

FP053-30 Inquiry and Research Skills for Social Science

21/22

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 enhancing the ability of 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, 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 Social Science.
3. Research Project – students will be taught about different research methods, including question design, quantitative and qualitative methods used in the Social Sciences, and research ethics. They will propose, design, plan and carry out their own research project 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 a topic relevant to the Social Sciences.
- Analyse and evaluate existing social science research undertaken around the world.
- Utilise relevant digital and information literacy skills as applicable to study in the Social Sciences.

Indicative reading list

Cottrell S (2019) *The Study Skills Handbook* (5th edition) Palgrave Macmillan

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

Della Porta D, Keating M (Eds) (2008) *Approaches and Methodologies in the Social Sciences: A Pluralist Perspective*, Cambridge University Press

Walliman (2011) *Research Methods: The Basics*, Routledge

[View reading list on Talis Aspire](#)

Research element

Research project.

Interdisciplinary

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

International

Students are to be encouraged to consider 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 - qualitative and quantitative
- 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 - qualitative and quantitative
- 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 A2

	Weighting	Study time
Foundations of Research Completion of a selection of online information literacy modules and research ethics module.	10%	10 hours
Annotated Bibliography Annotated bibliography of key research on the research topic area.	25%	20 hours
Research Log Book Log book of progress and reflection on research project.	25%	20 hours
Social Science Research Project Presentation of Research Project to include both an academic poster AND discussion of the research.	40%	40 hours

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