IP904-60 Research Dissertation

23/24

Department
Liberal Arts
Level
Taught Postgraduate Level
Module leader
Lauren Bird
Credit value
60
Module duration
22 weeks
Assessment
80% coursework, 20% exam
Study location
University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module is one of two options for the final project for Liberal Arts MASc PGT students who seek to explore the intersection between the creation of transdisciplinary knowledge and community outreach/engagement. The module is centred around the development and production of an original self-guided research project.

Module web page

Module aims

To conduct a self-guided, transdisciplinary research project that includes a focus on the relationship between knowledge production (broadly defined) and society.

To develop independent research and advanced critical-thinking skills.

To apply advanced research skills and original approaches acquired from other modules in the PG programme.

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.

The key purpose of this dissertation module is to apply research skills and practical skills regarding transdisciplinary knowledge.

The module will begin with an overview of project management, encouraging students to think through which type of project they would like to pursue and why. Students will need to submit a prospectus outlining their project and its timeline in Term 1.

Students will then continue their chosen project and submit the written output of 10,000 words. The module will culminate in a viva voce examination including an oral presentation presentation by the student. This viva will not only include discussion of the student's research, but will also include the presentation of a detailed impact/dissemination plan, and students will be expected to work with academic staff and our employability and placements officer to identify relevant stakeholders to invite to the viva presentation.

Students will receive several lectures throughout the module on topics such as:

1. Project Planning: Ethical and Epistemological Decisions
2. Advanced Transdisciplinary Research: Engaging with Sources
3. Knowledge Production Across Fields
4. Embedding/translating your Research within the Community

In addition, students will receive six hours of supervision sessions throughout the year.

Learning outcomes

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

- Meaningfully engage in transdiciplinary approaches to real-world problems via a nuanced understanding of scholarship from multiple disciplines.
- Apply evidence-based approaches to complex problems that explore the intersection of knowledge production and civil society.
- Communicate their findings effectively and professionally to multiple publics in both written and oral forms.
- Critically reflect on the challenges, ethics, and benefits of research beyond academic institutions.
- Conduct focussed transdisciplinary investigations and produce a high-calibre research output.
- Manage a research project and articulate their own approach to such project management.

Indicative reading list

Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams, et al., "The Craft of Research." 4th ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2016).

Lamott, Anne. "Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life" (New York: Anchor Books, 1995).

Allen F. Repko. "Interdisciplinary Research: Process and Theory" (London: Sage, 2011).

Research element

Healey & Jenkins (2009) propose that Research-led-teaching design should consider four discrete opportunities. This module has been designed to include all four of these opportunities.

1. Research-led learning, where the module syllabus is developed from current research in relevant fields, being based on contemporary and seminal, peer reviewed and other high quality research literature. As such, all knowledge for student engagement will be consciously and specifically chosen for its merits in reference to broader academic understanding. This will initially include developing a realistic prospectus prior to undertaking research.

2. Research-oriented learning, where students develop research and inquiry skills and techniques. Through the lectures offered in the module, bespoke supervisions, and the project proposal students will gain facility with a number of methodologies, research skills, and techniques of interdisciplinary analysis suitable to their project. Moreover, the viva voce discussion will prompt students to defend the viability, applicability, and limitations of their chosen techniques and methods.

3. Research-based learning, where student use developing methodological skills to create original knowledge of their own. This module will provide students with the opportunity to design and conduct their own research project, while developing skills in effective research communication and dissemination.

4. Research-tutored learning, where students engage actively in discussing high quality, contemporary and seminal research literature. This module will provide students with the opportunity to critically identify existing gaps in the wider academic knowledge and understanding.

Interdisciplinary

All projects will focus on the intersection of multiple disciplinary perspectives and transdisciplinary approaches to meaningful engagement. This module will build on the research methods and civic engagement modules at the PG level, which are inherently transdisciplinary by nature.

International

The projects will explore international approaches through emphasis on de-centring the British Anglophone lens and the active inclusion of non-Western points of view. Students will be encouraged to use research in multiple languages (whether in translation or in the original), and to be aware of different national approaches and traditions within and across disciplines.

Subject specific skills

Subject-specific skills will vary according to the projects of the students. These projects will be linked to the PGT programme's emphasis on the intersection between transdisciplinary knowledge, engaged citizenship, and meaningful civic engagement. All students will acquire project management and research skills appropriate to their projects.

Transferable skills

- Project management.
- Independent, self-guided research.
- Transdisciplinary thinking.
- Oral and written communication.
- Identify, describe and identify solutions for complex problems

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Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	4 sessions of 1 hour (1%)
Project supervision	6 sessions of 1 hour (1%)
Assessment	590 hours (98%)
Total	600 hours

Private study description

No private study requirements defined for this module.

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 D

	Weighting	Study time
Project Prospectus	20%	20 hours
This assessment requires students to submit a prospectus for their project, along with a reflection on ethical and epistemological justifications for their approach.		
Dissertation	60%	550 hours
Students will prepare a 10,000-word final research dissertation on a topic of their choosing. The work should be interdisciplinary and reflect some element of engagement as explored in other modules within the degree.		
Dissertation and Engagement Plan	20%	20 hours

	Weighting	Study time
Viva Students will give a 15-minute oral presentation, followed by 30 minutes of questioning and discussion with the panel and invited community stakeholders. The presentation should cover both their project and a plan for dissemination further civic engagement. Prior to the viva, students will need to work together with staff to identify relevant outside stakeholders to invite to the presentation.		

Feedback on assessment

All students will receive written feedback on Tabula. Additional oral feedback will be available upon request.

Past exam papers for IP904

Availability

Courses

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 1 of TIPA-LA9Z Postgraduate Taught Community, Engagement and Belonging (MASc)