

Module Descriptor Form

1	Awarding Body	Askham Bryan College
2	Lead Subject Area	Cross College
3	Module title	Independent Research Project
4	Module Code	XC5201
5	Module level	5
6	Module credits	20
7	Date Module to Commence	September 2022
8	Programmes on which module is Core	EFdSc Animal Science with Management EFdSc Management of Aquatics and Conservation of Oceans EFdSc Management of Animal Collections with Conservation EFdSc Canine and Feline Behaviour and Training EFdSc Wildlife and Environmental Conservation EFdSc Agriculture EFdSc Precision Livestock EFdSc Applied Sustainable Land Management EFdSc Equine Science and Management FdSc Animal Science with Management FdSc Management of Aquatics and Conservation of Oceans FdSc Management of Animal Collections with Conservation FdSc Canine and Feline Behaviour and Training FdSc Wildlife and Environmental Conservation FdSc Agriculture FdSc Precision Livestock FdSc Applied Sustainable Land Management FdSc Equine Science and Management
9	Aims of the Module	The aim of the module is to introduce the student to key components of the research process, within the context of their specialist discipline.
10	Rationale for Module	Students studying on a science degree programme must show the ability to carry out research in their specialist discipline. The module will allow students the opportunity to develop their skills as a researcher with strong links to industry.
11	Module description	This module enables students to develop their skills as researchers. The student will undertake a project, in which they will collect data independently. Supervision will be provided from the module tutors in the form of seminars, lectures and supervisory sessions to aid the students in the project write up and development. Specific skill sets such as the analysis of literature and statistical analysis will be undertaken. This module will take a slightly different approach the content delivery in the sense that content will be delivered

		through workshops. Some of these will be mandatory but others will be optional for the students to attend based on their project and interests.
12	Semester	1 & 2
13	Learning Outcomes	LO1 Write a valid research proposal with consideration of ethics, rationale and design of the study
		LO2 Evaluate previous literature relevant to the chosen area of research and industry
		LO3 Demonstrate ability to collect and analyse data relevant to the chosen area of research and industry, using appropriate methods
		LO4 Interpret and evaluate results of research and provide future recommendations for the research area and industry.
14	Pre-requisite Modules	None
15	Co-requisite Modules	None
16	Banned Combinations	None
17	Is Module Compensatable	Yes
18	Indicative Content	Formulating a valid research proposal: hypothesis, aims and objectives stages in the research process sampling strategies validity and reliability research ethics Gantt charts assessment of risk Literature review: appropriate sources of information planning and structure critical evaluation of literature Methodology: consideration and critique of different methodologies appropriate to subject area validity and reliability planning and structure analysis and presentation of findings: methods and critique of data presentation analysis of data Evaluation of research: linkage tracking critical analysis of findings drawing appropriate conclusions making appropriate recommendations for future research

		Within the module links are made to the Education for Sustainable Development goals https://www.gaa.ac.uk/docs/gaa/guidance/education-for-sustainable-development-guidance-executive-summary.pdf?sfvrsn=b121d281_8
19	Inclusivity, access and student support	We are committed to ensuring that our programmes and modules are inclusive of all students including: international, part-time, mature, those from different socio-economic backgrounds (class) and those with protected characteristics according to the Equality Act 2010 (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage/civil partnership, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation). All lecture material will be on the VLE prior to the lecture and will comply with accessibility guidelines. Students in need of extra support with practical work will be provided with guidance and assistance where appropriate. Microsoft Teams will be used to provide efficient and effective communication and lectures may be recorded to provide to students who are unable to attend lectures and have evidence to support legitimate reasoning. An alternative assessment will be available for all students with a DSA, in line with recommendations in their individual needs assessment.
20	Link to the Digital Vision	This module allows scope for a wide range of industry / research specific digital tools and software relating to the design collection and analysis of data and information relating to the specific discipline.
21	Total Contact Hours	48
	Lecture	6
	Seminar	12
	Tutorial	0
	Project Supervision	12
	Demonstration	0
	Practical classes/workshops	12
	Fieldwork	0
	External visits	0
	Work based learning / Placements	0
	Directed Learning	6
	Guided independent study	152 hours

