University of Essex

Online

Module code	FPD	NQF level	6
Credit value	30	Study duration	18 weeks

Final Psychology Project

Module description

This module will build on research skills acquired during the programme. Students will apply research methods knowledge and analysis skills to their own project.

Students will undertake a research project under supervision from a member of the teaching faculty. The topic can be chosen from a list made available by staff, or be a topic of the student's own choosing, in agreement with their supervisor.

The topic must relate to the programme of study that they are completing for example, students must choose a business psychology topic if they are on the BSc Business Psychology programme.

This module aims to:

- Develop students' ability to carry out a research project from conception, through to implementation and dissemination

Learning outcomes

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

- formulate research questions
- select appropriate methods, and describe protocols, for investigating identified research questions
- demonstrate knowledge of ethical theory relevant to social scene research
- plan, gain ethical approval and/or conduct research which demonstrates consideration for the protection of research participants and adheres to the principles of the British Psychological Society's Code of Human Research Ethics
- apply data analysis and written presentation skills to disseminate the outcome of the identified research questions
- write a research proposal and final report using appropriate formats and materials

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Syllabus

- Writing research proposals
- literature review
- writing coherent and focussed research questions
- research design and analysis selection
- Data collection
- ethical approval processes
- selecting and using research materials (e.g. validated questionnaires)
- participant recruitment
- Data analysis
- analysing and presenting data
- Report writing
- writing structured reports

Learning and teaching methods

The pedagogical approach for this module is informed through the principles of constructionism and scientific apprenticeship. Learning through scientific apprenticeship will take place through the integration of scientific knowledge, principles and experience into the practical application of an independent scientific report.

Teaching will be delivered through the provision of specified reading materials that will be provided on the University of Essex Online learning platform, and will be supported by 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. The prerecorded 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 by their project supervisor.

Each student will have a dedicated supervisor to ensure professional and ethical conduct, as well as to provide support for overcoming any barriers to implementing the students' research programmes.

Description of unit of assessment	Length/Duration	Submission date	Weighting
Research proposal and ethics application	2,000 words	Week 6	30%
Large scale qualitative/quantitative or mixed methods report: an independent research project to be submitted on a psychological topic.	Maximum 8,000 words	End of module	70%

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