

MODULE CODE: ECPS6001
TITLE: Psychology Empirical Project
DATED: 26/04/2018

LEVEL: 6
CREDITS: 40

JACS CODE: C831

AIM(S)

- To provide students with the opportunity to build on the scientific skills, psychological concepts and techniques developed in previous modules by engaging in a substantial independent empirical research project in a field of study within psychology.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon the successful completion of this module, the student should be able to:

- plan, conduct and write-up an ethically sound empirical study using appropriate theory and methods;
- generate appropriate hypotheses and/or research questions;
- use evidence-based reasoning to explore relevant practical, theoretical and ethical issues associated with a specific research question;
- carry out an independent empirical study involving primary data collection using appropriate tools;
- manage and analyse research data using appropriate quantitative and/or qualitative methods;
- take responsibility for their own learning and skill development; including effective personal planning, self-reflection and project management skills.

INDICATIVE CONTENT

The student will primarily be required to work on his/her own initiative in the production of the dissertation. Alongside regular dissertation supervision (see below), a Dissertation Handbook will guide the student. Dissertation lectures and workshops will guide the students in the following:

- Ethical and professional frameworks and approval processes for research studies.
- Developing a research-informed hypothesis/research question.
- Practical, ethical and methodological considerations in designing an appropriate dissertation project.
- Good practice in data collection and data management.
- Use of appropriate analysis techniques to evaluate data.
- Reporting empirical studies.
- Producing critical discussions of empirical studies.

LEARNING AND TEACHING STRATEGY

Lectures and workshops associated with this module will provide students with an overview of research methodology including design, data collection methods and analytical processes. The student will receive an allocated 15 hours of supervision time (six hours individual supervision) which will include group seminars, training in the use of resources and experimental materials, and individual supervision.

The study time for the module is divided as follows:

Activity type	Hours	Percentage
Scheduled learning	15	4%
Independent learning	385	96%
Placement learning	0	0%
TOTAL	400	100%

ASSESSMENT

Assessment Component 1

☐ Written exam ☒ Coursework ☐ Practical

Mode of assessment	Volume	Weighting
Written Assignment	1,000 words	10%

Students will be required to complete a written proposal for their Empirical Project. This will include their chosen research methodology, ethical consideration and analysis. Students will also need to highlight the key theorists and empirical studies relating to their proposed study.

Assessment Component 2

☐ Written exam ☒ Coursework ☐ Practical

Mode of assessment	Volume	Weighting
Written Assignment	8,000 words	65%

Students will be required to write up their empirical research study and submit this thesis following standard psychology reporting conventions. The volume range including +/- 10% is to enable students to appropriately reflect the requirements of different types of study designs which will be reflected in the assessment criteria.

Assessment Component 3

☐ Written exam ☐ Coursework ☒ Practical

Mode of assessment	Volume	Weighting
Presentation	20 minutes	25%

Students will be required to present their Empirical Project and will be assessed on their presentation skills, engagement and understanding of their Psychology Empirical Project.

Assessment Summary

Activity type	Percentage
Written exam	
Coursework	75%
Practical	25%
TOTAL	100%

This module is a core requirement for Graduate Basis for Chartership (GBC) accreditation with the British Psychological Society (BPS) as set out in documentation to the BPS February 2018. This module must be passed in order for the student to be eligible for GBC.

READING LIST

Please note that at Level Six students will be expected to engage significantly with empirical journal articles in addition to the reading list below.

Module Code	ECPS6001	
Module Title	Psychology Empirical Project	
Classification	Reading List entry	Electronic*
Essential	American Psychological Association. (2010). <i>Publication manual of the American Psychological Association</i> (6th ed.). APA: Washington, DC.	☐
Essential	Brace, N., Kemp, R., & Snelgar, R. (2016). <i>SPSS for psychologists</i> (6th ed.). Hants: Palgrave Macmillan.	☐
Essential	Coolican, H. (2014). <i>Research methods and statistics in psychology</i> (6th ed.). London: Hodder & Stoughton.	☒
Essential	Field, A. P., & Field, A. P. (2013). <i>Discovering statistics using IBM SPSS statistics: And sex and drugs and rock 'n' roll</i> (4th ed.). Los Angeles: Sage.	☐
Essential	Forshaw, M. (2013). <i>Your undergraduate psychology project: A student guide</i> (2nd ed.). Chichester: BPS Blackwell.	☐
Essential	Smith, J. (2015). <i>Qualitative psychology: A practical guide to research methods</i> (3rd ed.). London: SAGE.	☐
Essential	Walliman, N. (2014). <i>Your undergraduate dissertation: The essential guide for success</i> (2nd ed.). London: SAGE.	☐
Further	Harris, P. (2008). <i>Designing and reporting experiments in psychology</i> (3rd ed.). Milton Keynes: Open University Press.	☒
Further	Pallant, J. (2013). <i>SPSS Survival Manual</i> . Maidenhead. Open University Press.	☒
Further	Braun, V., & Clarke, V. (2013). <i>Successful qualitative research: A practical guide for beginners</i> . London: SAGE.	☐
Further	Creswell, J. (2014). <i>Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches</i> (4th ed.). London: SAGE.	☐
Further	Hammarberg, K., Kirkman, M., & De Lacey, S. (2016). Qualitative research methods: When to use them and how to judge them. <i>Human Reproduction</i> , 31(3), 498-501.	☐

Further	Lyons, E., & Coyle, A. (2016). <i>Analysing qualitative data in psychology</i> (2nd ed.). London: SAGE	☐
Further	Salkind, N. (2014). <i>Statistics for people who (think they) hate statistics</i> (5th ed.). London: SAGE.	☐