

Module Details	
Module Title	Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology
Module Code	PSY4006-B
Academic Year	2024/5
Credits	20
School	School of Social Sciences
FHEQ Level	FHEQ Level 4

Contact Hours	
Type	Hours
Lectures	22
Laboratories	11
Directed Study	167

Availability	
Occurrence	Location / Period
BDA	University of Bradford / Academic Year

Module Aims
<p>This module will introduce you to the basic concepts and procedures used to conduct and evaluate psychological research. Emphasis will be placed on understanding established research methods, applying robust techniques in order to produce interpretable and reproducible results and evaluating published scientific reports. The lab component of the course will focus on the skills required to produce original research in psychology. It will provide you with hands-on experience of analysing and writing up qualitative and quantitative data.</p>

Outline Syllabus

The nature(s) of psychological research.
 Research aims and research designs.
 The ethics of psychological research.
 Experimental design - variables, groups and conditions.
 Survey work.
 Interviews.
 Observation.
 Sampling.
 Descriptive statistics and inferential testing (including SPSS, correlational studies).
 Validity and reliability.
 An introduction to qualitative research including its purposes.
 Handling qualitative data and thematic analysis.

Learning Outcomes

Outcome Number	Description
01	Demonstrate awareness of the principles of psychological research design;
02	Understand the nature and use of a range of statistical tests and the function of SPSS;
04	Demonstrate knowledge about the ethical issues involved in psychological research;
05	Understand the rules of communicating the results of different types of psychological research.
06	Reason scientifically and demonstrate the relationship between theory and evidence;
07	Detect meaningful patterns in behaviour and experience;
08	Demonstrate competence in research skills through practical activities;
09	Use SPSS to manipulate quantitative data;
10	Handle qualitative data thematically.
11	Communicate ideas and research findings by effectively using a range of written, oral and visual means;
12	Interpret and use numerical/statistical and qualitative forms of data;
13	Be computer literate for the purposes of furthering your own learning and in the analysis and presentation of ideas and research findings;
14	Approach problem solving in a systematic way;
15	Recognise the need to assess your own skills and to harness them for future learning.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

The module is structured to provide a comprehensive understanding of conducting and evaluating psychological research methodologies, both quantitative and qualitative, and to develop essential skills through a blend of lectures, practical labs, and continuous assessments.

Transferable Skills Development

This module is designed to help students achieve the following transferable skills:

Communication
Analytical Skills
Problem-Solving
Ethical Awareness
Improving Learning and Continuous Self-Assessment

Summative assessments comprises:

(1) A 1500 word Quantitative Research Article (Assessing Learning Outcomes: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6-9):

The aim of the assessment is to write a quantitative research article which is based on statistical procedures that will be conducted during the lab sessions.

(2) A 1500 word Qualitative Research Article (Assessing Learning Outcomes: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10):

The aim of the assessment is to write a research article based on data arising from an interview that students have designed, carried out and analysed on the topic of friendship. Preparation for the interview and all stages of the assignment will begin in the module lab sessions.

(3) Online Workbook (Assessing Learning Outcomes: 1, 2 & 5, 6-10 and 11-15):

6 ongoing MCQ's throughout semester 1 and 2 of practical assignments in the laboratory to develop student skills.

Mode of Assessment

Type	Method	Description	Weighting
Summative	Coursework - Written	Qualitative research article - 1500 words max	40%
Summative	Coursework - Written	Quantitative research article - 1500 words max	40%
Summative	Coursework - Written	Workbook - ongoing assessment of practical assignments in the laboratory and the development of your skills	20%

Reading List

To access the reading list for this module, please visit <https://bradford.rl.talis.com/index.html>

Please note:

This module descriptor has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but minor changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Upon commencement of the module, students will receive a handbook with further detail about the module and any changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.