# Solent University Module Descriptor

## **Module Code: COM514 Module title: Research Methods Project**

### **Why is this module important?**

This module will align you with the forefront of scientific knowledge, and, in doing so, you will hone your research skills. Such a skill-set requires the careful construction of coherently written arguments along with the ability to critically analyse, sometimes complex, sources. Such skills are of great value, not just from an academic perspective, but also in the wider professional workplace.

### **What you will learn on the module**

You will learn how to carry out a small research project both individually and as part of a group. For many, this will involve having to develop new critical analytical skills. Such skills will need to be applied when searching for and critically evaluating academic literature. This process will require the ability to first organise and then coherently communicate inferences and observations synthesised from a body of literature.

A further skill that will be developed is attention to detail. For instance, when you are communicating a research question or hypothesis, precision is key, and there must be no room for reader interpretation. In testing this skill, you will not only have to communicate your ideas in a written capacity but also verbally through group discussion.

### **How you will learn**

Research is complex, multifaceted, but none the less exciting! In fitting with the diverse nature of research, you will need to undertake a varied range of learning activities. These activities will be briefly explored below.

Weekly lectures will form the foundation of this course. This is an opportunity for the lecturer to communicate important theoretical content to the entire cohort. Lectures will be complemented with practical sessions.

Unlike the lecture, the practical sessions will involve you to actively participate. Activities such as group discussions, presentations along with supervised individual work will be set. Lectures and practical sessions account for the prescribed learning activities. However, it is important to appreciate most of the learning will be self-initiated and take place in your own time.

### **How much time the module requires**

This is a 20-credit module, in fitting with the amount of credits, you will be expected to study for 200 hours in total. This total learning time is made up of lectures, practical sessions and self-initiated study. Your tutor will offer you guidance on how you should best manage your study time on this module

### **How you will be assessed**

#### **Tasks which help you to learn and prepares you for summative tasks (Formative):**

Within the practical sessions, and in your own time, you will partake in several formative tasks that will help you on your journey towards completing the assessment. Throughout the duration of the module, there will be several opportunities to receive formative feedback. At times this feedback will be from your tutor; for instance, in practical sessions you will receive formative feedback on your contributions towards tasks. On other occasions, the feedback could come from your peers; facilitated through group discussions. Most formative feedback will be informal, but closely aligned to developing the skills needed to complete the assessed elements of the module.

#### **Tasks which count towards your degree (Summative):**

This module will consist of two summative tasks: a group presentation, accounting for 20% of your overall grade, and an academic report worth the remaining 80%. The group presentation, delivered first, will introduce a degree related research area of the group’s choice. The second assignment, the report, written in an academic style, will document your individual research and conclusions.

**When assessment does not go to plan**

If you do not average a pass grade across both assessments, you will have to resubmit the failing assessments. For the presentation you will have to resubmit it in the form of a screen recording with a voice over. You will resubmit following supportive feedback.

#### **What you will be able to do after the module**

On completion of this module, as previously mentioned, you should be able to conduct a small research project. The ability to do so, will require you to meet several learning outcomes:

1. Critically evaluate a range of academic sources
2. Reflect on your own and work of others
3. Articulate in context the Professional, Legal, Ethical and societal issues affecting Computing
4. Communicated ideas and solutions to problems, both individually and working effectively in collaboration with others.
5. Deliver well researched presentations to knowledgeable peers
6. Communicate the finding of research to a given set of requirements

### **How this relates to the dimensions of Solent’s Real-world curriculum framework**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Dimensions | How students learn | How students are assessed |
| Students are challenged to think in critical, creative and applied ways | Students will need to evaluate multiple academic perspectives. They will need to interpret and apply these perspectives to their own work. | The presentation and written assessment will give students the opportunity to present academic perspectives. |
| Students are inspired to do research through inquiry, curiosity and problem-solving | Undertaking research involves solving many, sometimes unfamiliar problems. | Students conduct a literature review and consider and will also consider research methodologies. |
| Students experience an intellectually stimulating curriculum which inspires them to learn for life | Students are exposed to cutting edge academic literature and will need to synthesise complex ideas | Students will conduct a literature review. |
| Students reflect and grow inwardly, social and ethically to be able to confront the challenges of the world | Students will need to reflect on the outcomes of their own research. | Students will reflect through group discussion and written reflection |

### **Summative assessment details**

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| AE1 | Weighting: | 20% |
|  | Assessment type: | Group Presentation, individually graded |
|  | Aggregation: | Aggregated to AE1 |
|  | Length | 5 Minutes each plus Questions |
|  | Online submission: | Yes |
|  | Grade marking: | Yes |
|  | Anonymous marking: | No |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| AE2 | Weighting: | 80% |
|  | Assessment type: | Report |
|  | Aggregation: | Aggregated to AE2 |
|  | Length | 2,500 words |
|  | Online submission: | Yes |
|  | Grade marking: | Yes |
|  | Anonymous marking: | No |

### **Module Author:** Joe Appleton

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| Module Title: Research Methods Project | | | |
| Credit Points: | 20 | Module Code: | COM514 |
| FHEQ Level: | 5 | School/Service | SoMAT |
| Module Delivery Model: | CD | n/a |  |
| Module Leader: | Joe Appleton | | |
| HECOS code | 100812 | | |

### **Module change history:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Module Approved/Year Implemented/Code | July 2019 | 2020/21 | COM514 |
| Module modified/Year Implemented/Code |  |  |  |
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