

## Liverpool John Moores University

Title: INDEPENDENT RESEARCH & DISSERTATION  
Status: Definitive  
Code: **7023COCPSY** (121087)  
Version Start Date: 01-08-2016

Owning School/Faculty: Nursing and Allied Health  
Teaching School/Faculty: Nursing and Allied Health

Team	Leader
Wendy Traynor	Y

**Academic Level:** FHEQ7  
**Credit Value:** 60  
**Total Delivered Hours:** 50

**Total Learning Hours:** 600  
**Private Study:** 550

### Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

Component	Contact Hours
Tutorial	18
Workshop	32

**Grading Basis:** 40 %

### Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Dissertation	AS1	Dissertation: 15,000 words.	100	

### Aims

- 1. To prepare the candidate to conduct an ethical, LJMU ethically approved reliable, valid, independent research enquiry that is consistent with their professional experience and their area of interest within counselling and psychotherapy.*
- 2. To synthesise prior theoretical and conceptual learning and consolidate research knowledge , professional practice issues and experience in conducting an independent research project.*

3. *To contribute to the field of counselling and psychotherapy as a practitioner researcher through a robust and critical research enquiry that informs and influences psychotherapy practice.*

## **Learning Outcomes**

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Master the application of research skills to underpin and enhance their professional practice and credibility in the field
- 2 Identify gaps in practice based evidence and make recommendations for future research.
- 3 Synthesize and apply their knowledge and competency as a practitioner researcher
- 4 Contribute to the professional knowledge base of the wider therapeutic community and critically debate the paradigmatic advantages and disadvantages of both qualitative and quantitative research methodologies.

## **Learning Outcomes of Assessments**

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

Research Study	1	2	3	4
Dissertation				

## **Outline Syllabus**

- *Independent review of literature and literature search*  
*Research paradigms, protocol and design*
- *Rationale for the research topic, nature of enquiry and methodological approach*  
*Ethical research and ethical approval for the research study*
- *Recruitment phase for participation in the research study*
- *Implementing the research protocol*
- *Data collection and analysis*
- *Interpretation of research outcomes*
- *Writing up of dissertation*

## **Learning Activities**

This module constitutes a self-directed and independent programme of study which requires substantial and thorough reading to support the investigation and research project. An important learning activity will be the keeping of a journal to capture the reflexive research process in conjunction with the actual research activity. Further learning will be derived from the process of analyzing data and the writing of the dissertation.

Workshops of 4 days will be offered at the start of the core module to support candidates in the ethical preparation and design for their independent research study. Additional learning activity in LJMU will familiarise candidates with software

programmes as required.

Candidates will also be encouraged to access student support facilities such as the library and academic and critical writing sessions which equally contribute to the overall learning activity.

## **Notes**

Candidates will conduct their independent research enquiry into an aspect of counselling and psychotherapy practice, as defined through a Learning Agreement between tutor and candidate. Upon completion of the research activity, in the form of a dissertation, candidates will produce a robust written account of the research process, presenting a rationale and ethical argument for their choice of methodology and adopted protocol, their investigation and ensuing analysis, discussion and interpretation of results.

Tutorials and dissertation supervision will support the candidate's progression through the research process.