

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	Psychology
Programme:	MSc Psychology (Conversion)
FHEQ Level:	7
Course Title:	Empirical Dissertation
Course Code:	PSY 7500
Student Engagement Hours:	600
Lab Sessions	20
Seminar / Tutorials:	20
Independent / Guided Learning:	560
Credits:	60 UK CATS credits 30 ECTS credits 12 US credits

Course Description:

This course is for MSc Psychology students. It provides students with the opportunity to conduct an extended piece of qualitative or quantitative empirical research in an area of their choice. Students independently design, research, conduct, analyse, and report their research with guidance from one of the course tutors. The work will have an emphasis on either a quantitative, statistical approach, an empirical phenomenological method, or to include elements of both.

Prerequisites:

PSY 7102 Research Methods II

Aims and Objectives:

The course provides students at the end of the MSc conversion course with an opportunity to conduct a systematic research project that will integrate knowledge gained from prior courses taken in the degree programme. The course encourages self-management and the development of personal skills through collegiate group work. The course is an opportunity to integrate the theoretical and practical skills that have been attained through their psychological training. By the end of the module, students will provide a 10-12000 word thesis.

Programme Outcomes:

7A.ii, 7B.iii, 7C.i, 7C.ii, 7D.i, 7D.ii, 7D.iv, 7D.v

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course->

[specifications/](#)

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a deep and systematic understanding of the influences on psychological functioning in their given research area
- Demonstrate extensive engagement with the ethical requirements involved in conducting psychological research
- Integrate their own research ideas with evidence from multiple perspectives to formulate cogent arguments, in written and oral form.
- Organise and manage their own time in order to reach both internal and external goals, with minimal direction or supervision
- Demonstrate professional responsibility and respect for professional codes of conduct whilst carrying out research
- Adapt to non-routine tasks whilst using ICT.

Indicative Content:

- Supervision of a project through individual meetings in accordance with the standards set by the QAA Benchmark Statement for Psychology (2007).

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and are located at <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

- Individual supervision meetings will be held with each student
- Lab classes to support code writing and data analysis will be held

Indicative Text(s):

Field, A. (2013). *Discovering Statistics Using SPSS for Windows*, Sage Publications

Journals:

Student choices according to topic and drawing from journals used throughout MSc.

Web Sites:

Journal Search websites such as EBSCOhost and Google Scholar

See syllabus for complete reading list

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry Services
Revision – annual update	May 2023	