Module Code	PSU44014
Module Name	Final Year Project (Capstone)
ECTS credit weighting	20 ECTS
Semester taught	Semester 1 & 2 (Michaelmas and Hilary Terms)
Module Coordinator/s	Dr Kristin Hadfield (Final Year Project Coordinator) Project supervision is provided by individual members of academic staff across the School.
Module Learning Outcomes (with embedded Graduate Attributes)	On successful completion of this module, students will be able to: 1. Integrate, extend, apply, and critique the cumulative knowledge, skills, and experience gained throughout the degree or higher diploma programme. 2. Identify and formulate a research question that addresses a specific problem or gap in the literature, in a process of co-creation with the supervisor. 3. Identify and design an appropriate methodology and/or analytic approach to tackle a research question. 4. Demonstrate awareness of ethical issues and an ability to apply for and obtain ethical approval, as required. 5. Implement a research design and collect or access data as required. 6. Take responsibility for a research project and ensure that the research is conducted in line with principles of integrity and reproducibility. 7. Demonstrate knowledge of the appropriate analytical or statistical procedures required, and an ability to implement and describe those procedures successfully. 8. Clearly and concisely communicate the results of analyses, using figures and tables where appropriate. 9. Interpret, critically evaluate findings, and justify conclusions. 10. Relate research findings to original research questions, place findings in the context of the wider literature, and discuss the impact and implications of the research. 11. Reflect on, and identify, limitations and potential for improvement. 12. Identify potential avenues for future work and generate new hypotheses, research questions, and recommendations. 13. Communicate the research in a written format to a scholarly standard appropriate for submission to a peer-reviewed academic journal. 14. Communicate and defend the research through oral presentation and interview. 15. Demonstrate ownership of, and responsibility for, the work presented. These outcomes map to the programme learning outcome requiring students to plan and execute theoretically grounded empirical research project, and embed all four Trinity Graduate Attributes (to Think Independently, to Communicate Effectively, to Develop Continuously, and to Act Responsibly) through the independent, ethically conducted, and reproducible research that the Capstone demands.
Module Content	The Capstone Final Year Project (FYP) is the summative learning and assessment experience of the degree. Each student carries out an independent empirical investigation of a psychological topic or question, supervised by a member of academic staff. Projects may involve the collection of new (primary) data or the

	analysis of secondary or pre-existing data, and both quantitative and qualitative approaches are acceptable. The project assesses students' ability to conceive of, plan, carry out, and disseminate a sustained piece of research, integrating the academic concepts, theoretical insights, and practical skills acquired across the degree. Working with their supervisor, students formulate a research question, design an appropriate methodology, obtain ethical approval as required, collect or access data, conduct appropriate analyses, and interpret and contextualise their findings. The FYP is supported by the PSU44014 lecture series, delivered in Michaelmas Term, which develops skills in the conduct, presentation, and reporting of reproducible research. Assessment is by a written report, prepared to a scholarly standard appropriate for submission to a peer-reviewed journal and following APA conventions, together with an oral defence. The project provides further hands-on training in research methods and analysis and is a unique opportunity for students to demonstrate ownership of, and responsibility for, an original piece of research.
Teaching and Learning Methods[1]	Teaching and learning combine three complementary strands: (1) the PSU44014 lecture series of 24 one-hour lectures delivered in Michaelmas Term; (2) individual supervision by a member of academic staff, amounting to ~10 hours of contact across the year; and (3) independent, self-directed research carried out by the student throughout the year. ***Rationale:*** *The taught series provides the generic research-skills scaffolding needed for the methodological, ethical, reproducibility, and communication outcomes, while one-to-one supervision supports the student's specific project (research-question co-creation, design, analysis, and interpretation). The substantial independent, experiential learning of actually conducting the project is essential for demonstrating the higher-order outcomes around ownership, integrity, and the independent conduct of research, and aligns with the large independent-study allocation appropriate to a 20 ECTS capstone.*
Assessment Details[2]	

