

POP77100 — MSc in Applied Social Data Science Dissertation

Module Information	
Module Code	POP77100
Module Title	MSc in Applied Social Data Science Dissertation
Department	Political Science
Year Group	Postgraduate (Taught Masters)
Module Personnel	TBC
Academic Year	2026–27
Credit Weighting	30 credits (ECTS)
Semester	Semester 2 (Hilary Term)
Contact Hours	Individual dissertation supervision.

Module Content	
Module Description	POP77100 is the dissertation module of the MSc in Applied Social Data Science, weighted at 30 ECTS. Students undertake an independent, quantitative and empirical research project that answers a well-defined research question, applying the statistical and computational skills developed across the programme. Working on a topic of their own choice, students use appropriate statistical methods to analyse their data and draw conclusions, and present the work as a well-structured research paper of up to 10,000 words. Computer code, and data where size permits, are submitted as replication materials.
Module Learning Aims	To give students the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to conduct independent research, to explore a topic of their choice in depth, and to apply the substantive, methodological and programming skills acquired during the MSc in order to contribute to the academic literature in their field.
Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this module, students should be able to: ● formulate a well-defined research question and justify

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	its scientific and practical relevance; ● situate the research question within the relevant academic literature; ● develop a theoretical argument and specify testable hypotheses; ● design and apply an appropriate quantitative methodology, analysing data using suitable statistical methods; ● interpret, visualise and communicate statistical results to academic standards; ● critically reflect on their findings, limitations and implications, and produce reproducible replication materials.
Indicative Reading / Resources	Not applicable as a set reading list — relevant literature is determined by the student's chosen research topic (at least ten directly relevant academic publications are expected).

Assessment	
Assessment Components	● Dissertation (research paper) – 100% (coursework)
Assessment Details	The module is assessed entirely by the dissertation: an independent, quantitative and empirical research paper of maximum 10,000 words (with 10% leeway, excluding references and appendices). It follows a standard structure — abstract (max 200 words), introduction (~1,500 words), literature review (~1,500 words, referring to at least ten relevant publications), theoretical argument and hypotheses (~1,000 words), methodology (~2,000 words), results and discussion (~3,000 words), and conclusion (~1,000 words), followed by references. The dissertation is submitted via Blackboard as a DOC, DOCX, ODT or PDF file, accompanied by a completed and signed assignment submission form. Computer code, and data where size permits, are uploaded separately as replication materials in a compressed archive. Generative AI: use is permitted but must be clearly described in an appendix; the author remains fully responsible for all submitted content, and misuse (for example, fabricating materials or data, or presenting content without proper attribution) is treated as academic misconduct.



Additional Information

Prerequisites	Successful completion of the taught components of the MSc in Applied Social Data Science.
Co-requisites	None
Any other information	None