

## Liverpool John Moores University

Title: INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH METHODS IN PSYCHOLOGY  
Status: Definitive  
Code: **4504PSYWUC** (128532)  
Version Start Date: 01-08-2021  
Owning School/Faculty: Psychology  
Teaching School/Faculty: Westford University College

Team	Leader
Ralph Pawling	Y

**Academic Level:** FHEQ4  
**Credit Value:** 20  
**Total Delivered Hours:** 40  
**Total Learning Hours:** 200  
**Private Study:** 160

### Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 2

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	20
Workshop	20

**Grading Basis:** 40 %

### Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Portfolio	Portfolio	A portfolio of a laboratory report and a results section	100	

### Aims

1. To introduce the tools for carrying out a literature search.
2. To develop an understanding of basic statistical concepts, descriptive statistics, correlation, chi square, t-tests.
3. To use SPSS to carry out statistical analyses.
4. To give practical experience of correlational and observational (analysed qualitatively and quantitatively) and between subjects research methods.
5. To develop practical report writing skills.

## Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Write a laboratory report conforming to APA style
- 2 Employ the appropriate statistical test, and interpret its outcome.
- 3 Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the generic principles of research design, and statistical analysis.

## Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

Portfolio	1	2	3
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## Outline Syllabus

*The module will explore different approaches to research design, for example, experimental, observational and survey, as well as within and between subject approaches. Data analysis will explore scales of measurement, descriptive statistics, variance and standard deviation, correlation and chi-square using SPSS. The module will explore research report writing. Students will gain experience of observations from a qualitative and quantitative perspective, and will develop awareness of ethical principles and processes in research design.*

## Learning Activities

1. Attend lectures and workshops
2. Use SPSS/PASW statistical software
3. Use LJMU Findit and other databases to find literature.
4. Complete coursework tasks
5. Complete prescribed reading

## Notes

Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology provides students with a practical introduction to how to design an experiment, collect data in an ethical manner, perform statistical analysis and write up findings in a manner consistent with published material. Throughout the module students will be required to use computers to conduct literature searches and to perform statistical analysis. In the module students will be introduced to the basic principles of research design and descriptive analysis, they will then learn more complex statistical tests for relationships (correlation) and associations (chi squared). Students will gain practical experience of observations and will compare and contrast qualitative and quantitative methods of observational research. Students will demonstrate their

learning through the coursework task by writing a scientific laboratory report and an additional results section. Both components together ensure both depth and breadth of understanding.