

Methods for Work-Based Research

Module Information

2022.01, Approved

Summary Information

Module Code	7204PS
Formal Module Title	Methods for Work-Based Research
Owning School	Justice Studies
Career	Postgraduate Taught
Credits	30
Academic level	FHEQ Level 7
Grading Schema	50

Teaching Responsibility

LJMU Schools involved in Delivery
Justice Studies

Learning Methods

Learning Method Type	Hours
Lecture	15
Online	25
Tutorial	20

Module Offering(s)

Display Name	Location	Start Month	Duration Number Duration Unit
JAN-MTP	MTP	January	12 Weeks

Aims and Outcomes

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 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.
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After completing the module the student should be able to:

Learning Outcomes

Code	Number	Description
MLO1	1	Recognise and critically evaluate the relative strengths and weakness of various theoretical perspectives of research into the organisations that operate within the criminal justice field.
MLO2	2	Demonstrate an advanced understanding of how to critically appraise research studies in the fields of policing, probation and criminal justice research.
MLO3	3	Demonstrate an advanced ability to conduct and then interpret the results of quantitative data analysis.
MLO4	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.
MLO5	5	Evidence an advanced and critical awareness of the logistical, political and ethical issues of designing, conducting and delivering work-based research.

Module Content

Outline Syllabus	<p>Block A – Approaching Research into the criminal justice system and its actors;- The Usage and Purpose of Social Research; Whilst in time the programme's focus will sharpen upon 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 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 In-service Practitioner'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 'inservice'. These first-hand accounts will reflect upon the processes of project idea development, making informed methodological choices, and the experience of managing research.</p> <p>Block B - Methods of researching the criminal justice system and its actors 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 ongoing 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)</p> <p>Block C – Planning Work-based research projects- Writing Research proposals- Formative peer review of research proposals and project ideas</p>
Module Overview	<p>This module, designed with 'in-service' policing, probation and criminal justice professionals in mind, seeks to develop your 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 you will have the opportunity to develop your learning around the demands of constructing and operationalising research questions. These insights will help you consider, and plan for, the very real practical and methodological challenges of conducting work-based research.</p>
Additional Information	<p>This module, designed with 'in-service' policing, probation 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.</p>

Assessments

Assignment Category	Assessment Name	Weight	Exam/Test Length (hours)	Module Learning Outcome Mapping
Report	Data Analysis Portfolio	40	0	MLO1, MLO2, MLO3
Presentation	Essay - Research Plan	60	0	MLO1, MLO2, MLO3, MLO4, MLO5

Module Contacts

Module Leader

Contact Name	Applies to all offerings	Offerings
Matthew Millings	Yes	N/A

Partner Module Team

Contact Name	Applies to all offerings	Offerings
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