

MD3B2-30 Dissertation project

26/27

Department

Warwick Medical School

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

Leda Mirbahai

Credit value

30

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

The module offers students the opportunity to work independently, under limited supervision, on an area of health and medical science of their choice. Students will learn to take responsibility for the direction and management of a research project through to completion and submission. There is no specific syllabus for this module. The topic of the dissertation will depend on the mutual interests of the student and the student's chosen supervisor.

During this module, students will gain hands-on experience of formulating appropriate research questions, planning and undertaking a project, analysing data, peer review and writing their project in form of a paper. The paper will be in a format suitable for publication in a peer-reviewed academic journal and will demonstrate knowledge and appraisal of a wide range of relevant literature and show that this has been applied to the design, execution and reporting of the project. There will be online material on key skills relevant to dissertation planning and oral presentation.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

This module aims to provide students with the opportunity to develop a deep understanding of a topic area of interest and obtain practical experience of the process and skills required to undertake an

extended supervised research project.

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 module offers students the opportunity to work independently, under limited supervision, on an area of health and medical science of their choice. They will learn to take responsibility for the direction and management of a research project through to completion and submission. There is no specific syllabus for this module. The topic of the dissertation will depend on the mutual interests of the student and the student's chosen supervisor. During this module the students will gain hands on experience of formulating appropriate research questions, planning and undertaking a project, analysing data, peer review and writing their project in form of a paper. The paper will be in a format suitable for publication in a peer reviewed academic journal and will demonstrate knowledge and appraisal of a wide range of relevant literature and show that this has been applied to the design, execution and reporting of the project. There will be online material on key skills relevant to dissertation planning and oral presentation

Learning outcomes

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

- To work independently to plan, manage and complete a cohesive project within agreed timelines
- To develop practical and cognitive skills of analysis and synthesis in the context of investigation within the field of health, biomedical and medical sciences
- To evaluate and communicate complex project information using written and oral formats to a diverse audience
- To critically appraise own findings and their relevance within the project scope
- To demonstrate responsible research behaviour including engagement with supervision, responsiveness to feedback, meeting deadlines and academic integrity
- To become immersed in complex disciplinary language, engage with interdisciplinary approaches and identify professional limit

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

Research element

To develop practical and cognitive skills of analysis and synthesis in the context of investigation within the fields of health, biomedical and medical sciences

Subject specific skills

Developed practical and cognitive skills of analysis and synthesis in the context of investigation within the fields of health, biomedical and medical sciences.

To become immersed in complex disciplinary language, engage with interdisciplinary approaches and identify professional limits.

Transferable skills

The transferable skills gained from the completion of this module include, ability to gather and interpret information, ability to analyze data, oral communication skills, ability to make decisions and solve problems, written communication skills, ability to learn quickly, ability to manage a project, and creativity/innovative thinking.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	5 sessions of 1 hour (2%)
Tutorials	6 sessions of 30 minutes (1%)
Project supervision	10 sessions of 1 hour (3%)
Private study	182 hours (61%)
Assessment	100 hours (33%)
Total	300 hours

Private study description

Students would be expected to engage in 182 hours of self-directed learning outside other learning and teaching activities outlined above.

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 A4

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Dissertation thesis produced to journal article format	50%	63 hours	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Formative assessment: supervisors to manage supervisory time to give feedback on sections/drafts of work (throughout module)• Summative assessment: submission of thesis in the format of a relevant journal article			

Reassessment component is the same

Assessment component

Poster presentation and defence of poster with lay abstract	30%	27 hours	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Formative assessment: opportunity given for the practice of poster presentation and preparation• Summative assessment: presentation and defence of the project undertaken at the end of term 3. This will also include the submission of a lay abstract alongside the poster (200 words). Poster presentation: 7 minutes plus 5 for questions			

Reassessment component is the same

Assessment component

Supervisor rated component	20%	10 hours	No
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The supervisor-rated component evaluates the skills, behaviours and professional standards expected of a developing undergraduate researcher. It aims to encourage consistent engagement, professionalism and accountability throughout the full life cycle of the project, regardless of methodological approach or project format.

Weighting

Study time

Eligible for self-certification

Assessment is based on a marking rubric across four domains: practical or methodological competence and working with appropriate independence; commitment to the project and professional behaviour; problem-solving and initiative; and communication skills, both verbal and written. These domains apply across the full range of project types, including laboratory-based, computational, systematic literature review, qualitative, quantitative, and other research approaches. In this context, “practical competence” refers to the student’s ability to apply appropriate research methods and tools relevant to their project type (for example, laboratory techniques, data analysis methods, qualitative data collection or analysis, systematic literature searching and synthesis, or other relevant methodological approaches). In making this judgement, supervisors should consider the student’s engagement across the full project lifecycle, from preparation and planning through development of the project protocol or approach, the conduct of the work, and completion of the final written submission. This includes how effectively the student prepares for and uses supervision meetings, responds to feedback, and takes responsibility for progressing their work within the expected level of supervision.

The mark awarded will be supported by a clear written justification that reflects observed performance over the course of the project. A second marker will moderate this component to support consistency and fairness. Supervisors will not penalise a student for factors outside their control, including project constraints, access limitations, delays not caused by the student, or approved mitigating circumstances.

Students and supervisors are expected to hold regular weekly meetings throughout the dissertation project. A brief written record of each meeting should be maintained to provide a formal account of discussions, agreed actions, and progress made. This record should clearly demonstrate the student’s engagement and progression during the project. Meetings should be documented using the recommended institutional system. These records will inform the supervisor-rated component and support the justification of the mark awarded, while also providing moderators with insight into how the project developed over time.

For this component, preparation time includes all work undertaken to plan and carry out the project, including preparation undertaken before supervisor briefings.

Reassessment component

Critical Reflection on performance

Yes (extension)

Students will be required to reflect on how they can improve their performance based on the feedback provided. The reflection should include a reflective analysis of the key skills (domains) required for successful completion of a research project.

Feedback on assessment

The poster and report will be marked using standardised rubrics. Feedback to the students (including individualised feedback) in line with WMS assessment criteria will be given to the

students. Further verbal feedback will be available to students on request.

Availability

Courses

This module is Core for:

- Year 3 of UMDA-B990 Undergraduate Health and Medical Sciences
- Year 3 of UMDA-B991 Undergraduate Health and Medical Sciences (with Intercolated Year)
- Year 3 of UMDA-B992 Undergraduate Health and Medical Sciences (with Summer Term Study Abroad)