

Module Details	
Module Title	M1 Research Design, Philosophy & Working Beyond Disciplines
Module Code	PHA7072-C
Academic Year	2023/4
Credits	30
School	School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences
FHEQ Level	FHEQ Level 7

Contact Hours	
Type	Hours
Independent Study	254
Lectures	12
Tutorials	4
Groupwork	30 (across WRDTP days)

Availability	
Occurrence	Location / Period
BDA	University of Bradford / Semester 1

Module Aims
<p>This module aims to develop your detailed critical knowledge of designing research in health and social sciences, gaining a range of experience of methods in preparation for doctoral level study.</p> <p>You will develop an understanding that research designs are underpinned by philosophical frameworks that inform research methods and methodologies, and practise critical analysis of the assumptions inherent in social and health research methodologies.</p> <p>You will also develop your understanding of interdisciplinary working and its challenges and opportunities as the future of research.</p> <p>We will introduce you to relevant frameworks for professional researchers in order to begin the transition to independent research.</p>

Outline Syllabus

- * Research methodologies in social sciences and their relevance to health sciences: 'core' approaches and their underpinning philosophies.
- * Study design, research subjects, sampling and participation.
- * Criteria for appraising and judging the quality of research and its design.
- * An introduction to interdisciplinary study at postgraduate level, highlighting the importance of interdisciplinary approaches to research.
- * Participating in a research community: knowledge creation, sharing, communication, and maintaining intellectual curiosity.

Learning Outcomes

Outcome Number	Description
L01	Demonstrate a systematic and conceptual understanding of research philosophy, design, strategy and methods in health and social research.
L02	Systematically and critically apply an advanced understanding of current debates at the forefront of research methodologies to design clear and specific research objectives, questions or hypotheses in order to critically examine and evaluate contemporary social and health challenges.
L03	Identify and critically analyse the philosophical and epistemological presumptions that underpin a potential methodology for your own intended research.
L04	Systematically apply a critical understanding of the complex range of approaches to interdisciplinary study and relationship-building, and their theoretical and epistemological underpinnings.
L05	Demonstrate a critical understanding of the cross-disciplinary social and health science "grand challenges" in a thematic area of social or health sciences relevant to your own research.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

This module involves blended learning with a combination of face-to-face and online methods used for teaching. Core teaching is conducted online. During this period students liaise with module tutors and focus on self-directed study. Lectures will introduce key areas of the syllabus and prepare students to draw on advanced philosophical, methodological and interdisciplinary literature (Learning Outcomes 1-4). This teaching along with the tutorials outlined below will enable students to self-assess your current research knowledge and skills.

The face-to-face component principally consists of interdisciplinary one-day workshops alongside students and staff from across our White Rose Doctoral Training Partnership (WRDTP) universities (LO5).

Students have the opportunity to discuss their reading, ideas, reflections and critical thinking about the design of research, its underlying theory and how interdisciplinary working can offer solutions to societal/topical problems and stimulate the development of their own future research project (LO1-5).

The formative assessment enables students to demonstrate their skills and knowledge, and the work they have undertaken to meet the module learning outcomes and their personal development needs.

Students have the opportunity to receive formative feedback on an outline of their summative assessment tasks part way through the module.

Summative assessment consists of an essay (3000 word critical review of pertinent literature, LO1-5) and a research report (1000 words, LO1-4). This allows you to demonstrate progress from the beginning of your studies, facilitating active learning through reflection and evidence-gathering. You will be able to capture your engagement with reading and discussions about the design and philosophy of research, demonstrate critical thinking on how research can be conducted in your own specialist area, as well as evidence your understanding from working with other disciplines on the threshold concept of interdisciplinarity.

Mode of Assessment

Type	Method	Description	Weighting
Summative	Coursework - Written	Research report (1000 words)	33%
Summative	Coursework - Written	Critical literature review essay (3000 words)	67%
Formative	Coursework	Formative feedback on essay outline (up to 600 words)	N/A

Reading List

To access the reading list for this module, please visit <https://bradford.rl.talis.com/index.html>

Please note:

This module descriptor has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but minor changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Upon commencement of the module, students will receive a handbook with further detail about the module and any changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.