

Variation to the Programme Specification

For Academic Year 2020/21

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| Name of programme(s) and award type(s): <i>(such as Single Honours History with International Year)</i> | MRes in Social Science Research Methods |
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Dear students,

As part of our commitment to continually work to improve our programmes, and in light of our plans to start next academic year with a hybrid delivery model due to the impact of Covid-19, we are confirming in this document the changes to your programme in the Academic Year 2020/21. More general information about what studying at the University will be like in 2020/21 can be found here:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/coronavirus/operations/>

Overview of changes to your programme

The health and safety of students and staff is our priority in delivering the MRes in Social Science Research Methods over the 2020-21 academic year. As such normal delivery methods have been revised in accordance with national advice and the University's Coronavirus (Covid-19) response. Recorded lectures and guided learning materials will be accessible via Keele's learning platform (KLE), supplemented by a mixture of live and interactive online activities delivered via MS Teams. Any campus-based learning activities that we are able to offer will take place following appropriate hygiene and social distancing protocols and only where it is safe for students and staff. The national and local situation will be continuously monitored and any changes to the programme will be communicated to students in a timely manner. Students on the programme can take advantage of these flexible forms of delivery to develop a study pattern to suit their individual circumstances.

Specific planned changes

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| How the programme will be taught <i>(include any significant changes to the balance between on campus and digital delivery and what students can expect)</i> | The programme will be taught through a mix of recorded lectures and guided learning materials accessed via the KLE, and live discussion and group work via MS Teams. We also aim to provide one hour per week of contact time on campus where it is safe and appropriate to do so for students and staff. In semester two we plan to increase the balance of campus-based learning activities to deliver some computer lab-based data analysis training where it is appropriate and safe to do so. |
| Changes to placements, field courses or other practical activities <i>(where applicable)</i> | N/A |
| Learning resources and any potential additional costs <i>(such as equipment requirements)</i> | Students should have access to a desktop PC or laptop with enough processing power to run data analysis software NVivo and SPSS (semester two). |

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| | Given an increasing level of online teaching and assessments for this programme, it would be preferable if students had access to computer equipment with a webcam and microphone. It may also be preferable for students to have adequate Wi-Fi connectivity and associated internet speeds. Students who need support in accessing appropriate IT equipment may be eligible to apply for support from the University's hardship fund . |
| How the programme will be assessed <i>(a general summary of changes to assessment methods)</i> | There are no changes to the methods of assessment. Each taught module is assessed via one piece of written work submitted electronically via the KLE. |
| How students are supported <i>(any alternative arrangements such as communication methods, support networks etc.)</i> | Students will be supported through a mixture of online communications, such as email, and video and audio chat via MS Teams. |

Updated module lists for 2020/21

PGT / Level 7 (2019-20 entry cohort)

| Compulsory modules | Module Code | Credits | Semester | Added/removed/unchanged? |
|--|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|---|
| Principles of Social Science Research | GRT-40022 | 30 | 1 | Unchanged |
| Research Skills and Researcher Development | GRT-40015 | 30 | 1 | Unchanged |
| Quantitative Research and Data Analysis | GRT-40020 | 15 | 2 | Unchanged |
| Qualitative Research Methods | GRT-40021 | 15 | 2 | Unchanged |
| Using Theory in Social Science Research | GRT-40026 | 15 | 2 | Unchanged |
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| Optional modules | Module Code | Credits | Semester | |
| Advanced Quantitative Data Analysis | HLT-40002 | 15 | 1 | This has moved from semester 2 |
| Independent Subject Specific Research | GRT-40016 | 15 | 2 | Added for students following a quantitative methods route |
| Advanced Qualitative Research Methods | GRT-40018 | 15 | 2 | Unchanged |
| Ethnographic Research | GRT-40019 | 15 | 2 | Unchanged |
| MRes Dissertation | GRT-40017 | 60 | 1-2 | Unchanged |