

FP053-30 Inquiry and Research Skills for Social Science

20/21

Department

Warwick Foundation Studies

Level

Foundation

Module leader

Lucy Ryland

Credit value

30

Module duration

24 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

The IRS for Social Science module aims to ensure that students develop the necessary competencies and skills to succeed in Social Sciences and related courses in the United Kingdom. It will provide bespoke skills training and support for students aiming at progressing to an undergraduate degree in the United Kingdom. It will provide competency training in reflective and critical thinking, team-working, and raising the awareness of self to develop greater ability in learners to engage with academic debate and take responsibility to critically inquire and evaluate issues in Social Sciences. The module aims to ensure that students become independent learners and researchers who are equipped to think for themselves.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

1. To develop students independent learning skills and confidence through inquiry based learning
2. Introduce students to, and raise their understanding of, university style of research within Social Science including the language and methods used.

3. Develop students research skills through undertaking a self-led, extended research project linked to Social Science
4. Introduce students to a variety of digital tools and skills that are used in the study of Social Science

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

1. What is research? Understanding what research is and information literacy skills that support research including asking relevant questions, evaluating sources, document analysis, formulating search strategies, effective searching, reflection and developing coherent lines of argument. Contribution of digital Social Sciences to learning in the discipline.
2. Introduction to Problem Based learning – taking part in group based tasks in which students utilise, develop and practise research skills whilst investigating interdisciplinary issues in the Social Science.
3. Research Project – students will be taught about different research methods, including quantitative and qualitative methods used in the Social Sciences, research ethics, question design and analysis. They will propose, design, plan and carry out their own multi-media research study leading to a presentation in which they will answer questions about their research.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Investigate and analyse academic debates that arise in the study of the Social Sciences
- Engage effectively in reflective and critical thinking .
- Propose, design, manage and carry out an independent research project on topics relevant to study in the Social Sciences
- Analyse and evaluate research undertaken by others within the field, drawing comparisons with research done in the Social Sciences in other countries.
- Utilise relevant digital and information literacy skills as applicable to study in the Social Sciences.

Indicative reading list

Cottrell S (2008) The Study Skills Handbook (3rd edition) Palgrave Macmillan

Cottrell S (2011) Critical Thinking Skills: Developing Effective Analysis and Argument (2nd edition) Palgrave Macmillan

Cottrell S (2014) Dissertations and project reports : a step by step guide Palgrave MacMillan

Dane, C (2018) Evaluating research : methodology for people who need to read research (2nd edition) SAGE

Desposato, S (2016) Ethics and experiments [electronic resource] : problems and solutions for social scientists and policy professionals Routledge

Eller JD (2017) Social science and historical perspectives: society, science, and ways of knowing

Routledge

Gerring J (2017) Applied social science methodology : an introductory guide Cambridge University Press

Grix, J (2004) The Foundations of Research Palgrave Macmillan

Thomas, G (2013) How to do your research project : a guide for students in education and applied social sciences

[View reading list on Talis Aspire](#)

Research element

Research project.

Interdisciplinary

Students undertake study of different problem based learning tasks from an interdisciplinary basis.

International

Students are to be assessed on contribution of research globally in the subject area.

Subject specific skills

- Information literacy skills - library skills, effective internet searching, use of databases.
- Inquiry Skills - asking questions, seeking and analysing different answers, coming to your own conclusion
- Group work skills
- Independent learning skills - planning, time management
- Research skills - e.g. how to undertake questionnaires, interviews
- Reflective thinking/ writing
- Digital Social Science research
- Critical thinking

Transferable skills

- Information literacy skills - library skills, effective internet searching, use of databases.
- Inquiry Skills - asking questions, seeking and analysing different answers, coming to your own conclusion
- Group work skills
- Independent learning skills - planning, time management
- Research skills - e.g. how to undertake questionnaires, interviews
- Reflective thinking/ writing
- Critical thinking

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	72 sessions of 1 hour (24%)
Online learning (independent)	6 sessions of 45 minutes (1%)
Private study	133 hours 30 minutes (44%)
Assessment	90 hours (30%)
Total	300 hours

Private study description

Preparation for seminars, practising of skills and reading.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A1

	Weighting	Study time
Foundations of Research	10%	10 hours
Selection of information literacy moodle modules and research ethics module.		
Social Science : Annotated Bibliography	20%	20 hours
Annotated bibliography of key research, including global research, on the research topic area.		
Research Log Book	30%	20 hours
log book of progress in research.		
Social Science Research Project	40%	40 hours
Presentation of Research Project to include both an academic poster AND discussion of the research.		

Feedback on assessment

Written comments via tabula; tutorials for students who wish to have further guidance

Availability

Courses

This module is Core for:

- Year 1 of FIOE Warwick International Foundation Programme