

**Module Title and Code**

PS4009 Advanced Academic Skills

**Lecturer(s)**

Academic staff

**Contact Hours**

One semester, 2 hours per week: 22 lectures/seminars; 228 hours independent study.

**ECTS Value**

5 ECTS (= 125 hours of student time)

**Rationale and Aims**

This module is designed to further develop student skills in the conduct, presentation and reporting of research. This module also assists students with the intellectual process of conducting a research project by promoting their ability to read widely on a subject, to analyze various arguments and to relate them to their own work.

**For whom is the module intended?**

Psychology Senior Sophister SH/TSM students (compulsory).

**How does it fit in to the academic programme?**

This module is designed to advance and hone the critical thinking and research skills fostered in the rest of the undergraduate psychology programme.

**Is it mandatory or optional?**

Mandatory for SS, Optional for Higher Diploma Year 2.

**Are there prerequisites?**

Cognate academic and research skills modules.

**From a teaching point of view, what are the intentions of the lecturer?**

To foster and develop a high level of independent research ability and skill.

**Course Content**

A variety of topics are covered every year, including:

- Research ethics
- Information technology use
- Oral presentation skills
- Poster production
- Research report writing

**Indicative Resources**

Lecturers provide direction to useful sources of information.

**Learning Outcomes**

**On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:**

- plan an empirical investigation of a psychological topic or research question [PO5,7];
- conduct and write a well-structured and comprehensive literature review [PO2,5,6];
- successfully execute this empirical investigation [PO3,5,6,7];
- write up in an appropriate format [PO];
- prepare and present a poster of this work to professional standard [PO3,6].

**Methods of Teaching and Student Learning**

The nature of the material covered in this module means there is a deal of flexibility and variability in its delivery, ranging from lectures to seminars to laboratory-based and workshop-style sessions. Students are encouraged also to suggest areas of interest or specific research skills they would like to have covered in the module. Academic staff with particular skills, e.g., expertise in particular types of analysis or experience of particular software packages and tools will offer master classes to students.

**Methods of Assessment**

One 3-hour exam (68%) plus continuous assessment (32%) of a poster presentation based on the Final year Research Project. A mini-poster conference is hosted by the School at the end of the second semester where all students present their posters for assessment and are present in person to answer questions and display their work.

**Evaluation**

All modules are evaluated by students by means of CAPSL survey requested by the School and all feedback is noted and incorporated in module design where appropriate for delivery of the module in subsequent years.

Feedback is also delivered via student representatives at the School's once a term staff-student meetings, at School Committee meetings and at the Committee for Undergraduate Teaching & Learning meetings.