

## Dissertation (REDU 11024)

### Course description

The Dissertation is a major study demanding of the course member a high level of individual application and commitment to research and enquiry. It provides the course member with the opportunity to identify, reflect on and explore a topic that has implications for his/her own professional development within the area of performance psychology. The Dissertation will involve a critical interrogation of the relationship between professional practice, academic theory and the design, ethics and interpretation of research.

The dissertation will build on the research training provided through the Understanding Research Concepts and Research Process courses. The assessment for Research Process requires students to submit a research proposal, ethics application form and risk assessment, which must be completed satisfactorily prior to commencing the dissertation. Supplementary research training will be provided through bespoke group research training sessions and through one to one supervision.

### Learning outcomes:

On completion of the unit, students will be able to:

1. Specify a topic of enquiry suitable for a dissertation and justify its theoretical significance, professional relevance and practical feasibility;
2. Identify and reflect critically on relevant up-to-date literature, research reports and other scholarly evidence ~~with specific reference to the research process used;~~
3. Collect and analyse evidence, justifying the approaches and techniques used, and identify the implications of these decisions in terms of the status of the evidence, and the findings based upon it;
4. Examine critically the contribution and limitations of the study undertaken in theoretical and applied terms with regard to the practices and roles of relevant professionals;
5. Demonstrate that the study complies with relevant ethical guidelines;
6. Present work, observing appropriate academic conventions in relation to style, tone, paragraphing, paraphrasing, sectioning of the text, proof-reading and referencing.

### Indicative Content

Research training and supervision related to the research project. Independent study and data collection in a specialist research area.

### Assessment:

The dissertation assessment is undertaken through two forms of coursework

1. Oral presentation of research plans prior to data collection, including research questions and detailed overview and rationale for the methodology (20%)
2. A journal article (30 pages) (80%)

~~The dissertation assessment can be submitted in two formats (each equivalent to 12000 words)~~

~~1. Option 1 comprises three pieces of work that equate to 12,000 words~~

~~A journal article (around 5-6000 words)~~

~~A series of short critical appraisals on individual key papers (~4000 words)~~

~~A critical reflection and justification on research methods (~2000 words)~~

~~2. Option 2 a traditional thesis style submission of 12,000 words~~

### **Course Organiser**

Ailsa Niven