22	Learning and Teaching Strategy	Students will receive lectures to outline key themes and assignments, these will then be supported with workshop based seminar sessions. Some will be mandatory while others will be optional depending on the students' project and interests. Students will also be given a supervisor with relevant knowledge of their chosen research area to support them with data collection, analysis and writeup.				
23	Virtual Learning Strategy	All module resources will be available on the VLE, as will links to further reading, videos etc. Students will be encouraged to actively participate in online discussion forums. Formative assessment will take place regularly using online tasks on the VLE. Powerpoint slides, links to articles, case studies and podcasts will be provided on VLE throughout the academic year. Quizzes and group data will also be made available via VLE. Field data collection by the group will also be made available via VLE. Students will be encouraged to participate on discussion forums as well as complete short online formative assessment tasks. Microsoft Teams will be used as a bank of resources/tasks and an effective communication tool between module tutors and students.				
24	Opportunities for Formative Assessment	Opportunities within the workshops to use mock data and analysis for quizzes, in class discussions and students will be encouraged to undertake peer assessment and review.				
25	Method of Summative Assessment	Ass No.	Method	Weighting	Mod LOs	Prog LOs
		1	Research Proposal and Ethical Process	25%	LO1	PP1; PP4; E1;
		3	3000 word Research write-up	75%	LO2, LO3 & LO4	CIT2; CIT3; CIT4; CIT5; CIT6; PP1; PP3; E3; E4; E7
26	Examination Period	No Exam				
27	Method/s of reassessment	Written assessments incorporating components from the module, total word count for all components 3000 words				
28	Maximum Class Size	200				

29.1	Essential Reading (Books)	Bell, J. 2010. <i>Doing Your Research Project</i>. 5th ed. Maidenhead: Open University Press. Petrie, A. and Watson, P. 2006. <i>Statistics for Animal and Veterinary Science</i>. 2nd ed. Oxford: Blackwell Science Ltd.
29.2	Recommended Reading (Books)	Blaxter, L. Hughes, C. and Tight, M. 2001. <i>How to research</i>. 2nd ed. Buckingham: Open University Press. Brace, I. 2008. <i>Questionnaire Design</i>. 2nd ed. Europe: Kogan page Ltd. Dytham, C. 2010. <i>Choosing and Using Statistics: A Biologist's Guide</i>. 3rd ed. Oxford: Blackwell Science Ltd. Ennos, R. 2007. <i>Statistical and Data Handling Skills in Biology</i>. 2nd ed. UK: Pearson Education Lt Jones, A., Reed, R. and Weyers, J. 2007. <i>Practical Skills in Biology</i>. 4th ed. California: Benjamin-Cummings Publishing Company, Subs of Addison Wesley Longman, Inc. Martin, P. and Bateson, P. 2007. <i>Measuring Behaviour: An Introductory Guide</i>. 3rd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Robson, C. 2002. <i>Real world research</i>. 2nd ed. Maldon. Blackwell Publishing. Turker, L. 2003. <i>Simplistic Statistics</i> 2nd ed. Bath: Chalcombe Publications. Quin, M. Q. 2002. <i>Qualitative research and evaluation methods</i>. 3rd ed. California: Sage.
29.3	Essential Reading (Journals)	Journal of Applied Statistics Statistical Science Communications in Statistics
29.4	Recommended Reading (Journals)	Those specific to students' disciplines
29.5	Websites/ Online/ Government Resources etc	https://www.researchgate.net/ https://www.ukri.org/ https://www.ons.gov.uk/ https://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics https://www.statista.com/
30	Date Written/ Revised	23 July 2024
31	Module Leader Name	Anna Pickard
32	Writing Team Names	Elizabeth Cooper, Loni Loftus, Thomas Welsh, Madeleine Scherer