MODULE SPECIFICATION

KEY FACTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module name</th>
<th>Introduction to Research Methods and Applied Data Analysis – Online module</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module code</td>
<td>HRM011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>School of Health Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department or equivalent</td>
<td>Health Services Research and Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK credits</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECTS</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level</td>
<td>7</td>
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</table>

MODULE SUMMARY

Module outline and aims

The aim of this module is to enable you to develop your theoretical, methodological and research skills to enhance your ability to conduct rigorous research and reach to sound evidence based conclusions, which can form the basis for the development of effective service delivery in health and social care organisations.

You will develop a thorough understanding of the principles, theory and epistemology of research and data analysis methods. Equal emphasis is given to the teaching of qualitative and quantitative research methods and study designs.

More importantly, you will be guided and supported to conduct research in practice by developing a pragmatic research proposal for an applied research project.

Content outline

The module covers the following:
- An introduction to research (formulating research questions in qualitative and quantitative research)
- The research process (refining research questions, funding, thinking about how to plan and carry out a research project, getting research into practice)
- Searching for evidence (electronic databases, key words, inclusion and exclusion criteria)
- Critical appraisal skills (how to assess the quality of research)
- Writing a literature review
- Ethics of research/research governance (ethical issues, research ethics committees, research governance framework)
- Recognising and evaluating different types of study design
- Choosing, interpreting and reporting analyses
- Quantitative statistics (descriptive statistics, basic comparative parametric & non-parametric statistics, associative statistics, ANOVA, multiple regression)
- Qualitative methods (in-depth interviews and focus groups, using a topic guide, interview techniques, conducting an interview)
- Mixed methods research
- Questionnaire design
Presentations of research ideas
On-line research methods training

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

On successful completion of this module, you will be expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding:
• Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of methodological theory in Health Services Research
• Demonstrate confidence in formulating research questions in qualitative and quantitative research projects
• Demonstrate critical awareness of methods and study designs in qualitative and quantitative research
• Recognise and critically appraise the elements of the research process and apply this to writing a pragmatic research proposal

Skills:
• Critically assess association of variables and interventions by using quantitative and qualitative research methods
• Critically synthesise data from quantitative and qualitative analysis
• Competently disseminate research plans verbally and in writing

Values and attitudes:
• Have regard for ethical issues relating to research in health and social care settings
• Respect privacy and confidentiality
• Respect the opinions of others and behave with integrity

HOW WILL I LEARN?

To take a module with an online component, you must be familiar with online working. This module will not teach you how to access the Internet, or cover generic information literacy skills. If you are uncomfortable with word processing applications, using the Internet to find information and communicating with others via electronic means, it might be wise to take a skills course before embarking on an online module.

You are required to have convenient access a computer with high-speed internet access, speakers and a microphone (a headphone set with microphone may provide a solution).

You will be given an induction to the online resources and you should try to access the module site in Moodle from home or your workplace as soon as possible after the induction. If you have any problems with Moodle or any of the learning technologies used on the module you should log a query with the IT Service Desk: www.city.ac.uk/itservicedesk.
You will be taught through a series of online resources, delivered through the CUL Virtual Learning Environment Moodle, with additional support via real-time online tutorials.

The online activities will include short video presentations from lecturers, slide shows, worksheet activities, interactive forums, video-conferencing and social bookmarking tools. There will be a mixture of structured and semi-structured activities based on the topics indicated above which will be led and moderated by the course team.

These will provide you with the information, guidance and support to complete exercises, which will be made available either via Moodle or via email. Software for the course will be available online or via the University Information Systems department.

Topics will be organised as groups of activities made available online weekly for 10/20 weeks. Each session is expected to require 2 hours of self-directed study, and contributions to online activities (e.g. forums, group activities) to facilitate interaction between course participants.

Video conference tutorials will be available through the duration of the module and by appointment with the module staff.

### Teaching pattern:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teaching component</th>
<th>Teaching type</th>
<th>Contact hours (scheduled)</th>
<th>Self-directed study hours (independent)</th>
<th>Placement hours</th>
<th>Total student learning hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Research Methods and Applied Data Analysis</td>
<td>On-line learning</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>280</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction to Research Methods and Applied Data Analysis</td>
<td>Forum activity</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction to Research Methods and Applied Data Analysis</td>
<td>On-line tutorials</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>5</td>
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</table>

**Totals:** 5 295 300
WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Assessments

The assessments for this module are as follows:

1. An on-line test comprising short answers and multiple choice responses to cover basic knowledge across the range of topics taught. This will constitute 50% of your module mark.
2. A 'mini-lab' analysis-based assessment in which you must produce an in-depth report containing analyses of your choice based on data provided (data will be quantitative and qualitative). This will constitute 50% of your module mark.
3. Contributions to online discussions, (minimum contribution 250 words over at least 5 online activities).

In order to pass the module you must pass each component at 50%, and post a minimum contribution (250 words to the online activities).

The Module Mark shall be calculated from the written assignments as follows:

Assessment pattern:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment component</th>
<th>Assessment type</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Minimum qualifying mark</th>
<th>Pass/Fail?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On-line test</td>
<td>Written Assessment</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analytic Minilab Report</td>
<td>Written Assessment</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation in online forum activities</td>
<td>Practical skills</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Pass/Fail</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Assessment criteria

Assessment Criteria and Grade-Related Criteria for module assessments will be made available prior to an assessment taking place. More information will be available from the module leader.

Feedback on assessment

Following an assessment, marks and feedback will be provided in line with the Assessment Regulations and Policy. You will receive your mark followed by your coursework with feedback sheet. Markers will be available to answer queries about the marks and feedback if these are not clear. A selection of all assessments will be internally moderated and sent to the external examiner. All initial marks will be therefore provisional pending external examiner approval and assessment board.

More information on the timing and type of feedback that will be provided for each
assessment will be available from the module leader. Marks will usually be available within 3 weeks of hand in.

Assessment Regulations

The pass mark for the module is 50%. The weighting of the different components can be found above. The Programme Specification contains information on what happens if you fail an assessment component, but in the first instance you should contact the module leader.

INDICATIVE READING LIST

Priority Reading


Recommended reading


**Approaches.** Third edition. Thousand Oak, California, Sage.


**Appendix:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CODES</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price Group</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>HESA Code</strong></td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Price Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>103</td>
<td>Nursing and allied health professions</td>
<td>C2</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>JACS Code</strong></td>
<td>Description</td>
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<td>X210</td>
<td>Research Skills</td>
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Version date: September 2014
For use from: 2014-15