

Module Details	
Module Title	M1 Research Design, Philosophy & Working Beyond Disciplines
Module Code	PHA7072-C
Academic Year	2021/2
Credits	30
School	School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences
FHEQ Level	FHEQ Level 7

Contact Hours	
Type	Hours
Independent Study	254
Lectures	12
Tutorials	4
Practical Classes or Workshops	30 (discussion forum & WRDTP days)

Availability	
Occurrence	Location / Period
BDA	University of Bradford / Semester 1

Module Aims	
This module aims to develop your detailed critical knowledge of designing research in health and social sciences, gaining a range of experience of methods in preparation for doctoral level study.	
You will develop an understanding that research designs are underpinned by philosophical frameworks that inform research methods and methodologies, and practise critical analysis of the assumptions inherent in social and health research methodologies.	
You will also develop your understanding of interdisciplinary working and its challenges and opportunities as the future of research.	
You will actively engage in critical scholarly interaction and communication, networking and ideas generation that crosses disciplinary boundaries.	
We will introduce you to relevant frameworks for professional researchers in order to begin the transition to independent research.	

Outline Syllabus

Health and social research methodologies: 'core' approaches and their underpinning philosophies.
Study design, research subjects, sampling and participation.
Criteria for appraising and judging the quality of research and its design.
An introduction to interdisciplinary study at postgraduate level, highlighting the importance of interdisciplinary approaches to research
Transitioning into independent research
Engaging with the seven interdisciplinary pathways at L7 research training and their ?grand challenges'.
Participating in a research community: knowledge creation, sharing, communication, and maintaining intellectual curiosity.

Learning Outcomes

Outcome Number	Description
01	Demonstrate a systematic and conceptual understanding of research philosophy, design, strategy and methods in health and social research.
02	Systematically and critically apply an advanced understanding of current debates at the forefront of research methodologies to design clear and specific research objectives, questions or hypotheses in order to critically examine and evaluate contemporary social and health challenges.
03	Identify and critically analyse the philosophical and epistemological presumptions that underpin a potential methodology for your own intended research.
04	Systematically apply a critical understanding of the complex range of approaches to interdisciplinary study and relationship-building, and their theoretical and epistemological underpinnings.
05	Demonstrate a critical understanding of the cross-disciplinary social and health science ?grand challenges? in a thematic area of social or health sciences relevant to your own research.
06	Critically reflect on interdisciplinary working and your own professional research skills to reflexively inform the development of your own research project ideas.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

This module involves blended learning with a combination of face-to-face and online methods used for teaching. Core teaching is conducted online. During this period you focus on self-directed study, in liaison with module tutors. Synchronous streamed lectures will introduce key areas of the syllabus and prepare you to draw on advanced philosophical, methodological and interdisciplinary literature (LO1-4). This teaching along with the tutorials outlined below will enable you to self-assess your current research knowledge and skills and create action plans to develop your skills.

The face-to-face component consists of interdisciplinary one-day workshops alongside students and staff from across our White Rose DTP universities (LO5-6).

Individual online supervision/tutorials provide the opportunity to discuss your reading, ideas, reflections and critical thinking about the design of research, its underlying theory and how interdisciplinary working can offer solutions to societal/topical problems and stimulate the development of your own future research project (LO1-6). This is supplemented by an online discussion forum where you and fellow students can share ideas, critically discuss module content and answer questions (LO1-6).

The formative assessment will enable you to demonstrate your skills and knowledge, and the work you have undertaken to meet the module learning outcomes and your personal development needs.

Informal formative feedback is available using our online discussion forum, which you can access throughout the module. The content of lectures, seminars and the WRDTP workshops can be discussed, further questions can be posed, and recommendations for reading and other directed study activities can be shared. The module tutors participate, offering advice, guidance and informal feedback in response to contributions. Students will have the opportunity to receive formative feedback on outlines of their summative assessment tasks part way through the module.

Summative assessment consists of an essay and a research report. This allows you to demonstrate progress from the beginning of your studies, facilitating active learning through reflection and evidence-gathering. You will be able to capture your engagement with reading and discussions about the design and philosophy of research, demonstrate critical thinking on how research can be conducted in your own specialist area, as well as evidence your understanding from working with other disciplines on the threshold concept of interdisciplinarity.

Assessment will be based on the submission of a 3000 word essay (critical review of pertinent literature) and a research report (1000 words) (LO 1-6).

Mode of Assessment			
Type	Method	Description	Weighting
Summative	Coursework - Written	Essay	67%
Summative	Coursework - Written	Research Report	33%
Formative	Coursework	Essay Outline	N/A

Reading List

To access the reading list for this module, please visit <https://bradford.rl.talis.com/index.html>

Please note:

This module descriptor has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but minor changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Upon commencement of the module, students will receive a handbook with further detail about the module and any changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.

