

Masters of Science 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:	Whole Year
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.				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for Research Methods in Psychology (MSc) Compulsory for MSc in Health Psychology. Optional for MSc - Evolutionary and Comparative Psychology: the Origins of Mind.			
Co-requisite(s):	All seven modules are to be taken together in the same session. The 'same session' requirement may be waived at the discretion of the Head of School.			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 17 x 2-hour seminars.			
Assessment pattern:	4 elements of Coursework = 100%			
Module coordinator:	Dr S Pehrson			

PS5005 Methods of Data Analysis in Psychology

SCOTCAT Credits:	30	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	2
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.				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for MSc Evolutionary and Comparative Psychology: the Origins of Mind, MSc Psychology (Conversion), MSc in Health Psychology, Compulsory for Research Methods in Psychology (MSc)			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 11 x 3-hour workshops plus optional tutorials.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module coordinator:	Dr E Bowman			
Module teaching staff:	Dr E Bowman, Dr R Spence, Dr S Pehrson and Professor S Reicher			

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SS5102 Philosophy and Methodology of the Social Sciences				
SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	2
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 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 a one short review and one longer essay.				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for MRes in Human Geography / Sustainable Development, for Research Methods in Psychology (MSc) and various other MRes Programmes Optional for Sustainable Development (MRes), Sustainable Development and Environmental Economics (MSc) Optional for various other MRes Programmes			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 2-hour seminar			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module coordinator:	Dr M Kesby			
Module teaching staff:	TBC (Colleagues from International Relations)			

SS5103 Qualitative Methods in Social Research				
SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	2
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.				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for MRes in Human Geography / Sustainable Development Compulsory for Research Methods in Psychology (MSc) Compulsory for various other MRes Programmes Optional for Sustainable Development (MSc), Sustainable Development and Environmental Economics (MSc) Optional for various other MRes Programmes			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 2-hour seminar.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module coordinator:	Dr M Kesby			
Module teaching staff:	Dr M Kesey and Dr D Williams			

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SS5104 Quantitative Research in Social Science				
SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	1
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.				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for MRes in Human Geography / Sustainable Development Compulsory for MSc Psychology (Conversion). Compulsory for Research Methods in Psychology (MSc) Compulsory for various other MRes Programmes. Optional for Sustainable Development (MSc), Sustainable Development and Environmental Economics (MSc) Optional for various other MRes Programmes			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 3-hour combined lecture and practical session.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module coordinator:	Dr M Kesby			
Module teaching staff:	Dr J Ales			

PS5002 Research Project				
SCOTCAT Credits:	60	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	Whole Year
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.				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for Research Methods in Psychology (MSc) and for the MSc Psychology (Conversion).			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: Personal tutorials at approximately 2-weekly intervals.			
Assessment pattern:	15,000 word (maximum) research report = 100%			
Module coordinator:	Dr K Spencer			

Optional modules:

SS5101 Being a Social Scientist				
SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	1
Planned timetable:	3.00 - 5.00 pm Fri			
<p>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.</p>				
Programme module type:	<p>Compulsory for MRes in Human Geography / Sustainable Development. Compulsory for various MRes Programmes outwith the School. Optional for Research Methods in Psychology (MSc), for Sustainable Development and Environmental Economics (MSc), for Sustainable Development (MSc), for Sustainable Development and Energy (MSc). Optional for various other MRes Programmes</p>			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 2-hour seminar.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module coordinator:	Dr M Kesby			

PS5021 Methodologies for Psychology and Neuroscience				
SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	Whole Year
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>				
Programme module type:	Optional for MSc Evolutionary and Comparative Psychology: the Origins of Mind and Research Methods in Psychology (MSc)			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 5 hours each week for 5 weeks.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module coordinator:	Dr K Spencer			

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PS4091 Computer-aided Research				
SCOTCAT Credits:	15	SCQF Level 10	Semester:	1
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>				
Programme module type:	Optional for Research Methods in Psychology (MSc)			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 1 lecture and 1 seminar plus office hour.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module coordinator:	Dr T Otto			

