

Module Specification

Module Summary Information

1	Module Title	Health Psychology Dissertation
2	Module Credits	60
3	Module Level	7
4	Module Code	PSY7068

5	Module Overview
<p>Rationale: The aim of this module is to allow you to apply your theoretical understanding of applied research methods in health psychology 1 and 2 by developing an independent health psychology research project which includes conducting a mini-systematic review. You will: design a research project in the area of health psychology, collect and analyse data using methods appropriate for their research question, and scientifically report research findings. You will demonstrate a critical awareness of existing empirical research and will demonstrate this understanding by conducting a systematic review. Building on previous research methods modules, this module will further develop student's practical understanding of ethical research principles. You are expected to communicate their research clearly in a written format. You will prepare their dissertation report in accordance with the author guidelines for the British Journal of Health psychology, which is an official publication outlet of the British Psychological Society BPS. This will prepare you for future training in health psychology, where part of their training and professional practice will be to produce research of a publishable standard.</p> <p>You will choose a health domain to research, which will be informed by a systematic review of the literature. The health psychology research project is an independent piece of work that provides you with the opportunity to apply a range of academic, intellectual, and professional skills relevant to postgraduate study in health psychology, including critical awareness, effective communication skills, critical analysis, evaluation and synthesis.</p> <p>How this module fits with the programme aims: This module fits with the following programme aims:</p> <p>[2] To equip you with the core and transferable skills which meet with stage one training* in health psychology as set out by the British Psychological Society's Division of Health Psychology Training Committee (DHP/BPS, 2014). This supports practice-led training and applied research in health psychology.</p> <p>[3] To provide you with a critical understanding of theoretical issues underlying health psychology and their relation to allied health and cognate disciplines, and work with multidisciplinary teams.</p> <p>[4] To provide opportunities for you to develop health psychology trainee knowledge/outcomes and self-reflective, self-critical, and advanced research skills which support future work and progression in the health sector (scholarship/practice/progression trainee health psychologist).</p> <p>[5] To set health psychology theory research and practice in the context of contemporary, social, cultural, and economic factors within local, national, and international contexts.</p> <p>How this module fits with the programme philosophy: This module, in conjunction with the research skills learned in the applied research methods in health psychology 1 and 2 modules, encompass your core research methods training on the MSc Health psychology programme. In addition to research methods modules, this module combines skills learned across the programme such as appraisal of health psychology theory and continues to foster an evidence-based, scholarly and professional approach to health psychology in practice. Furthermore, in this module you will develop transferable skills including numerical skills, evidence synthesis, critical evaluation, and writing data-based research reports which will increase their employability in applied, academic and</p>	

health professions as well as employment in other organisations such as charities. Therefore, this module will help to equip you with the skills required to develop their next steps in health psychology, applied health psychology, allied health psychology practice or research positions.

Study mode/delivery method(s) and alignment with the programme level Learning, Teaching & Assessment strategy

This module will have psychology experimental workshops, dissertation write-up workshop and one-to-one supervision:

Flexible learning environment where a variety of learning modes will be used in a flexible manner (break-away activities, psychology experimental laboratory activities, data analysis activities, workshop discussion and activities and one-to-one supervision). This will be further supported by forum cafés, forum discussion blogs/vlogs, activities and wider reading which generically relates to writing up an empirical project which will be housed on Moodle (VLE). Rich learning culture activities, discussion and supervision will be student-directed where material will be discussed in relation to the health issue/area relevant to your research. Intentional content where material is aligned to the core curriculum and skills in health psychology research with the use of various materials (power-point, empirical papers, data sets and module learning outcomes/assessment. Professional educator where you will be provided with continual feedback throughout the module which will feedforward to your summative assessment through supervision. This module promotes independent and autonomous learning where you will be independent in conducting and writing up your research project. Workshop activities and supervision will enhance critical thinking, reflection, decision making and autonomous learning skills.

Details of the teaching schedule, recommended pre/post reading and access to relevant resources are provided through Moodle (VLE).

6 Indicative Content

This module consists of students conducting systematic reviews, designing research and collecting data, and presenting their research findings. They are each assigned a dissertation supervisor who supports them with producing their dissertation (coursework part 2)

Teaching topics include:

- Developing research ideas and writing research proposals
- Conducting systematic reviews
- Developing ethics applications
- APA 6th Edition writing style
- Quantitative data analysis approaches
- Qualitative data analysis approaches

7 Module Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the module, students will be able to:

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| 1 | Critically and systematically review relevant literature/methodologies, identify and provide a rationale for a topic in health that requires further investigation. |
| 2 | Demonstrate an understanding of ethical issues when conducting psychological research in health. |
| 3 | Collect and analyse data using appropriate techniques. |
| 4 | Effectively communicate knowledge in a scientific manner including the ability to critically evaluate research findings. |

8	Module Assessment		
Learning Outcome			
	Coursework	Exam	In-Person
1-3	X		
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	44	
Directed Learning (DL) includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning, as directed on VLE	180	
Private Study (PS) includes preparation for exams	376	
Total Study Hours:	600	