Advanced Research Methods

Module Code: ARM  
NQF level: 7  
Credit Value: 20  
Study duration: 12 weeks

Module description:
This module provides students with an advanced understanding of the research designs commonly employed within criminology and criminal psychology research. It combines both a theoretical and a practical approach to learning, which enables students to develop the research skills that are essential for completing their MSc thesis. Students will be taught both quantitative and qualitative approaches to criminological research through structured units that cover the entire research process from design to write up.

This module aims to:
▪ design an appropriate piece of research suitable for their MSc thesis.
▪ undertake a chosen research design using an appropriate methodology.
▪ write up the findings of their research in an academic style suitable for publication.

Learning outcomes
On completion of this module, students will be able to:
▪ have an advanced understanding of the range of research methodologies available to investigate any given research question.
▪ conduct and report a rigorous and advanced search for peer reviewed research.
▪ critically appraise research papers and construct a literature review.
▪ demonstrate the ability to collect and analyse qualitative and quantitative data paying particular attention to: ethics, sampling, and analysis.

Syllabus
▪ Principles of research and research methods
▪ Critical appraisal and reviewing research literature
▪ Credibility, responsibility and ethics
▪ Quantitative research: sampling, design and analysis
▪ Qualitative research: sampling design and analysis

Learning and teaching methods
The module will be delivered by reading materials available on the learning platform supported by discussion forums and online lecture-casts. Students will be encouraged to identify and share relevant web-based resources. Self-directed learning will supplement the lecture-casts and discussions and tutors will provide students with direction on required readings.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of unit of assessment</th>
<th>Length/Duration</th>
<th>Submission Date</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Assessed Discussion Activities</td>
<td>Two weeks</td>
<td>Q1 and Q3</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-module assignment: Literature review</td>
<td>2,500 words</td>
<td>Mid term</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>End of module project: Practice Research Project</td>
<td>2,500 words</td>
<td>End term</td>
<td>40%</td>
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