Assessment Component	Assessment Description	LO(s) Addressed	% of total
Written thesis	A research report in journal-article format (7,000-word maximum, of which no more than 2,000 words for the Introduction), following APA 7th-edition conventions and including a signed contributions declaration, the letter of ethical approval, and supporting data, syntax, and output files.	LOs 1–13, 15	100%
Oral presentation and defence	A 5-minute (strict maximum) presentation of the project followed by an oral examination of approximately 15 minutes with two examiners (the supervisor and a second marker). No separate mark is awarded; the examiners use the presentation and defence to determine the final mark contributing to the 100% above.	LOs 14, 15	—

[1] Trinity-INC provides tips and resources on how to make your curriculum more inclusive.

[2] https://www.tcd.ie/academicpractice/resources/assessment/

	The Final Year Project is treated as a written examination for the purposes of submission: projects submitted after the deadline automatically receive a mark of zero. The thesis and the oral defence together determine a single overall mark for the module (100% continuous assessment). Academic integrity and AI: All reports are submitted through Turnitin and screened for plagiarism. Students complete and sign a declaration describing their specific contributions, and must obtain full ethical approval and share their data, syntax, and output before submission. The emphasis throughout on integrity and reproducibility (transparent reporting, sharing of materials, and an oral defence in which students must explain and justify their decisions) is used to ensure that the work is the student's own and mitigate the risks associated with the inappropriate use of generative AI.
Contact Hours and Indicative Student Workload[3]	**Contact hours:** Approximately 34 hours (24 × 1-hour PSU44014 lectures, plus ≈ 10 hours of individual supervision). **Independent study:** Reviewing the literature, developing the research question and design, preparing the proposal and ethics application, and collecting or accessing and analysing data, writing up the thesis to journal standard and preparing for the oral presentation and defence (~400-500 hours).
Inclusive Curriculum	*All modules should be inclusive for all students who learn differently. The questions below have been reviewed for this module* ***(☒ = yes).*** ☒ Have you reviewed the teaching/assessment methods and materials for possible barriers to learning (e.g. students with English as a second language, disabilities, significant external responsibilities, or those requiring specific accessibility software)? ☒ Have you adapted your resources and teaching materials taking into account Trinity's Accessible Information Guidelines? ☒ Does the content of your module address diversity (e.g. a diverse demographic profile of authors, diversity of ideas and perspectives, or acknowledgement of the homogenous context of the discipline)? **Two ways this module incorporates inclusivity and accessibility:** • **Choice and flexibility in topic and method:** students co-create their research question with their supervisor and may pursue quantitative, qualitative, primary, or secondary-data projects, allowing the work to reflect each student's interests, strengths, and circumstances, with options for online supervision meetings. • **Individualised, scaffolded support:** in-person (and, where possible, recorded) PSU44014 lectures present research skills in multiple formats, while regular one-to-one supervision provides tailored guidance; reasonable accommodations and accessible materials are provided in line with Trinity's guidelines.
Indicative Reading List (approx. 4–5 titles)	• American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Washington, DC: APA. • Munafò, M. R., et al. (2017). A manifesto for reproducible science. *Nature Human Behaviour, 1*(1), 1–9. • Levitt, H. M., et al. (2018). Journal article reporting standards for qualitative primary, qualitative meta-analytic, and mixed methods research in psychology (APA Publications and Communications Board Task Force report). *American Psychologist, 73*(1), 26–46.

[3] https://www.tcd.ie/academicpractice/resources/assessment_workload/

	The substantive reading for each project is determined by its topic and is agreed with the supervisor. APA style resources (apastyle.org; the Purdue OWL) and the PsycTESTS database are also recommended.
Module Pre-requisite	Progression to the Senior Sophister (SS) year of the Single Honours programme, or Year 2 of the Psychology Conversion Course (PCC2); i.e. successful completion of the preceding years of the programme, including research-methods and statistics training.
Module Co-requisite	None.
Are other Schools/Departments involved in the delivery of this module? If yes, please provide details.	No. The project is supervised within the School of Psychology (occasionally co-supervised by a postdoctoral researcher or research fellow within the School).