

## Final Research Project (Capstone)

SW7016

MA Advanced Social Work (60 credits at level 7)

### About this module

This module is required for students undertaking studies at Masters Level and is normally taken after achieving 120 credits (equivalent to PG Diploma Level). The module will provide students with the experience of utilising principles of research and academic writing and thus demonstrate the intellectual skills learnt on the course. Students are expected to critically review research and to evaluate the evidence underpinning their own practice. The module will provide students with the opportunity to implement the knowledge and skills developed during the previous modules by conducting research focused on a topic of their choice related to their area of practice with the support of a research supervisor. The module will enhance students' presentation and publication skills as the assessment includes writing an abstract, providing an oral presentation (defence of topic and intended research approach) and writing an article suitable for publication in a peer reviewed journal.

### Aims

- To equip graduates with the skills to undertake a research project relevant to the student's practice area in order to apply theoretical, analytical and other research skills.
- To provide students with the knowledge to critically reflect on the research process and experiences.
- To extend the student's critical appraisal skills to effectively communicate findings in appropriate ways (conference abstract and journal paper).
- To develop academic expertise in a particular sub-speciality of their choice related to their practice area.

### Learning Outcomes

**On successful completion of the module, you will be able to:**

1. Discuss and critically evaluate research methodologies, methods and research ethics.
2. Examine and critically appraise the relevant literature, policy and research evidence.
3. Identify a relevant, manageable project and construct appropriate research question(s).
4. Demonstrate expertise in the management and implementation of research, including selecting and justifying relevant research designs, with specific attention to time management, research governance and ethics, data analysis, interpretation, synthesis, contextualisation with relevant research and appraisal of implications for social work practice.
5. Critically reflect on different stages and experiences of the research and communicate effectively the key findings of the research to a relevant audience identifying areas for future research.

### What and how you will learn on this module

The topic of the research project and question(s) will be developed during the course of study through a series of tutorials, workshops, and discussions between the students, academic supervisor(s), colleagues and the module leader.

The research project should involve either collection of new data or analysis of a pre-existing data set. Where it is not possible for students to access suitable data sets, a meta-analysis or systematic review may be acceptable after scrutiny and approval by the academic supervisor and module leader. The module will build upon the fundamental principles associated with undertaking and applying research skills in practice, in relation to the following key areas:

- Foundations of scientific thought: ontology, epistemology, methodology, methods
- Research in social sciences and in social work: its purposes and processes
- Research paradigms: positivism, post-positivism, constructivism, critical/feminist paradigm, participatory inquiry paradigm, post-structuralism
- Different methodologies in social research: experimental or quasi-experimental studies, ethnographies, participant observation studies, interview studies, focus groups, historical studies, case studies, historiography, ethno-methodology, narrative studies, action research projects, participatory action research, evaluation studies
- Undertaking a systematic literature review – Database searches, critical reading and analysis
- Research project designing, planning, thinking about ethical issues particular to individual research contexts, negotiating access and implementation
- Establishing the quality of a research project: validity/transferability, reliability/dependability, objectivity/reflexivity, truth/credibility, generalisability/local-groundedness
- Ethical issues in the conduct of research
- Collecting and analysing quantitative and qualitative data - Quantitative and qualitative data analysis, with or without the use of software programmes (e.g., SPSS, NVivo)
- Writing a research proposal
- Management of information interpreting the evidence and reporting the findings
- Presenting the findings using tables and graphs as appropriate
- Dissemination of the findings: writing for peer reviewed journals and poster presentation
- Reflect critically on the different stages of the research process, on the encountered challenges, on how these were dealt with, and lessons learned.
- Communicate reflections in a comprehensive well-structured written account.

The module is delivered at our Kingston Hill Campus on the following times/dates:

**10.00am to 15.00 on 16.09.24; 21.10.24; 18.11.24**

**10.00 to 12.00 on 20.01.25; 10.02.25; 10.03.25**

**Fee** For external applicants £3,427  
For Teaching Partnership members, TBC.

Applying for this module - Please apply by following this link  
<https://www.kingston.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/post-qualifying-social-work-modules/>

If you require further details about the module, please contact the Module Leader, Dr David Nilsson for more information: [D.Nilsson@kingston.ac.uk](mailto:D.Nilsson@kingston.ac.uk). Our Postgraduate Programme Administrator can also help with any queries at [pgsocialwork@kingston.ac.uk](mailto:pgsocialwork@kingston.ac.uk)

Thank you.

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