ME914-60 MSc Dissertation

24/25

Department
Warwick Medical School
Level
Taught Postgraduate Level
Module leader
Deborah Biggerstaff
Credit value
60
Module duration
35 weeks
Assessment
100% coursework
Study location
University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

Module web page

Module aims

- To develop students' intellectual abilities using theoretical perspectives and drawing on current experience and previous experiential learning
- To develop students' ability to critically analyse the key issues of an area of study through reference to the research literature and experience as a researcher
- To develop students' knowledge and understanding of research methods and principles
- To develop students' ability to produce and communicate a substantial, independent piece of work, that is relevant to the students chosen course of study, informed by the forefront of research

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.

This module addresses the following areas of study which form the teaching content of the taught

study days:

- Literature searching and formulating a research question
- Study design
- Research ethics
- Writing a research protocol
- Presenting a protocol for peer feedback
- Journals and the publication process
  Dissertation workshops to include:
- Preparing a poster presentation
- Critical writing
- Writing for publication

Learning outcomes

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

- Develop an appropriate research proposal and protocol that complies with ethical principles and addresses a research question or evaluates an area of professional practice within the discipline area of the programme for which the student is registered
- Demonstrate self-direction and originality in the critical evaluation and synthesis of the research evidence in an area of professional practice and consider possible developments and improvements for implementation
- Produce and communicate an extended critical appraisal of the current literature, using appropriate quality assessment processes, to evaluate the limitations of research evidence and justify an area of professional practice within the discipline area of the programme for which the student is registered
- Demonstrate advanced skills in planning, information gathering and data interpretation and synthesis for research enquiry
- Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of different research methodologies and how these might be applied to health-related research
- Critically reflect on the selection of an appropriate journal for dissemination of study findings, justifying the choice made and the alternatives available
- Critically explore the applicability of the findings to their own area of practice and evaluate the scope for further research in this area
- Write succinctly in the format of an academic article for an appropriate professional journal and present work visually in the format of an academic poster
- Have the knowledge and skills to independently design, plan, conduct, and complete a significant piece of academic writing which addresses an area of professional practice within the discipline area of the programme for which the student is registered

Indicative reading list

Reading lists can be found in Talis

Research element

This module enables students to conduct a substantial piece of original enquiry that is relevant to their Master's programme. Students propose a topic and work independently with the support of a supervisor. Students present their work in both written and visual formats and are encouraged to disseminate their findings.

Subject specific skills

Sound understanding of subject
Critically evaluate
Reflection

Transferable skills

Numeracy
Thinking and problem solving
written communication
oral communication
Teamwork
Organisation & time management
Use of tools and technology
Commercial awareness
Independence and initiative
Adaptability/Flexibility

Study

Study time

Type	Required	Optional
Lectures	1 session of 2 hours (9%)	
Seminars	8 sessions of 1 hour (36%)	15 sessions of 1 hour
Tutorials	(0%)	2 sessions of 1 hour
Project supervision	12 sessions of 1 hour (55%)	
Practical classes	(0%)	
Total	22 hours	

Private study description

Self-directed study and research: 556 hours

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 A3

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Poster Poster presentation	20%	10 hours	No
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
Structured Dissertation (12,000 words) Dissertation	80%	100 hours	No
Reassessment component			
Narrative commentary			No

Professional Project / Dissertation (written component) that has attained an original mark of 40-49% will be required to provide a 2000 word (+/-10%) response to the assessors comments, reflecting on limitations and what would be done differently if the project were to be repeated (grade will be capped at 50%). Resubmission will take place after 4 weeks. This response will be in the form of a narrative commentary. Suggested format should be similar to responding to a peer-reviewers comments if an article was submitted to a journal.

Professional Project / Dissertation (written component) that has attained an original mark of 39% or less: Student will be required to re-submit the project (12,000 words) within a 3 month period (resubmission grade will be capped at 50%).

Feedback on assessment

The written dissertation will be marked using standardised rubrics, which will provide feedback to the students (including individualised feedback) in line with WMS postgraduate assessment

criteria (including submission to Plagiarism software). Further verbal feedback will be available to students on request. The poster will be marked by written and visual presentation according to predefined criteria and the student will be provided with written feedback.

Availability

Courses

This module is Core for:

- Year 1 of TMDS-B9C2 Postgraduate Taught Health Research

This module is Core optional for:

- TMHS-B930 MSc in Health Sciences
    - Year 1 of B930 Health Sciences
    - Year 1 of B930 Health Sciences
    - Year 7 of B930 Health Sciences
    - Year 8 of B930 Health Sciences
- Year 1 of TMDS-B9C2 Postgraduate Taught Health Research
- Year 1 of TMHS-B902 Public Health

This module is Core option list A for:

- TMHS-B906 MSc in Diabetes
    - Year 1 of B906 Diabetes
    - Year 1 of B907 Diabetes (Paediatrics)
- Year 1 of TPCS-B9XD Masters in Medical Education
- Year 1 of TMHS-B90T Postgraduate Taught Diabetes (PGDip)