UNIVERSITY of BRADFORD

Module Descriptor

Module Details	
Module Title	Research Methods for Social Workers
Module Code	SOW7001-B
Academic Year	2023/4
Credits	20
School	School of Social Sciences
FHEQ Level	FHEQ Level 7

Contact Hours	
Type	Hours
Tutorials	6
Lectures	24
Directed Study	170

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

Module Aims

To equip you with the knowledge and methodological skills required to plan a Social Work practice-based research project.

Outline Syllabus

Understanding the relationship between Social Work research, policy and practice; Developing literature searching and reviewing skills; Designing a research project and developing research questions; An introduction to qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods designs with research illustrations; Data collection methods and data analysis techniques; Research ethics; Informed consent and engagement of participants; Research with vulnerable populations; Considering issues of diversity; Guidance for developing research project assignments.

Learning Outcomes	
Outcome Number	Description
01	a) Demonstrate your ability to critically review literature b) Demonstrate your ability to select a project, determine the most suitable methods and consider the ethical issues c) Demonstrate your ability to communicate the purpose of the study and what will be involved to participants to ensure informed consent
02	a) Demonstrate awareness of epistemological, theoretical and ethical issues underpinning research; b) Demonstrate awareness of qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods designs and their strengths and limitations c) More specifically, demonstrate your ability to carry out a short literature review; develop research questions; design a practice-based study; consider sampling and access issues; select the most appropriate methods to answer your questions; consider the ethical issues; provide participant information sheets and consent forms appropriate to your study and subjects.
03	a) Design a research project proposal relevant to Social Work practice

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

Lectures and seminars.
You will be given directed reading and supported to explore case studies to develop a greater awareness of evidence-based practice and research methods relevant to social work practice.
Written and group tasks / assignments will be used to assess the wider learning outcomes of the module (see MASW programme handbook).
A flipped learning style approach will be adopted for much of the module, where you will be given prior reading and research, which we will subsequently explore as group.

The first component requires students to develop a research question and write a brief literature review related to the question. Students will be supported with developing their research question and introduced to skills of research question formulation as well as carrying out a literature review. This component relates to Learning Outcome 1. Students will then write an evidence-based research briefing about a given social work topic. This will build on the module content, particularly the significance and use of evidence-based practice for social work research and practice. Students will choose their own practice area of interest to explore, and be encouraged to make their choice linked to their final year practice placement setting. This component relates to Learning Outcomes 2 and 3.

Mode of Assessment

Type	Method	Description	Weighting
Summative	Coursework	A 3,000 word assignment - designing a research project proposal relevant to Social Work professional practice.	100%

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.

© University of Bradford 2023

https://bradford.ac.uk