## KentVision Code and Title of the module

DICE8760 Research Methods for Social Sciences

## Division and School/Department which will be responsible for management of the module

Division of Human and Social Sciences, School of Anthropology and Conservation

## The level of the module (Level 4, Level 5, Level 6 or Level 7)

Level 7

## The number of credits and the ECTS value which the module represents

15 credits (7.5 ECTS)

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

Autumn

## Prerequisite and co-requisite modules and/or any other module restrictions

None

## The courses of study to which the module contributes

***Compulsory to the following courses:***

* MSc Conservation Biology
* MSc Conservation and International Wildlife Trade
* MSc Conservation and Project Management
* MSc Conservation and Rural Development

## The intended subject specific learning outcomes. On successfully completing the module students will be able to:

8.1 Demonstrate critical awareness of different research paradigms, including different strategies and designs for quantitative and qualitative approaches, including a systematic understanding of the relative merits of each;

8.2 Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of basic methodological issues in social science, including response biases, triangulation and sampling, and mixed-methods approaches;

8.3 Demonstrate a practical understanding of a range of specific methods such as qualitative interviewing, focus groups and questionnaires;

8.4 Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the principles of analysis and presentation of qualitative data (through textual narrative, the use of quotations, coding and contingency tables) and quantitative data (through descriptive statistics); and

8.5 Present analysed data within the framework of a scientific /report.

## The intended generic learning outcomes. On successfully completing the module students will be able to:

9.1 Demonstrate a systematic understanding of how social aspects of conservation research projects need to be designed, analysed and reported.

9.2 Present a written report containing balanced arguments supported by quantitative and qualitative evidence.

9.3 Acquire key transferable skills through written communication of scientific methods.

## A synopsis of the curriculum

The module will begin with a broad overview of social science approaches to research, highlighting contrasts with standard natural science techniques and focusing on the qualitative-quantitative divide. Subsequent sessions will introduce individual methods such as qualitative interviewing, questionnaire surveys and focus groups. Sessions will also be devoted to processing and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data. Towards the end of the module, we will examine the principles of integrated research design and mixed-methods approaches.

## Reading list

The University is committed to ensuring that core reading materials are in accessible electronic format in line with the Kent Inclusive Practices.

The most up to date reading list for each module can be found on the university's [reading list pages](https://kent.rl.talis.com/index.html).

## Learning and teaching methods

Total contact hours: 33

Private study hours: 117

Total study hours: 150

## Assessment methods

* 1. Main assessment methods

Two empirical reports (50% each), both with a maximum word length of 2,000 words.

13.2 Reassessment methods

Reassessment Instrument: 100% coursework.

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

**Module learning outcomes against learning and teaching methods:**

| **Module learning outcome** | **8.1** | **8.2** | **8.3** | **8.4** | **8.5** | **9.1** | **9.2** | **9.3** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Private Study | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |
| Seminars | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |
| Computer Lab |  |  |  | **X** |  |  |  |  |

**Module learning outcomes against assessment methods:**

| **Module learning outcome** | **8.1** | **8.2** | **8.3** | **8.4** | **8.5** | **9.1** | **9.2** | **9.3** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Report 1 | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |
| Report 2 | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |

## Inclusive module design

The 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

## Campus(es) or centre(s) where module will be delivered

Canterbury

## Internationalisation

The focus of this module is on research methods in social science which by definition have been developed by social science academics across the world. Examples of research methods and case studies utilised in the module are also highly international by design.

**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** | **New/Major/Minor revision** | **Start date of delivery of (revised) version** | **Section revised (if applicable)** | **Impacts PLOs (Q6 & 7 cover sheet)** |
| 05/08/2016 | Minor | September 2016 | 13 | No |
| 29/11/2019 | Minor | September 2020 | 8, 13, 14 | No |
| 06/10/2022 | Minor | September 2023 | 7, 11, 14 | No |