

Programme Specification

1. Programme title	MSc Social Science Research Methods
2. Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3. Teaching Institution	Middlesex University
4. Programme accredited by	Not applicable
5. Final qualification	MSc/PG Diploma/PG Certificate Social Science Research Methods
6. Academic year	2008-09
7. Language of study	English
8. Mode of study	Full-time Part-time

9. Criteria for admission to the Programme

An undergraduate degree of at least 2.2 standard although extenuating circumstances will be taken into account. Mature students with relevant skills or relevant professional experience will be considered.

10. Aims of the programme

The MSc aims to develop :

the knowledge and skills to carry out research, from devising a research question to writing up and presenting the final results

the skills to critically evaluate published research work, and be aware of the debate and issues, including ethics pertaining to the research process

understanding and skills to apply different research methods to specific topics

the knowledge and skills necessary to undertake an original research project on a substantive or a methodological problem

understanding and practical skills of advanced software packages and apply them to specific topics

The PgDip aims to develop:

the knowledge and skills to carry out research, from devising a research question to writing up and presenting the final results

the skills to critically evaluate published research work, and be aware of the debate and issues, including ethics pertaining to the research process

understanding and skills to apply different research methods to specific topics

understanding and practical skills of advanced software packages and apply them to specific topics

The PG Certificate aims to develop:
the knowledge and skills to carry out research, from devising a research question to writing up and presenting the final results

the skills to critically evaluate published research work, and be aware of the debate and issues, including ethics pertaining to the research process

understanding and skills of either qualitative or quantitative methods

understanding and practical skills of one advanced software packages (qualitative or quantitative) and apply it to specific topics

11. Programme outcomes

A. Knowledge and understanding

On completion of this programme the successful student will have knowledge and understanding of :

1. The role of social science research in policy development and implementation
2. The social context of research, including ethical and equalities issues
3. The relationship between the researcher and participants, funders, colleagues and others with an interest in research
4. A range of research methodologies and approaches to social research
5. The strengths and limitations of a range of research methods, including qualitative and quantitative

Teaching/learning methods

Knowledge is gained through a variety of teaching and lecturing methods: lectures, seminars, workshops and self directed study. Workshops include laboratory sessions for the teaching of advanced research methods software packages which are fully incorporated into the teaching of research methods. There is reference to specific case studies provided by staff and students and through the University Learning Resources.

Assessment Method

Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by a variety of forms, both formative and summative:

Essays, critical evaluation of published research, seminar presentations, research proposals, oral presentations: computer based assignments, developing a research proposal, piloting a qualitative research interview and undertaking a dissertation.

The dissertation assesses the student's ability to work within a narrow field of enquiry and critically apply a range of research methods and tools.

B. Cognitive (thinking) skills

On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:

1. Analytical skills in the completion of an in-depth study of a particular area of research
2. An ability to produce reasoned arguments, justifying conclusions made
3. Summarising and synthesising information from a variety of primary and secondary sources, including critical use of the

Teaching/learning methods

Students learn cognitive skills through:
Lectures, seminars and self directed study develop skills in summarising and synthesising information

Analytical skills are further developed at the end of the course through a 15,000 word dissertation. This is supervised by an allocated supervisor.

Dissertation preparation is supported by workshops.

<p>internet and media.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Critically reflecting on data, and the methods involved in its production 5. Designing a research proposal and selecting appropriate research methods 6. Ability to relate own research findings to existing body of knowledge on a research topic 	<p>Assessment Method Students' cognitive skills are assessed by: Dissertation is assessed through a 15,000 research based thesis</p> <p>A range of other forms of assessments test different elements of cognitive skills: essays, analysis of published research (academic and policy), analysis of interview transcripts, computer assisted assignments, and pilot studies</p>
<p>C. Practical skills On completion of the programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. learn and study supported by broad guidance and with reference to materials recommended 2. work with advanced research software packages such as N*DIST, NVIVO and SPSS 3. demonstrate presentation skills 4. plan and present a self directed project, and select appropriate research methods 	<p>Teaching/learning methods Students learn practical skills through Research methods involving self directed study and use of resource based and electronic learning</p> <p>Evaluation and reflection on case studies provided by staff and students</p> <p>Laboratory sessions for advanced research software packages in qualitative and quantitative methods and their application to subject material.</p> <p>Assessment Students' practical skills are assessed by:</p> <p>Seminar presentations, dissertation workshop, analysis of transcripts of interviews, applications of software packages in quantitative and qualitative research.</p> <p>The dissertation assesses student's ability to plan and present (orally and in written form) a self-directed project.</p>

12. Programme structure and requirements, levels, modules, credits and qualifications

12. 1 Overall structure of the programme

There are three points at which awards can be gained.

