

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: Methods for Work-Based Research
Status: Definitive
Code: **7201PS** (124688)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2017

Owning School/Faculty: Liverpool Centre for Advanced Policing Studies
Teaching School/Faculty: Liverpool Centre for Advanced Policing Studies

Team	Leader
Matthew Millings	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ7
Credit Value: 20
Total Delivered Hours: 50
Total Learning Hours: 200
Private Study: 150

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 2

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	20
Online	20
Tutorial	10

Grading Basis: 50 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Report	report	1,500 word report based on the analysis of quantitative dataset where students will use SPSS to conduct examples of univariate and bivariate analysis, and perform tests of statistical significance on a provided dataset	40	
Essay	Essay	3,000 word research proposal identifying a topic/set of research questions that maps out the agenda of research activity to be undertaken to conduct work-based research into the development and critical	60	

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
		reflection upon professional practice		

Aims

To enable students to develop the skills required to design and undertake their own original, work-based research project. The module will enable students to develop an advanced and critical knowledge of the key ontological, epistemological and methodological issues that impact upon research into policing and criminal justice practice. The curriculum will allow students to generate a critical appreciation of diverse approaches to conducting research, methods of data collection and analysis and use real world case studies of research projects to advance student's appreciation of the logistical, political and ethical issues related to the operation of good quality social research. By the conclusion of the module students will be well equipped to embark on their own work-based research project.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Recognize and critically evaluate the relative strengths and weakness of various theoretical perspectives of research into the police, policing, and criminal justice.
- 2 Demonstrate an advanced understanding of how to critically appraise research studies in the fields of policing and criminal justice research.
- 3 Demonstrate an advanced ability to conduct and then interpret the results of quantitative data analysis.
- 4 Construct a viable, robust and well-planned agenda for work-based research activity, applying advanced and critical knowledge of issues relating to research design, data collection, data analysis and other ideas relevant to an area of specialist postgraduate study related to a particular aspect of the individual's professional practice.
- 5 Evidence an advanced and critical awareness of the logistical, political and ethical issues of designing, conducting and delivering work-based research.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

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

1,500 word report	1	3			
3000 Word research proposal	1	2	3	4	5

Outline Syllabus

Block A – Approaching Research into the police, policing and criminal justice

- *The Usage and Purpose of Social Research; Whilst in time the programme's focus will sharpen upon policing and criminal justice research specifically the session will identify the value and contribution research can make to learning and knowledge in addition to the need advance policy and practice development*
- *Research Design and Philosophies of Conducting Research; In this session the basics of research design are explored and case studies of policing and criminal justice relevant research projects are used to help illustrate the need to think through and continually re-assess the logistics and ambitions of research projects*
- *The Political and Ethical dimensions of conducting work-based research; In this session case studies are used and guidance from research methods texts are drawn upon to help develop a fuller appreciation of the ethical dilemmas work-based research encounters from the design of the project, through the research activity and into its writing up. Within work-based research especially we need also to be mindful of the politics of the design and conducting of research activity and to develop a critical understanding of the dimensions of power exercised/experienced by those who participate in the research and those who will consume the findings.*
- *The Serving Officer(s) Experience of engaging in research activity – A number of speakers are used to talk about their experiences of completing academic qualifications and conducting work-based research whilst being employed 'in service'. These first-hand accounts will reflect upon the processes of project idea development, making informed methodological choices, and the experience of managing research.*

Block B - Methods of researching the police, policing and criminal justice

Throughout the sessions that constitute this part of the module the students will engage with a series of 'tales from the field' inputs with guest speakers profiling their own on-going or recently completed research to help develop student's understanding of the reality of designing and conducting social research.

- *Qualitative Research: introduction, principles and practice*
- *Qualitative Research: ethnography and participation observation*
- *Qualitative Research: qualitative interviewing techniques and qualitative documentary analysis*
- *Qualitative Data Analysis*
- *Quantitative Research: introduction and sampling issues*
- *Quantitative Research: The fundamentals of crime analysis*
- *Quantitative Research: structured interviews, self-completion questionnaires and structured observation*

- *Quantitative Research: Quantitative Data Analysis*
- *Quantitative Research: Using SPSS to analyse data (IT Suite based teaching)*

Block C – Planning Work-based research projects

- *Writing Research proposals*
- *Formative peer review of research proposals and project ideas*

Learning Activities

The module utilises in-class lecture and tutorial based teaching and provides online tutoring, support, and guidance for students. Some sessions will also be based in IT suites to help advance the ability of students to engage with the SPSS data analysis software.

Notes

This module, designed with 'in-service' policing and criminal justice professionals in mind, seeks to develop the student's knowledge and understanding of the research methods used in the design, conducting, and delivery of good quality social research. Through engaging with real world research case studies students will have the opportunity to develop their learning around the demands of constructing and operationalising research questions. These insights will help students consider, and plan for, the very real practical and methodological challenges of conducting work based research.