COURSE SPECIFICATION

MRes Humanities and Social Sciences (Block taught)

Course Title	*MRes Humanities and Social Sciences*
Final Award	*MRes*
Exit Awards	MRes Sociology MRes Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies MRes American Studies MRes Education MRes Gender Studies MRes Childhood Studies MRes Security Studies MRes Applied Linguistics MRes Translation MRes African Studies MRes Development Studies MRes Literary Studies MRes History MRes TESOL MRes Politics MRes International Relations MRes Security Risk Management MRes Public Administration MRes European Politics MRes Communication MRes Forensic Investigation MRes Mental Health & Wellbeing MRes Intersectionality & Inclusion MRes Early Help

Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	*P3748FTB*
Mode of study	*Full Time, Block Taught*
Mode of delivery	*Campus, Distance Learning*
Normal length of course	*1 year (12 months)*
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	*From January 2025 intake onwards*
Awarding Body	*University of Portsmouth*
Teaching Institution	*University of Portsmouth*
Faculty	*Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences*
School/Department/Subject Group	*School of Area Studies, Sociology, History, Politics and Literature*
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	*https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/structure-and-governance/organisational-structure/our-academic-structure/faculty-of-humanities-and-social-sciences/school-of-area-studies-sociology-history-politics-and-literature*
Course webpage including entry criteria	*https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate-taught/mres-humanities-and-social-sciences*
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	*None*
[Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level](#)	*L7*

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.

This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the [Course and Module Catalogue](#) for further information on the course structure and modules.

Educational aims of the course

- To develop a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, which is at, or informed by, the forefront of the students' academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice;

- To develop a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship;

- To develop the capacity to deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate the conclusions of the research clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences;

- To demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline;
- To develop conceptual understanding that enables the student:
    - To evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline; and

> – To evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses.
> - To develop the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring:
>   – The exercise of initiative and personal responsibility; and
>   – Decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations.
> - To develop the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their Framework for Higher Education Qualifications document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
A1	Subject specific knowledge appropriate to the research project	These are mainly developed through a combination of seminars, tutorials and workshops. Students participate in: subject specialist unit lectures and seminars; the Faculty and Graduate School Development Programme workshops; research student conferences and research seminars organized in the specific Schools, and by research groups and centres.	Assessments consist of formative and summative elements. Coursework includes: analytical essays; oral presentations; reflections on appropriate research projects; and engagement with ethics protocols.
A2	The theoretical and methodological underpinnings of research undertaken in appropriate areas		
A3	Research planning and design		
A4	Ethical considerations required for undertaking research		
A5	Appropriate techniques / methods approaches applicable to the completion of research projects		

B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	Critique varying intellectual paradigms, methodologies, research approaches, and analytical techniques and how they contribute to the development of research questions		
B2	Formulate appropriate research questions within the appropriate areas of humanities and/or social scientific research		
B3	Critically appraise the value of theoretical perspectives and research evidence collected in the specified area of study		

B4	Select methodological approaches to the collection and analysis of data that can be evaluated, interpreted and disseminated into relevant formats	These skills will primarily be developed through supervision tutorials and workshops (delivered by the Faculty and the Graduate School. Individual supervision will contribute to the development of LO B1-5, while workshop sessions will contribute to the development of B4 in particular.	Assessments consist of formative and summative elements. Coursework includes: a critical engagement with the relevant literature; a research proposal including an evaluation of research methods and a discussion of the project's ethics dimension; and an oral/poster presentation.
B5	Synthesise and contribute to the creation of new knowledge		

C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	Demonstrate competency in a range of relevant data collection and data analysis techniques	This programme emphasizes the application of research and analytical techniques with acknowledgment of the key factors involved in the research process. *Taught modules* will provide students with the opportunity to develop their confidence in the design and execution of research projects and their own development as a researcher. *Practical supervision* is included in the research units. *This combined format* of the programme enables students to obtain proficiency in a range of relevant approaches as well as the ability to communicate effectively. Attention to ethical considerations and risk issues is also addressed within units and through the production of reports and completion of a	All elements are formatively assessed via tutorial meetings, project development, and data collection processes. Summative assessments may include analytical essays, oral presentations and ethics application.
C2	Produce critical reports in an appropriate format		
C3	Identify ethical considerations and risk issues related to specified area of study		
C4	Develop well-reasoned arguments and integrate appropriate empirical research		
C5	Identify and develop the relevant skills for a research career		

		research project(s).	

D. Transferable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	Exercise initiative and personal responsibility	Students' work is supervised by a member of staff whose research is relevant to their field of interest. The programme seeks to further develop academic and professional attributes students may already have acquired, either through their undergraduate work or through professional experience. The transferable capacities of the course curriculum enable students to acquire knowledge of a broad range of research techniques as well as insight into ethical and organisational issues faced by researchers.	These elements will be formally assessed through a variety of assessment techniques. Presentations will be delivered by students in taught and research focused units. Independent work will be required in a number of module assessments and collaborative work will be formatively assessed where appropriate. Specific transferable aptitudes relating to professional development will be assessed by reflective course work.
D2	Make decisions in complex and unpredictable situations		
D3	Demonstrate the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development		

Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth Academic Regulations: Examination & Assessment Regulations

A student who exits having passed 60 credits will qualify for the award of PgCert in Research.

- The learning outcomes are those of the 60 credit module Research preparation and development (M34474).

A student who exits having passed <u>120 credits</u> will qualify for the award of <u>PgDip in Research</u>.
- The learning outcomes are those of Research Project (M24475).

A student who has passed <u>180 credits</u> will qualify for the award of <u>MRes</u> with the relevant named exit award listed on p.2 of this document.

Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the [MyPort](#) student portal.

Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our [Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice](#) where you can also find further information.

Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

Insert additional reference points or delete as required

- [University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Vision](#)
- [Office for Students Conditions of Registration](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements for Master's Degrees](#)
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff

Changes to your course / modules

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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