MODULE SPECIFICATION FORM

Module Title: Research Project	Level: 6	Credit Value: 40

Module code: ECS608	Cost Centre: GAEC	JACS2 code: X310

Semester(s) in which to be offered: 1/2/3	With effect from: September 2013

Office use only: To be completed by AQSU:	Date approved: September 2013 Date revised: - Version no: 1

Existing/New: New	Title of module being replaced (if any):

Originating Academic area:	Childhood and Family Studies	Module Leader:	Liz Sheen

Module duration (total hours)	400	Status: core/option/elective (identify programme where appropriate):
Scheduled learning & teaching hours	84	Core
Independent study hours	316	

Percentage taught by Subjects other than originating Subject (please name other Subjects):

Programme(s) in which to be offered: BA (Hons) Childhood Studies	Pre-requisites per programme (between levels): None

Module Aims:

This module aims to support students to carrying out and writing up a small-scale research project, which is focused on an aspect of Childhood Studies of their choice.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this module, students should be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding:

1) Critically explore the role of research ethics and develop a considered research proposal as part of the research process.

2) Critically analyse research methodology, with a view to implementation, as applicable to Childhood Studies

3) Justify and apply a selection of appropriate source materials to a research project.

4) Critically evaluate literature, theory, legislation and policy in relation to a chosen topic.

5) Produce an extended piece of writing, with a clear structure, which shows writing competence and full and accurate Harvard referencing.

Transferable/Key Skills and other attributes:

- Effective Communication
- Independent learning
- Evaluation
- Critical thinking
- Research Skills
- Reflective practice
- Analyse concepts, theories and issues of policy

Assessment:

1) Research Proposal including an evaluation of applicable research ethics

2) Research project

a) Students should engage in an active research project involving the collection and analysis of both secondary and primary data.

Or

b) Identify a research question or hypothesis that can be answered through secondary research requiring the student to mine existing data sources; "pull out" relevant data or information; summarize it; logically analyse it; and report results.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting	Duration (if exam)	Word count (or equivalent if appropriate)
1	1,4	Research Proposal	20%		2,000
2	2,3,4,5	Project	80%		6,000

Learning and Teaching Strategies:

This module is delivered through e-learning/blended learning

The basis for working with online materials will be through self-directed study, regular online communication with tutors/peers and work-based tasks. Each module will consist of sessions whereby the students are introduced to appropriate content through reading, watching videos, screencasts, listening to podcasts, and accessing suitable web resources. Students are directed towards and supported to access journal articles and e-books through Athens. Students are encouraged to interact with each other and tutors through a range of communication tools. Each tutor would be expected to engage students using chat forums, live chat sessions, e-mail, Moodle messaging, wiki pages, interactive quizzes and web conferencing. Students are enabled to communicate with each other and to form a community of practice using a variety of the above tools.

Students will be allocated a research tutor to guide them through the research process for the duration of the module. This can involve face to face meetings or conducted electronically via e-mail, telephone/Skype.

Syllabus outline:

The syllabus outline has been presented as a broad set of questions for the lecturer and students to answer together using the most up-to-date materials available. This recognises that knowledge, theory, concepts and practice will change over the life span of this course and the content used to answer the questions below should be revised each year as appropriate.

This module will support students to explore the following questions:

1) What is the purpose of a research proposal and how do I write one?
2) What research methodologies are applicable to Childhood Studies and how do I use them?
3) How should I collect and analyse secondary research materials and use this to write a literature review?
4) How do I write a correctly referenced extended piece of writing related to research.

In exploring these questions this module will consider:

- Areas to consider when writing a research proposal i.e. ethics, research questions, initial identification of research materials.
- A range of qualitative and quantitative research methodologies and how to choose suitable methods for the required purpose.

- How to work with secondary data to conduct a project and write a literature review.
- The process of writing a research project.

Bibliography

Books marked with an * are currently available for students to access via Athens

Essential reading:

Bell, J. (2010) *Doing your Research Project : A Guide for First-Time Researchers in Education, Health and Social Science* 5th. Edition   Milton Keynes: Open University Press*

Matthews, B. and Ross, L. (2010) *Research Methods: A Practical Guide for the Social Sciences* 1st. Edition   Harlow: Pearson Education*

Thomas, G. (2013), *How To Do Your Research Project*. Second Edition. London: sage

Other indicative reading:

Bowling, A. (2009) *Research Methods In Health* 3rd. Edition   Milton Keynes: Open University Press*

Cohen, L., Manion, L. and Morrison, K. (2007) *Research Methods in Education* 6th. Edition London: Routledge*

Gillham, B. *(2005) Research Interviewing: The Range of Techniques*   Milton Keynes: Open University Press*

Thomson, P. (2008) *Doing Visual Research with Children and Young People* London: Routledge*

Walliman, N. (2010) *Research Methods: The Basics*   London: Routledge*

Relevant Websites

Office for National Statistics - www.ons.gov.uk

Children's Legal Centre - www.**childrenslegalcentre**.com

Community Care - www.**communitycare**.co.uk

Glyndŵr University Website - Research Services Page - Regulations on Research Practice (Please click on following link: http://glynfo.Glyndŵr.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=41)
Journals:

Childhood – A journal of Global Child Research
European Early Childhood Education Research Journal
Educational Research
Early Years - An International Research Journal
Education 3-13