

Module Title and Code

PS4014 Final Year Research Project

Lecturer(s)

All academic staff act as supervisors

Contact Hours

Two semesters; regular contact is established between supervisor and student.

ECTS Value

20 ECTS (=500 student hours)

Rationale and Aims

The project is intended to test a student's ability to conceive of, plan and carry out a sustained piece of research by integrating and extending previous studies. It gives the student an opportunity to develop and demonstrate skill in identifying, carrying out and writing up a discrete piece of research using academic concepts, theoretical insights and practical abilities acquired on the course. It provides training in research methods and analysis.

For whom is the module intended?

Psychology Senior Sophister SH/TSM students and Higher Diploma in Psychology Year 2 students.

How does it fit in to the academic programme?

This module is a key element of the curriculum designed to prepare the student to undertake high quality independent research. This module ensures that students are highly trained in the design, execution, reporting and assessment of research.

Is it mandatory or optional?

Mandatory.

Are there prerequisites?

Cognate foundation modules.

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

The primary role of the supervisor is to maintain overall, general guidance of the project, and to provide a critical and rational sounding board for student ideas. The academic supervisor is available as a resource to assist the student at all stages of the project and will advise on plans for writing it up. The supervisor aims to discuss progress regularly with his or supervisee and to offer valuable advice on the conceptualisation and execution of a research project.

Course Content

All aspects of research design and execution.

Indicative Resources

The student must identify and access the relevant research literature for their project.

Learning Outcomes

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

- conceive and prepare a feasible research proposal [PO2,4,5,6];
- conceive of, plan and carry out a sustained piece of work by integrating and extending previous studies [PO2,3,5,6];

- review relevant literature, developing the methodology, collecting data and analysing data [PO2,3];
- identify and successfully apply for ethical approval from relevant ethics committees [PO7];
- take full responsibility for keeping all collected data, participant information and relevant materials in an appropriate manner [PO6,7];
- undertake sustained, independent, high-level work, which has intellectual credibility [PO3,4,5,6].

Methods of Teaching and Student Learning

In close consultation with the supervisor, the student must take full responsibility for the management of the project and for the work and for the submission of the project and/or other items in the specified format, on time and according to School regulations for submitting the project.

Methods of Assessment

This module is assessed by one report (5,000 words, 80%) and one extended literature review (3,000-5,000 words, 20%) Students are provided with very detailed guidelines in their handbook as to format and requirements for the final year research project report.

Evaluation

This module is evaluated by students by means of a survey designed by the school and all feedback is noted, fed back to supervisors 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.