allow critical evaluation of research sources used. 3. Encourage students to work under close one-to-one academic supervision in producing a sizeable dissertation document. 4. Encourage students in learning and researching about their dissertation topic in an independent manner. <p>This module will also identify how the skills and knowledge gained during this module are relevant to GBC competencies and training which are relevant to future work and studies in the area of Psychology.</p> <p>How this module fits with the programme philosophy: This module fits in with the programme philosophy because it: a) allows you to explore scientific approaches to research, b) this module</p>	

provides students with the ability to work on continuing professional development and prepare for graduate destinations by studying and assessing independent work and research skills, c) teaching methods and assessment in this module facilitates employability skills (e.g. communication, independent study, and problem-solving).

How this module fits with the programme level LT&A strategy: this module fits in with the LT&A strategy for the programme in the following ways: a) Learning independently will be encouraged, you will be supported with further reading and online based resources which will promote independent learning, and your supervisor will facilitate this throughout the module b) formative learning activities will play a central role to this module to building confidence and helping you understand the expectations of the research project. This will prepare you for your summative assessment.

How this module will be taught in line with LT&A strategy: This module will involve online workshops and activities with the module coordinator. In addition to this you will be required to hold regular structured meetings with your supervisor, totalling 4 hours.

6	Indicative Content
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Selecting an appropriate topic for a dissertation Ethics Undertaking a literature review APA referencing and writing Data collection Data analysis and evaluation Reaching appropriate conclusions.

7	Module Learning Outcomes
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On successful completion of the module, students will be able to:

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| 1 | Plan, undertake and evaluate a major self-managed project, by formulating research questions and appropriate design based on rationale. |
| 2 | Confidently and flexibly collect data, identify and tackle problems encountered and use appropriate knowledge and tools to reach an appropriate solution. |
| 3 | Synthesise, appraise and evaluate the findings of their research effectively, communicating findings in an APA format. |
| 4 | Make ethical judgements in complex and unpredictable contexts, requiring a deep, lifelong understanding of ethical conduct in psychology. |

8	Module Assessment
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Learning Outcome	Coursework	Exam	In-Person
1-4	x		

9 Breakdown Learning and Teaching Activities	
Learning Activities	Hours
Scheduled Learning (SL) includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, peer group learning, Graduate+, as specified in timetable	8
Directed Learning (DL) includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning, as directed on VLE	210
Private Study (PS) includes preparation for exams	382
Total Study Hours:	600