PSYC519: Research Skills in Practice 1

Module Outline

**Credit Weighting:** 20 Credits

**Module Leader:** Andy Wills

**Teaching Staff:** No idea.

**Aims:** The module aims to support students through a simple research cycle and deliver a basic understanding of the research process in psychology before students engage with an advanced-research cycle. Statistical analysis techniques are taught in workshops with the aim of providing the student with an understanding of the analysis procedures appropriate to a range of research designs for testing associations. In addition, the module aims to develop students’ understanding of issues in conducting psychological research such as ethics and research project management.

**Expected Outcomes:**

1. Develop a simple research question with a high level of guidance from a supervisor and translate it into a study, then develop a more complex design to address issues arising from the first study.

2. Develop a basic understanding of the importance of ethical issues in research.

3. Understand the basic principles of research management.

4. Run, analyse, evaluate, and report psychological research.

5. Analyse the results of studies using correlation and multiple regression, and relate them to the relevant literature that motivated the work

6. Execute the statistical methods taught and interpret the output.

7. Communicate the outputs of research through written and oral presentation means.

**Teaching Arrangements:** Two two-hour workshops per week, for 12 week. Students work in small groups (about 6) within workshops of about 80 students. Each workshop is run sufficient times to accommodate the whole cohort (anticipated 3 times). Students’ personal timetables show them which workshops to attend. In each week, one workshop will be high-intensity, staffed by one lead teacher and four teaching assistants, and one will be low-intensity, staffed by two teaching assistants. The same staff members are present every week. High-intensity sessions are used for delivery of material that needs a high level of support. Staff set specific weekly goals to be achieved in low-intensity workshops and homework, to support the next high-intensity workshop. Low-intensity workshops are timetabled and staffed to provide focus and support for the students. A brief summary of the provisional schedule for each week is below; a much more detailed guide may be found at: [insert link to overview]

1.What is an ‘association’ between variables / correlations and correlation matrices

2. A hypothesis is deduced / Processing non-normal datasets

3. Finalizing the survey / Data collection 1

4. Data analysis / Data analysis

5. Internal consistency / Data collection 2

6. Validity / preparing presentations

7. Group presentations

8. Collecting multiple predictor variables

9. Reliability/ Data collection 3

10. Data analysis / Planning a report

11. Critiquing reports

12. Latent variables

**Indicative Reading List:** Mostly, the materials will be developed in-house and released under a Creative Commons licence (in the model of <https://ajwills72.github.io/rminr/>). Primary sources (journal articles) will also form a major part of the reading, but will likely be different for each group.

**Assessment:** Written report (80%). Group oral presentation (20%). Pass/fail Psyc:EL assessments.

**Marking Criteria:** I assume we have marking criteria for practical reports and group presentations already, but I could not find them.

**Academic Dishonesty:** University of Plymouth regulations and policies apply to this module. See also the section on Academic Dishonesty in the Stage Handbook.