

Research Methods in Psychology

Programme Requirements:

Research Methods in Psychology - MSc
105 credits from Module List: PS5003, PS5005, SS5102 - SS5104 and 15 credits from Module List: SS5101, PS5021, PS4091 and PS5002 (60 credits)

Compulsory modules:

PS5003 Generic Research and Professional Skills in Psychology

SCOTCAT Credits:	30	SCQF Level 11	Semester	Full Year
Academic year:	2018/9			
Planned timetable:	To be arranged.			
This module introduces students to the various skills and issues that are of importance to academic psychologists irrespective of their particular area of research. Weekly seminars will cover the various topics, such as academic presentations (published writing, talks, posters), the use of technology in order to enhance communication, how to read research reports, how to gain ethical approval for research, and how to build an academic career.				
Learning and teaching methods of delivery:	Weekly contact: 17 x 2-hour seminars.			
Assessment pattern:	4 elements of Coursework = 100%			
Re-assessment pattern:	Resubmission of failed item(s) of coursework			
Module coordinator:	Dr S D Pehrson			

PS5005 Methods of Data Analysis in Psychology

SCOTCAT Credits:	30	SCQF Level 11	Semester	2
Academic year:	2018/9			
Planned timetable:	12.00 noon Mon			
This module aims to ensure that students are competent in the use of advanced data analysis in psychology. This includes advanced training in common statistics (including regression, analysis of variance and multivariate techniques) plus additional training in qualitative methods. Students will also study more complex topics such as statistical modeling.				
Learning and teaching methods of delivery:	Weekly contact: 11 x 3-hour workshops plus optional tutorials.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Re-assessment pattern:	Resubmission of failed item(s) of coursework			
Module coordinator:	Dr E M Bowman			
Module teaching staff:	Dr E Bowman, Dr R Spence, Dr S Pehrson and Professor S Reicher			

SS5102 Philosophy and Methodology of the Social Sciences

SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 11	Semester	2
Academic year:	2018/9			
Planned timetable:	3.00 pm - 5.00 pm Wed			
This seminar-based module will introduce you to the basic theoretical approaches in the social sciences, encourage you to make connections between the methodological and epistemological issues involved in conducting social scientific research, and inspire you to reflect critically on your own experience. The module will cover modern philosophy's historical evolution, positivism, feminism, critical theory and post-structuralism among other topics. Assessment will involve one short review and one longer essay.				
Learning and teaching methods of delivery:	Weekly contact: 2-hour seminar			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Re-assessment pattern:	2-hour Written Class Test = 100%			
Module coordinator:	Dr M G Kesby			
Module teaching staff:	Prof Nick Rengger			

SS5103 Qualitative Methods in Social Research

SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 11	Semester	2
Academic year:	2018/9			
Planned timetable:	10.00 am - 12.00 noon Tue			
This seminar-based module offers both a theoretical and practical introduction to the collection, analysis and writing of qualitative social science research. Among other things, the module will cover positionality/ethics, archives, participant observation, participatory approaches, semi-structured interviewing and the use of NVIVO/computer aided qualitative data analysis. Assessment will involve a short reflection on field experience and a longer critical essay on a chosen aspect of qualitative research.				
Learning and teaching methods of delivery:	Weekly contact: 2-hour seminar.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Re-assessment pattern:	2-hour Written Class Test = 100%			
Module coordinator:	Dr M G Kesby			
Module teaching staff:	Dr M Kesby			

SS5104 Quantitative Research in Social Science

SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 11	Semester	1
Academic year:	2018/9			
Planned timetable:	1.00 - 5.00 pm Mon			
This module provides a user-friendly introduction to the fundamental concepts of quantitative analysis. It will cover underlying principles, terminology, research design, sampling strategies, uncertainty and missing data, computerised data management and univariate and multivariate approaches to data analysis. The assessment will be in the form of practical tasks completed in class and/or independently.				
Learning and teaching methods of delivery:	Weekly contact: 3-hour combined lecture and practical session.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Re-assessment pattern:	2-hour Written Class Test = 100%			
Module coordinator:	Dr M G Kesby			
Module teaching staff:	Dr J Ales			

