

Module Code	ECPS4011
Title	Research Methods I
Date	23/11/2023
Level	4
Credits	20
Pre-Requisites	None
DBS Check	May be required ☐ Not required ☒

AIMS

- To introduce students to the principles of empirical psychological research, including qualitative and quantitative research methods, the principles of data collection, and appropriate analysis and reporting of research findings.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- demonstrate an awareness of the principles of empirical research in psychology when utilising qualitative and quantitative research methods, including the requirements of empirical report writing;
- demonstrate an awareness of qualitative and quantitative data collection methods and analysis;
- identify and apply the principles of the BPS Code of Human Research Ethics to qualitative and quantitative research studies;
- take responsibility for their own learning and skill development, including effective personal planning, self-reflection and project management skills.

INDICATIVE CONTENT

The purpose of this module is to introduce students to the basic principles of empirical research, data collection and analysis techniques appropriate to studying psychology at Level four and will prepare students for the BPS GBC core delivery of research methods at Levels five and six.

- The concept of empirical research and hypothesis testing
- Introduction to qualitative and quantitative designs
- Applied research
- BPS Codes of ethics (Code of Human Research Ethics, Code of Ethics and Conduct, Ethical Guidelines for Internet-Mediated Research)
- Empirical report writing
- Construction of research questions and hypotheses
- Different types of variables and sampling methods
- Measures of central tendency
- Normal distribution
- Probability testing
- Association designs, between- and within-subjects designs, and associated analyses
- Question construction for interviews and focus groups
- Interviewing techniques
- Practice of qualitative analysis

Study Time Allocation

The study time for the module is divided as follows:

Activity type	Hours	Percentage
Scheduled learning	30	15%
Independent learning	170	85%
Placement learning	-	-
TOTAL	200	100%

ASSESSMENT

Assessment Component 1

☐ Written exam ☒ Coursework ☐ Practical

Mode of assessment	Volume	Weighting
Research report	1,500 words	50%

Assessment Component 2

☒ Written exam ☐ Coursework ☐ Practical

Mode of assessment	Volume	Weighting
Open Book Exam	One hour	40%

Assessment Component 3

☐ Written exam ☐ Coursework ☒ Practical

Mode of assessment	Volume	Weighting
Research engagement	24 Experiment Management System Credits	10%

Assessment Summary

Activity type	Percentage
Written exam	40%
Coursework	50%
Practical	10%
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 (2019).

INDICATIVE READING LIST

Module Code	ECPS4011	
Module Title	Research Methods I	
Classification	Reading List entry	Electronic*
Essential	American Psychological Association. (2019). <i>Publication manual of the American Psychological Association</i> (7 th ed.). APA.	☐
Essential	Brace, N., Kemp, R., & Snelgar, R. (2021). <i>SPSS for psychologists</i> (6 th ed.). Palgrave Macmillan.	☒
Essential	Coolican, H. (2019). <i>Research methods and statistics in psychology</i> (7 th ed.). Routledge.	☒
Essential	Smith, J. (2015). <i>Qualitative psychology: A practical guide to research methods</i> (3rd ed.). Sage Publishing.	☐
Further	Smyth, T. R. (2004). <i>The principles of writing in psychology</i> . Palgrave Macmillan.	☐
Further	Pallant, J. (2020). <i>SPSS survival manual: A step by step guide to data analysis using IBM SPSS</i> (7 th ed.). Open University Press.	☐
Further	Harris, P. (2008). <i>Designing and reporting experiments in psychology</i> . (3 rd ed.). Open University Press.	☒
Further	Beins, B.C., & Beins, A. M. (2012). <i>Effective writing in psychology: Papers, posters, and presentations</i> (2 nd ed.). Blackwell.	☐
Further	Field, A. P. (2013). <i>Discovering statistics using IBM SPSS statistics: And sex and drugs and rock 'n' roll</i> (4th ed.). Sage Publishing.	☐
Further	Braun, V., & Clarke, V. (2013). <i>Successful qualitative research: A practical guide for beginners</i> . Sage Publishing.	☐
Further	Braun, V., & Clarke, V. (2021). <i>Thematic analysis: A practical guide</i> . Sage Publishing.	☐
Further	Creswell, J. (2014). <i>Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches</i> (4th ed., international student ed.). Sage Publishing.	☐
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.). Sage Publishing.	☐
Further	Salkind, N. (2014). <i>Statistics for people who (think they) hate statistics</i> (5th ed.). Sage Publishing.	☐