



**UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX
SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY**

Applied Social Psychology Research Internship

M-Level Option Module 936C8

15 Credits

Spring 2017 (Teaching Term 2)

Module Convenor: Helga Dittmar

NOTE: Most of the questions you need answers to about this module are in this document. Please read it fully and carefully before your first supervision meeting.

NOTE: This document concerns the structure and content of the module. If you have questions about procedures, please consult the School of Psychology Administration Office in person or via psychology@sussex.ac.uk

Module Information

Module Outline

This module introduces you to the research process in a hands-on way, through working as a research assistant with a member of faculty in the field of applied social psychology. The nature of the work will depend on the research activities of the particular member of faculty you are supervised by, and it may involve working on a single project, or being involved in diverse activities linked to different projects. The research internship work could involve literature searches, running pilot studies for experimental or survey studies, creating stimulus materials (verbal or visual), collecting data, or entering data and data analysis.

The Applied Social Psychology Research Internship is a research *apprenticeship*, in which you work with an individual supervisor helping with that supervisor's research in a mutually agreed way. Your research activities are directed and supervised; there is no expectation that you would design research in a way that is similar to your own empirical project (reported in your MSc Research Dissertation).

Module Aims: Learning outcomes

1. Understand, and constructively participate in, different phases of the research process
2. Learn to use and maintain a research diary
3. Use/design appropriate methods/materials to address research questions
4. Reflect on time management issues in research preparation and data collection

Module Convenor

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Module Structure

Timing and Duration

The internship runs for 12 weeks during Teaching Term 2 (Spring).

Supervision

Supervision consists of regular meetings throughout the term. Their frequency and duration are arranged with your supervisor. The minimum is 4 hours total over the term, but in practice, most supervisors spend considerably more time.

Research Internship

As a rough guideline expect an average of 7-8 hours of research assistant work per week. These may consist of you working independently or as part of a research team.

You are **required** to keep a **Research Internship Diary**. As a minimum, you need to record your hours and the activities you were engaged in, for each week of term. The diary can be hard copy or electronic.

However, you may well find it useful to make your records more detailed:

- Accurate record-keeping is a crucial aspect of research governance. Keeping a detailed research internship diary is a good way of encouraging you to reflect on the progress and outcome of your research activities, as well as your time management skills during the internship.
- Detailed research records are a valuable source of information when writing reports of research, such as presentations, or articles, or the **assessment for this module**. Clear, well-written narrative covering crucial aspects of research such as research rationale, methodology, raw data, selection/evaluation of data analysis techniques, or conclusions.

Module Assessment

Formal (Contributory) Coursework Requirements

5,000-word Portfolio (100% of final mark)

Deadlines and Procedures

The portfolio is due after the end of the internship; date, time, and submission place can be found on Sussex Direct.

Information on the following can be found at the link below:

- Submitting your work
- Missing a deadline
- Late penalties
- Exceptional circumstances
- Exams
- Help with managing your studies and completing your work
- Assessment Criteria

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/psychology/internal/students/examinationsandassessment>

From 2016/17, Masters and MRes students taking PG year modules will usually be asked to submit assessments electronically where assessments are text-based, for example, an essay. Your Sussex Direct - Assessment Deadlines & Exam Timetable will give all assessment details, including whether the assessment is to be submitted via e-submission through Sussex Direct or via a different method. Feedback for all e-submission assessments will also be provided electronically.

Please refer to the frequently asked questions available on the following webpage for further information:

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/tel/submission/students/esubmission>

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/tel/submission/students/faqs>

www.sussex.ac.uk/adqe/standards/examsandassessment/esubmission

Method of student feedback. Online at the conclusion of the module.

Research Internship Portfolio

The Research Internship module is assessed by a Portfolio that consists of three sections, and includes the Research Internship Diary as an Appendix.

Section 1: Summary of Research Activities

A brief summary of all of the research activities you were engaged in during your internship. You can format and structure these in any way you wish (e.g., bullet point list, narrative, organized by research topic/project). Please aim for a **single page**.

Section 2: Report on Selected Research Activities

This is the most substantial section of the portfolio. The content is flexible, given the diverse nature of the work possible during the research internship. It could be a longer report of a single piece of empirical research, or series of short reports on different pieces of research.

If you have mainly worked on a single piece of research, you might choose to write a longer, more detailed report on that piece of research. If you have worked on a number of different pieces of research, several shorter reports might better reflect the nature of your work during the internship. Each is fine.

Please give a separate report for each piece of research selected. You might find it useful to give each report a title, and organize the content into

- Rationale for research or research activity (Introduction)
- Description of how research was carried out (Method)
- Research findings or outcomes of research activity (Results)
- Evaluation of strengths and weaknesses of research activity (Discussion)

Section 3: Reflection on Time Management Issues in Research Preparation and Data Collection

A short description and evaluation of how the internship has influenced the way you see time management in research. You could refer particular examples (e.g., novel or surprising aspects of research, unanticipated difficulties and how to deal with them), explaining how they contributed to your awareness of time management issues in research and influenced your appreciation of the skills required to deal effectively with them. Please aim for **two pages**.

Please note

5,000 words is the maximum length, not a required length

Research diary has to be submitted as an **appendix** (not included the word count).

Module Readings

Robson, C. (2002). *Real world research: A resource for social scientists and practitioner-researchers*. Blackwell.

APA Publication Manual. Washington, DC: APA Books. Or even better, the online guide on APA style essentials at http://www.vanguard.edu/faculty/ddegelman/index.aspx?doc_id=796.

Nicol, A. A. M. & Pexman, P. M. (2003). *Displaying your findings: A practical guide for creating figures, posters, and presentations*. Washington: DC: APA Books.

Hart, C. (2001). *Doing a literature search: A comprehensive guide for the Social Sciences*. London: Sage.