

Summary Information

Module Code	7054LAWCJ
Formal Module Title	Research Methods for Criminal Psychology and Criminal Justice
Owning School	Justice Studies
Career	Postgraduate Taught
Credits	20
Academic level	FHEQ Level 7
Grading Schema	50

Module Contacts

Module Leader

Contact Name	Applies to all offerings	Offerings
Helena Gosling	Yes	N/A

Module Team Member

Contact Name	Applies to all offerings	Offerings
Rachael Steele	Yes	N/A

Partner Module Team

Contact Name	Applies to all offerings	Offerings
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Teaching Responsibility

LJMU Schools involved in Delivery
Justice Studies

Learning Methods

Learning Method Type	Hours
Lecture	22
Seminar	10

Module Offering(s)

Offering Code	Location	Start Month	Duration
SEP-MTP	MTP	September	12 Weeks

Aims and Outcomes

Aims	To prepare students for the compulsory dissertation on the MSc Criminal Psychology and Criminal Justice To enable students to develop an advanced and critical knowledge of the key ontological, epistemological and methodological issues that impact upon research into criminal behaviour and criminal justice. To consider and demonstrate a critical appreciation of the particular research theories and methods of data collection and analysis, which researchers use to study criminal behaviour and criminal justice. To examine and demonstrate advanced and critical understanding of issues relating to the politics and ethics of crime and criminal justice research. To examine and demonstrate advanced and critical understanding of practical issues which can affect research into particular aspects of criminal behaviour and criminal justice.
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Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

Code	Description
MLO1	Recognise and critically evaluate the relative strengths and weaknesses of various theoretical perspectives on research into criminal behaviour and criminal justice.
MLO2	Apply an advanced understanding of how to critically appraise research studies in the field of criminal behaviour and criminal justice.
MLO3	Show advanced and critical awareness of the politics and ethics of research into criminal behaviour and criminal justice.
MLO4	Show an advanced ability to recognise and critically evaluate the substance, strengths and weaknesses of quantitative and qualitative research techniques, when used individually and in combination with others.
MLO5	Show critical awareness of techniques of quantitative and qualitative data analysis.
MLO6	Construct a viable, robust and well-planned research design and methodology, applying advanced and critical knowledge of issues relating to research theory, research design, data collection, data analysis, and other relevant issues to a personal area of specialist postgraduate study relating to a particular aspect of criminal behaviour or criminal justice.

Module Content

Outline Syllabus

BLOCK A: RESEARCH INTO CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE- What is social research? Issues of acquiring knowledge about the social world- Research theory and its links with methods of doing research- Producing a literature review for your research and secondary data sources in criminal justice- Assessing research designs- The politics of criminal justice research- Ethical issues in criminal justice research

BLOCK B: METHODS OF RESEARCHING CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE- Quantitative research: introduction and sampling issues- Quantitative research: structured interviews, self-completion questionnaires and structured observation- Quantitative research: quantitative documentary analysis and secondary analysis of official statistics- Quantitative data analysis- Using SPSS to analyse quantitative data- Qualitative research: introduction, principles and practice- Qualitative research: ethnography and participant observation- Qualitative research: qualitative interviewing techniques and qualitative documentary research- Qualitative data analysis: introduction, principles and practice- Triangulation in research

BLOCK C: PLANNING RESEARCH PROJECTS IN CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE Writing research proposals Formative peer review of research proposals and projects

Module Overview

Additional Information

This module aims to give students a comprehensive and critical guide to both the theory and practice of research on criminal behaviour and the criminal justice process. It will link theories to the practical issues relating to doing these kinds of research, using case studies to illustrate the possible difficulties which students may face when doing research for themselves (including political and ethical obstacles). It will also act as an advanced and theoretically-informed guide to the strengths and weaknesses of both quantitative and qualitative research methods in the context of research on criminal behaviour and criminal justice. The assignments for this module are designed to allow students to develop skills for appraising research and to be as practical as possible for students planning and undertaking dissertation-length, postgraduate-level research for the first time. Formative assessment takes place in the form of peer group presentations in a symposium format, to present ideas for the module assessment.

Assessments

Assignment Category	Assessment Name	Weight	Exam/Test Length (hours)	Learning Outcome Mapping
Exam	Multiple choice online exam	40	2	MLO4, MLO5
Essay	Research Proposal	60	0	MLO4, MLO2, MLO6, MLO1, MLO3, MLO5