

Social and Educational Research

This module is designed for a range of students on MA programmes in the School of Education, most of whom are practicing professionals within educational or early childhood settings, including part-time, full-time, home and international students.

The key aim of the module is to develop students' knowledge and understanding of empirically-based social and educational research in diverse contexts. Successful completion of the module will provide students with the knowledge, understanding and research tools to enable students to design and plan their own empirical studies as part of the Dissertation module.

The module introduces students to the key issues and dilemmas surrounding research in the broad field of education, while also enabling them to develop a critical understanding of research on policy and practice within their specialist area.

The module provides students with opportunities to engage with the philosophical foundations of social and educational research and to explore the values, purposes and ethical considerations that underpin research methodologies.

The module also addresses the practicalities of planning, conducting and completing a small-scale empirical study in their specialist area, with an emphasis on common methods of data collection and interpretation that are accessible, relevant and appropriate to students' needs.

As part-time and full-time students encounter the module at different stages of their programme, the content of module sessions is adapted in order to ensure that the needs of all students in each cohort are fully met.