Postgraduate Certificate – 60 credits and 2 modules of which one is Research Methodology, Design and Ethics. The latter provides the basic module for understanding basic principles for theorising and conducting research. The second is chosen from one of the basic types of research methods – quantitative or qualitative methods

Postgraduate Diploma - 120 credits consists of 3 compulsory modules providing the full range of compulsory modules on research methodology and design and quantitative and qualitative methods

MSc – 180 credits comprised of 3 compulsory modules, 1 option and a 60 credit dissertation. This provides the full training in research methods as well as allowing the student to choose an optional module either in their substantive area of interest or an

additional research methods module. The dissertation gives the student an opportunity to research a specific area of interest and to apply the research methodologies and principles of research design they have acquired in the compulsory and optional modules.

Optional modules may be chosen either from the MSc or other relevant Masters programmes.

The programme can be taken on a full-time or a part-time basis.

12.2 Levels and modules.

Level 4 MSc

COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
<p>Students must take all of the following:</p> <p>SSC 4601 Research methodology, design and ethics</p> <p>SSC 4616 Quantitative methods</p> <p>SSC 4617 Qualitative methods</p> <p>SSC 4395 Dissertation</p>	<p>Students must also choose at least one from the following:</p> <p>SSC 4609 Implementing research in health and social care</p> <p>SSC 4611 Spatial analysis for Social Science</p> <p>HSS 4030 Work based learning</p> <p>HSS 4031 Work experience internship</p> <p>Or</p> <p>A relevant option from another Masters programme</p>	

12.3 Non-compensatable modules.

Module level	Module code
4	SSC 4395 Dissertation

13. Curriculum map

See attached

MSc Social Science Research Methods Full Time Mode (180 credits)

SSC 4601 Research Methodology, Design and Ethics 30 credits	SSC 4616 Quantitative Methods 30 credits	SSC 4617 Qualitative Methods 30 credits	Optional module 30 credits	SSC 4695 Dissertation 60 credits (Submit September)
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PG Dip Social Science Research Methods Full Time Mode (120 credits)

Research Methodology, Design and Ethics 30 credits	Quantitative Methods 30 credits	Qualitative Methods 30 credits	Optional module 30 credits
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PG Cert Social Science Research Methods Full Time Mode (60 credits)

SSC 4601 Research Methodology, Design and Ethics 30 credits	SSC 4616 Quantitative OR SSC 4617 Qualitative 30 credits
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MSc Social Science Research Methods Part Time Mode (180 credits)

Year 1	SSC 4601 Research Methodology, Design and Ethics	SSC 4616 Quantitative Methods	SSC 4617 Qualitative Methods
	30 credits	30 credits	30 credits

PG Dip Social Science Research Methods Part Time Mode (120 credits)

Year 1	SSC 4601 Research Methodology, Design and Ethics	SSC 4616 Quantitative OR SSC 4617 Qualitative Methods
	30 credits	30 credits
Year 2	SSC 4616 Quantitative OR SSC 4617 Qualitative Methods	Optional module
	30 credits	30 credits

PG Cert Social Policy Part Time Mode (60 credits)

Year 1	SSC 4601 Research Methodology, Design and Ethics
	30 credits
Year 2	SSC 4616 Quantitative Methods OR SSC 4617 Qualitative Methods
	30 credits

14. Information about assessment regulations

Assessment regulations for this programme are as outlined in the University Regulations, which can be found at <http://www.mdx.ac.uk/24%2D7/assess/index.htm>

15. Placement opportunities, requirements and support (if applicable)

Students may take a 30 credit work based learning or work experience internship as an optional module in place of their optional module. Students already in paid or unpaid work negotiate and undertake a work based learning project in their own setting which adds value to the organization, their professional development and their academic programme. It also gives them the opportunity to reflect on their work experience and to apply research methods directly to a relevant project Work experience internships offer students opportunities in a workplace appropriate to their programme, their interests and

career aspirations.

