

Choosing your portfolio competencies (adapted from module specification)

The specific subject area being explored will vary across tasks and groups but all students will have the opportunity to develop practical research skills and demonstrate specific research competencies in a range of areas which may include the following:

- Research proposal and Expression of Interest Forms: students will have learn how to produce effective proposals/expression of interest forms for applied research studies. This will include project planning, identifying milestones and gantt charts.
- Applied research ethics: students will gain extensive practical experience in completing ethical approval forms.
- Preparation of recruitment materials: students will learn how to prepare appropriately worded consent forms, information sheets, study adverts, debriefing/follow-up information.
- Questionnaire & scale development: students will have the opportunity to develop skills in scale development and demonstrate the processes of identifying appropriate scales, piloting, factor analysis and evaluation of psychometric properties.
- Online data collection tools: students will be given the opportunity to create materials for online data collection and will gain an understanding of online ethics and data protection issues.
- Interviewing and focus group skills for applied research: this will offer students a hands-on approach to preparing research materials for qualitative data collection, planning effective qualitative data collection in different settings (including an awareness of gaining access and necessary approvals), and practical interviewing skills.
- Data protocols: students will be able to develop practical skills in the management of complex datasets, becoming familiar with the production of SPSS Codebooks, Data Analysis Protocols, and structured processes for data inputting, data checking, data screening (including outlier identification), use of SPSS syntax files, and data transformations.
- Identifying and preparing conference abstracts: students can develop practical skills in submitting conference abstracts and creating (and potentially delivering) conference presentations.
- Manuscript preparation: students will be able to develop skills in the preparation of research data for submission to conferences or academic journals, developing skills in abstract preparation, data synthesis, and preparing research summaries for academic and lay audiences.