Psychology and Neuroscience - Research Methods in Psychology - 2018/9 - June 2018

PS5002 Psychology Master's Research Project

SCOTCAT Credits:	60	SCQF Level 11	Semester	Full Year
Academic year:	2018/9			
Planned timetable:	To be arranged with the supervisor.			
The student will carry out a major piece of original and independent research under the guidance of an academic supervisor. Under normal circumstances the research will be planned during the academic semesters and then conducted during the summer after successful completion of the other MSc modules. Supervision will be regular and will normally average approximately one hour every two weeks. The aim of the module is to give the student an opportunity to develop expertise in designing, conducting and analysing psychological research, and also to learn how to present such work in writing.				
Learning and teaching methods of delivery:	Weekly contact: Personal tutorials at approximately 2-weekly intervals.			
Assessment pattern:	15,000 word (maximum) research report = 100%			
Module coordinator:	Dr K A Spencer			

Optional modules:

SS5101 Being a Social Scientist

SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 11	Semester	1
Academic year:	2018/9			
Planned timetable:	3.00 - 5.00 pm Fri			
Through a series of interactive seminars this two-part module explores the fundamental skills required by all social scientists. In part one, the module will focus on how to design and produce a research dissertation. Assessment will be in the form of a critical essay that analyses the research design of a selection of papers. In part two, issues of professional development (e.g. ethics, careers, grant writing) will be addressed. Assessment will be in the form of a class test in which you will review and comment on two research proposals.				
Learning and teaching methods of delivery:	Weekly contact: 2-hour seminar.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Re-assessment pattern:	2-hour Written Class Test = 100%			
Module coordinator:	Dr M G Kesby			
Module teaching staff:	Dr M Kesby			

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PS5021 Methodologies for Psychology and Neuroscience				
SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 11	Semester	Full Year
Academic year:	2018/9			
Planned timetable:	To be arranged.			
<p>The primary aim of this module would be that the student gains some practical, hands-on experience, albeit rather briefly, of a number of laboratory techniques and of research methodologies as are employed by the Principal Investigators in the School of Psychology and Neuroscience. Across the course the student would experience a wide variety of methods and research practices and thereby become more aware of the possibilities of an integrative approach. The course would entail one weekly session (approx. 5 hours per week) during which the student would spend a session in the laboratory of a PI (Principal Investigator). This module would cover the research design, data collection, data analysis and the publication style of each PI. The PI would demonstrate the methodology, data collection and data analysis relevant to that laboratory and to the field in which the PI works. This may include an introductory lecture or discussion of literature relevant to the PI's field and would be followed by observation of, and basic training in the specific techniques used by the PI in conducting that research. The student would be involved in any data collection that may take place during that session, be made aware of the way in which those data are analysed by that PI's group and then shown how those results are prepared for publication and other dissemination.</p>				
Learning and teaching methods of delivery:	Weekly contact: 5 hours each week for 5 weeks.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Re-assessment pattern:	Resubmission of failed item(s) of coursework			
Module coordinator:	Dr K A Spencer			

PS4091 Computer-aided Research				
SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 10	Semester	1
Academic year:	2018/9			
Availability restrictions:	Available only to students in the second year of the Honours Programme, or Research Methods in Psychology (MSc)			
Planned timetable:	9.00 am - 11.00 am Tue			
<p>As research becomes ever more computationally intense, the ability to use modern research software is becoming indispensable. This practical module will offer an introduction to computational modelling and provide you with the skills necessary to apply it in your research. Emphasis will be put on using scientific scripting languages in a research context. This module will build on the statistical techniques learned in previous modules and introduce modelling techniques, and imaging, stimulus presentation, and data visualisation.</p>				
Pre-requisite(s):	Module prerequisites may be waived for students with entry into honours psychology. Prerequisites PS3021 and PS3022 are applicable to ug students only. . Before taking this module you must pass PS3022			
Learning and teaching methods of delivery:	Weekly contact: 1 lecture and 1 seminar plus office hour.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Re-assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module coordinator:	Dr T Otto			