

## H6IRM: Core Research Skills for Psychologists

Module Code:	H6IRM
Long Title	Core Research Skills for Psychologists <b>APPROVED</b>
Title	Core Research Skills for Psychologists
Module Level:	LEVEL 6
EQF Level:	5
EHEA Level:	Short Cycle
Credits:	10
Module Coordinator:	David Mothersill
Module Author:	Fearghal O'Brien
Departments:	School of Business
Specifications of the qualifications and experience required of staff	Lecturer with PhD in Psychology or related cognate discipline
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	
<i>On successful completion of this module the learner will be able to:</i>	
<b>#</b>	<b>Learning Outcome Description</b>
LO1	Explain the role of psychological research methods in the research process
LO2	Search for appropriate primary sources to address theoretical and practical questions
LO3	Compare and contrast various research methodologies
LO4	Discuss ethical issues arising from empirical research
<b>Dependencies</b>	
<b>Module Recommendations</b>	
No recommendations listed	
<b>Co-requisite Modules</b>	
No Co-requisite modules listed	
<b>Entry requirements</b>	

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Module Content & Assessment			
Indicative Content			
<b>Research in Psychology</b> • Introduction to course • Methods of acquiring knowledge • The scientific method • Influences on research			
<b>Ethics</b> • Definition and importance of ethics • Case studies of ethics in psychology • Ethical considerations when using human participants and animals in research • Ethical codes of conduct			
<b>Conducting a Literature Search</b> • The research process • Research questions and hypotheses • Sources of literature • Reading and understanding a research article • Writing a literature review • APA referencing style			
<b>Sampling</b> • Populations and samples • Representative samples • Probability sampling methods: types and evaluation • Nonprobability sampling methods: types and evaluation • Sample size			
<b>Defining and Measuring Variables</b> • Levels of measurement • Theoretical constructs and operational definitions • Validity of measurement • Reliability of measurement • Modalities of measurement • Qualitative and quantitative methods			
<b>Research Designs</b> • Experimental Research Designs o Independent and dependent variables o Between-participants and within-participants designs • Quasi-Experimental Research Designs o Extraneous variables • Correlational Research Designs • Cross-sectional vs. longitudinal designs			
<b>Data Collection Methods: Interviews and Focus Groups</b> • Interview types • Types of questions • Conducting interviews • Interviewer effects • Analysis and interpretation			
<b>Data Collection Methods: Observations</b> • Types of observation • Naturalistic observation and participant observation • Observer bias • Recording observations			
<b>Data Collection Methods: Questionnaires and Surveys</b> • Comparing and contrasting questionnaires and interviews • Planning questionnaires • Question types (e.g. Likert scale vs. independent alternatives) • Formulating items • Testing reliability and validity in questionnaires			
<b>Data Collection Methods: Experiments</b> • Experiment Types (e.g. field experiments and naturalistic experiments) • Conducting online experiments • Considerations when designing and experiment • Threats to internal validity			
Assessment Breakdown			%
Coursework			50.00%
End of Module Assessment			50.00%
Assessments			
Full Time			
Coursework			
<b>Assessment Type:</b>	Assignment (0350)	<b>% of total:</b>	50
<b>Assessment Date:</b>	n/a	<b>Outcome addressed:</b>	1,2,3,4
<b>Non-Marked:</b>	No		
<b>Assessment Description:</b> A literature review and study proposal			
End of Module Assessment			
<b>Assessment Type:</b>	Terminal Exam	<b>% of total:</b>	50
<b>Assessment Date:</b>	End-of-Semester	<b>Outcome addressed:</b>	1,3,4
<b>Non-Marked:</b>	No		
<b>Assessment Description:</b> Students will complete a MCQ exam consisting of 100 questions to be answered in 1 hour and 40 minutes.			
No Workplace Assessment			
Reassessment Requirement			
<b>Repeat examination</b> <i>Reassessment of this module will consist of a repeat examination. It is possible that there will also be a requirement to be reassessed in a coursework element.</i>			
<b>Reassessment Description</b> Should students fail the module overall, they will be required to resubmit the failed components, and/or sit a repeat examination.			

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Module Workload				
Module Target Workload Hours 0 Hours				
Workload: Full Time				
Workload Type	Workload Description	Hours	Frequency	Average Weekly Learner Workload
Lecture	Classroom and demonstrations	2	Every Week	2.00
Tutorial	Mentoring and small-group tutoring	2	Every Week	2.00
Independent Learning	No Description	15.8	Every Week	15.80
Lab	Support Class/Clinic	1	Every Week	1.00
Total Weekly Contact Hours				5.00

Module Resources	
<i>Recommended Book Resources</i>	
Gravetter, F. J. J. G., Forzano, L.-A. B., & Rakow, T.. (2021), Research Methods for the Behavioral Sciences, 1st. Cengage.	
<i>Supplementary Book Resources</i>	
Howitt, D. & Cramer, D.. (2014), Introduction to research method in psychology, 4th Ed. Pearson.	
Smith, R.A. & Davis, S.F.. (2013), The Psychologist as Detective: An introduction to conducting research in psychology., Pearson.	
<i>This module does not have any article/paper resources</i>	
<i>This module does not have any other resources</i>	
Discussion Note:	