

Module code	RM_PPSY7E	NQF level	7
Credit value	10	Study duration	6 weeks

Research Methods

Module description

This module builds on the psychological research material introduced in the Core Principles of Psychological Enquiry module. It teaches students about some of the main qualitative and quantitative research methods used for data collection and analysis. As students may not have any previous experience of data handling software, an important component is to introduce students to the statistics package SPSS with the aim of developing a working knowledge of this and basic statistics, in preparation for the Applied Research Methods module. Students will be shown how to input data, produce descriptive statistics, carry out correlations and interpret SPSS outcomes. A similar approach is used to develop early qualitative analysis skills where students are introduced to thematic analysis as a way of analysing and interpreting data. This will prepare students for analysing the data collected in the Psychological Assessment at Work module. Students are also encouraged to continue to think about the transferable skills they are developing throughout the module and to continue to build their skills portfolio throughout the course.

This module aims to:

- recognise the importance and application of research ethics (including those that adhere to the principles of the British Psychological Society's Codes)
- use SPSS to generate descriptive statistics, and inferential statistics (correlation)
- use thematic analysis to analyse and interpret qualitative data
- gain the skills to report quantitative and qualitative research findings, in appropriate formats
- reflectively focus on understanding their own skills development throughout the course
- gain knowledge of the application of psychology in professional setting

Learning outcomes

- Formulate an original, testable research hypothesis
- Develop a comprehensive understanding of how to use a chosen data analysis software to analyse data and apply this to produce descriptive and inferential statistics
- Develop a practical understanding of thematic analysis and use this to analyse qualitative data
- Interpret and write up their results using the correct format relevant to their method(s) of analysis to answer a given research question

Syllabus

- Introducing quantitative methods: experiments and questionnaires (covering variables, hypotheses and using SPSS for data analysis- Inputting data)
- SPSS for data and descriptive statistics (mean, mode, median, standard deviation, skewness, interpreting SPSS outcomes)
- SPSS and inferential statistics (correlation-parametric and non-parametric tests)
- Introducing qualitative methods: interviewing and focus groups
- Introduction to qualitative analysis: thematic analysis
- Using thematic analysis to develop themes

Learning and Teaching Methods

The Learning and Teaching Methods for the module follow the intended online delivery strategy for the programme as a whole. Teaching will be delivered through a series of units covering the topics specified in the syllabus with a focus on developing psychological knowledge and skills. Students are directed in their learning to specified reading materials on the virtual learning platform linked to the core text and supported by selected extracts from other key texts, peer reviewed journal articles, and resources such as software and tools relevant to the module. Students will engage with interactive lecturecasts that present them with new learning and provide formative assessment on their knowledge, understanding and skills. Online peer discussion is encouraged through our internet-mediated learning platform where students receive feedback from tutors and peers to enhance their learning and understanding.

Description of unit of assessment	Length/Duration	Submission date	Weighting
SPSS Statistics Portfolio	800 words	Unit 3	50%
Thematic analysis write-up	1,000 words	Unit 6	50%