

Module title: Research Methods for Criminal Justice

Module code:	RM	NQF level:	Level 6
Credit value:	15 credits	Study duration:	9 Weeks

Module description

This module provides an introduction to research methods applicable to criminology and criminal justice and examines some of the key questions and practical components of academic research.

Aims

- To present a detailed overview of the research process
- Outline the steps necessary to conduct research in the criminal justice setting using sound methodology
- Introduce students to effective approaches to data gathering and presentation
- Equip students with the tools to critically analyse data and recognise the limitations of their research
- Assist students in understanding the ethics and responsibilities required of the criminal justice researcher

Learning outcomes

On completion of this module students will be able to:

- Identify a range of different research strategies and methods used in the Criminal Justice setting
- Construct effective instruments for data collection
- Evaluate data identifying any flaws in the collection, process, or sample
- Write an effective research proposal and report that reflects ethical principles

Syllabus

- The Relationship Between Research and Theory
- Ethics in Criminal Justice
- Quantitative and Qualitative Data Analysis
- Secondary Data Analysis
- Using Computers and the Internet in Research

Learning and teaching methods

Teaching will be delivered through the provision of specified reading materials that will be provided on the UoEO Learning Platform, and will be supported by specified discussion forums, pre-recorded lecturecasts and biweekly online question and answer sessions (using synchronous communication software and application sharing facility). Students will be provided with indicative guidance on, and encouraged to look at relevant websites which are appropriate to the learning outcomes, and to identify and share appropriate web-based resources (as learning support references) with their fellow students. The pre-recorded lecturecasts and the online question and answer sessions will include referenced use of selected case studies which will be drawn from the reading materials and the practice-based and professional/educational contexts and experience of the Tutors. Self-managed learning will supplement lectures and students will be given direction on required and indicative reading.

Assessment

Description of unit of assessment	Length / Duration	Submission Date	Weighting
2 x Assessed discussion activities	2 weeks	Unit 3 & Unit 7	20%
Mid Module Assignment	1500-2000 words	Unit 5	30%
End of Module Assignment	1500-2000 words	End of module	30%
Reflective report	1500-2000 words	End of module	20%