

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: INDEPENDENT RESEARCH & DISSERTATION
Status: Definitive
Code: **7032COCPSY** (122506)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2021

Owning School/Faculty: Psychology
Teaching School/Faculty: Psychology

Team	Leader
Peter Blundell	Y
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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: 50 %

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, reliable, valid, independent research enquiry, that is consistent with their professional experience, and their area of interest within counselling and psychotherapy.

2. To integrate 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 robust and critical research capable of informing and influencing counselling and 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.
- 2 Identify gaps in practice based evidence and make recommendations for future research.
- 3 Synthesize their knowledge and competency as a practitioner researcher to critically argue the applicability of qualitative research to the field of counselling and psychotherapy
- 4 Contribute to the professional knowledge base of the wider therapeutic community
- 5 Critically debate the theoretical and philosophical advantages and disadvantages of their chosen research methodologies.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

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

Research Study	1	2	3	4	5
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 6 hours per day for 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.

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

Notes

Candidates must pass 7031COCPY before progressing to the independent research module.

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.

Students who have not gained ethical approval for their research by the required timescales will be directed to complete a systematic literature review.