Students on both work-based learning and work experience internships have a named supervisor.

16. Future careers (if applicable)

Graduates will gain a range of transferable skills as outlined in the Programme Specification. These will be useful in gaining access to employment (health, social services, transport) and furthering career promotion within relevant fields which are increasingly demanding competence in research methods. The Masters also serves as the first stage of research training for a PhD in the social sciences and is a requisite for any student applying for an ESRC studentship. The Certificate is the minimum required by the University for research methods training as part of the PhD.

17. Particular support for learning (if applicable)

General student support is co-ordinated by the Programme Leader and Curriculum Leader. Learning Resources provides facilities, services and support to aid student learning. These include libraries, academic computing support, audio-visual support, language services, dyslexia support, disability support, and the English Language and Learning Support service (ELLS). In addition there is an online WebCT learning support area for students (Oasis Plus).

18. JACS code (or other relevant coding system)

L900 (Social Science Research Methods)

19. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)

20. Reference points

'Putting Students At The Centre of Learning'. Middlesex University Teaching and Learning Strategy 2002-2005 Doc LTS4
Middlesex University Centre for Learning and Quality Enhancement - Guidelines for Curriculum Design, The Learning and Quality Enhancement Handbook,
Middlesex University - Regulations
Middlesex University - The Learning Framework - Programme Design Guidance Nov 2006 (Revised Feb 2007)
National Qualifications Framework
ESRC Research Training Guidelines for Social Policy 2005

21. Other information

This Programme conforms to the ESRC research training regulations (2005)

Please note programme specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the rest of your programme handbook and the University Regulations.

Curriculum map for MSc/PG Diploma/PG Certificate Social Science Research Methods

This section shows the highest level at which programme outcomes are to be achieved by all graduates, and maps programme learning outcomes against the modules in which they are assessed.

Programme outcomes – highest level to be achieved by all graduates																									
A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7

Module Title	Module Code by Level	Programme outcomes																									
		A1	A2	A3	A4	A5			B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	C1	C2	C3	C4			D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7
Research methodology, design and ethics		X	X	X	X	X			X	X			X		X						X		X			X	
Quantitative research methods						X			X					X	X							X	X	X	X	X	
Qualitative research methods						X			X	X	X		X	X	X							X	X	X	X	X	
Dissertation		X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X			X		X	X	X	X	X

Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding		Practical skills	
A1	Role of social science research in policy development and implementation	C1	Team and study supported by broad guidance and with reference to materials recommended
A2	Social context of research, including ethical and equalities issues	C2	Work with IT such as NDIST, N VIVO and SPSS
A3	Relationship between the researcher and participants, funders, colleagues and others with an interest in research	C3	Demonstrate presentation skills
A4	Range of research methodologies and approaches to social research	C4	Plan and present a self-directed project and select appropriate research methods
A5	Strengths and limitations of a range of research methods, including quantitative and qualitative approaches	C5	
A6		C6	
A7		C7	
Cognitive skills		Graduate Skills	
B1	Analytical skills in the completion of an in-depth study in a particular area of research	D1	Ability to work within organisations and teams
B2	Ability to produce reasoned arguments, justifying conclusions made	D2	Electronic communication and IT skills
B3	Summarising and synthesising information from a variety of primary and secondary sources	D3	Ability to undertake self-directed learning
B4	Critically reflecting on data and the methods involved in its production	D4	Awareness of and ability to take into account the views of others
B5	Designing a research proposal and selecting appropriate research methods	D5	Written and oral communication skills

B6	Ability to relate own research findings to existing body of knowledge on a research topic	D6	Ability to work to deadlines and within time and word limits
B7		D7	The skills to carry out a project from selection of research quest and methods to implementation and presentation