1. **Title of the module**

SOCI8992 (SO8992) – Research Methods for Social Work

1. **Division or partner institution which will be responsible for management of the module**

LSSJ: School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research

1. **The level of the module (Level 4, Level 5, Level 6 or Level 7)**

Level 7

1. **The number of credits and the ECTS value which the module represents**

10 credits (5 ECTS) – non-contributory

1. **Which term(s) the module is to be taught in (or other teaching pattern)**

Autumn term (term 1) or Spring term (term 2) or Summer term (term 3)

1. **Prerequisite and co-requisite modules**

None

1. **The programmes of study to which the module contributes**

Compulsory to the following programmes:

MA Social Work – compulsory module in Stage 1

MA Social Work (Step Up to Social Work) – compulsory module in Stage 2

1. **The intended subject specific learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**
   1. Develop original ideas on complex social work topics into focussed research questions that relate to an identified academic literature, aligned to an appropriate research design;
   2. Critically reflect on the ethical issues raised by social research in the area of social work, and autonomously develop research designs that are both ethical in a broader, critical sense and which (more narrowly) meet the requirements of research ethics governance;
   3. Critically engage with the methodological choices made in published research studies based on a systematic understanding of appropriate research techniques.
2. **The intended generic learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**
   1. Manage their time, prioritise workloads and manage stress as well taking responsibility for their learning and professional development;
   2. Solve problems that are common in social research;
   3. Understand and appropriately respond to feedback.
3. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

The module will serve to provide students with an overview of the scope and expectations of a social work dissertation at MA-level. We discuss the ethical challenges of doing empirical and other research on topics relevant to social work, and prepare students for carrying out an independent piece of research within a given timeframe. If the dissertation requires ethical research approval, an application will need to be submitted to the School research ethics committee.

1. **Reading list (Indicative list, current at time of publication. Reading lists will be published annually)**

Biggam, J (2011), *Succeeding with your master’s dissertation*, Open University Press

Flick, U., (2020), Introducing Research Methodology: Thinking Your Way Through Your Research Project. Sage.

Hart, C (2005), *Doing your master’s dissertation*, Sage

Kara, H., (2018), Research ethics in the real world: Euro-Western and Indigenous perspectives. Policy Press.

Levin, P., (2012), Excellent dissertations! McGraw-Hill Education (UK). (available online)

Miller, T., Birch, M., Mauthner, M. and Jessop, J. eds., (2012), Ethics in qualitative research. Sage.

Walliman, N., (2019), Your Research Project: Designing, Planning, and Getting Started. SAGE.

1. **Learning and teaching methods**

Total contact hours: 30

Private study hours: 70

Total study hours: 100

1. **Assessment methods**
   1. Main assessment methods

This module is assesses on a pass/fail basis, and comprises dissertation project plan (up to 2000 words) (100%).

13.2 Reassessment methods

Like-for-like

1. **Map of module learning outcomes (sections 8 & 9) to learning and teaching methods (section 12) and methods of assessment (section 13)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Module learning outcome** | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.3 |
| **Learning/ teaching method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Private Study | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Workshop | X | X | X | X | X |  |
| Supervision meetings | X | X | X |  |  | X |
| **Assessment method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dissertation Project Plan | X | X | X | X | X | X |

1. **Inclusive module design**

The School/Division recognises and has embedded the expectations of current equality legislation, by ensuring that the module is as accessible as possible by design. Additional alternative arrangements for students with Inclusive Learning Plans (ILPs)/declared disabilities will be made on an individual basis, in consultation with the relevant policies and support services.

The inclusive practices in the guidance (see Annex B Appendix A) have been considered in order to support all students in the following areas:

a) Accessible resources and curriculum

b) Learning, teaching and assessment methods

1. **Campus(es) or centre(s) where module will be delivered**

Medway

1. **Internationalisation**

The degree to which internationalisation activities will occur in this module will depend on the given dissertation topic. This said, a range of research and presentation skills will be developed that are applicable to international contexts.

**DIVISIONAL USE ONLY**

**Revision record – all revisions must be recorded in the grid and full details of the change retained in the appropriate committee records.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date approved | Major/minor revision | Start date of the delivery of revised version | Section revised | Impacts PLOs (Q6&7 cover sheet) |
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