

FP053-30 Inquiry and Research Skills for Social Science, Economics, Law and Arts

23/24

Department

Warwick Foundation Studies

Level

Foundation

Module leader

Rosemary Alexander-Jones

Credit value

30

Module duration

25 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

The IRS for Social Science, Economics, Law and Arts 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:

- Identify and select relevant academic sources relating to a range of issues facing the social sciences, economics, law and the arts and humanities today.
- Demonstrate a range of transferable skills including project planning, data analysis, relevant digital literacy skills and presentation skills as applicable to research in related fields.
- Plan, undertake and reflect on self-directed research using methodologies appropriate to social sciences, economics, law and arts and humanities.
- Present analysis, evaluate and draw conclusions based on a self-directed research project.

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, and going across 4 different subject areas this module is, by its nature, interdisciplinary across social science, economics, law and arts and humanities.

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
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Study

Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	72 sessions of 1 hour (24%)
Online learning (independent)	6 sessions of 1 hour (2%)
Private study	162 hours (54%)
Assessment	60 hours (20%)
Total	300 hours

Private study description

Preparation for seminars, practising of skills and reading, undertaking the online Foundations of Research and Ethics moodle modules.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A4

	Weighting	Study time
Foundations of Research	10%	6 hours
Completion of a selection of online information literacy modules and research ethics module.		
Annotated Bibliography	25%	15 hours
1500 words annotated bibliography of key research on the research topic area.		
Research Log Book	25%	15 hours
A log book of the research project, focusing on progress and reflection.		
Academic Poster Conference Presentation	20%	12 hours
This presentation of academic poster with Research Project outcomes at an academic conference.		
Academic Poster	20%	12 hours
Creation of academic poster of research project undertaken.		

Feedback on assessment

Written feedback via tabula; regular opportunities for peer feedback; verbal feedback provided to students who wish to have further guidance.

Availability

Courses

This module is Core for:

- FIOE Warwick International Foundation Programme
 - Year 1 of FP25 Warwick International Foundation Programme - Arts and Humanities
 - Year 1 of FP17 Warwick International Foundation Programme - Economics
 - Year 1 of FP24 Warwick International Foundation Programme - Law and Politics
 - Year 1 of FP23 Warwick International Foundation Programme - Social Sciences