Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD002819	**Version:** 12 **Date Amended:** 06/Sep/2026

1. Module Title
Project Preparation

2a. Module Leader
Nicholas Pugh

2b. School
School of Life Sciences

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Science and Engineering

3a. Level
5

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions

Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	Forensic Science and Crime and Investigative Studies		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

The culmination of your degree is your final year project, where you perform research into an area of interest to you. To prepare you for this, you will be guided on the selection of a suitable project.

You will then be provided with the skills you need for your project, such as understanding research questions, hypothesis creation, identifying appropriate research methods, carrying out a literature review and project planning. You will be introduced to managing risk and understanding ethical issues. You will also become familiar with different research methods, data collection and the type of statistical analysis that can be performed. You will be allocated a project supervisor and you will also gain experience of projects by having the opportunity to listen to the project presentations by final year students. Your learning will mainly be self-managed as you develop your own research ideas and plan the project with reference to the literature. If you are interested in a career with any form of research capability, then your learning here is invaluable, regardless of your career path and industry.

6b. Outline Content

- Choosing an appropriate topic for a project - Using published literature - Writing a literature review and project plan - Gaining awareness of appropriate hazards and costs

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

None

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)

No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate the principles of good project management, including risk assessments, ethics, and integrity appropriate to scientific research.
2	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Critically review and evaluate scientific literature within a specific research topic, to identify valid scientific research questions.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Apply the principles of good research design, including choosing appropriate methods and completing risk assessments, ethics applications, timing plans and costing breakdowns, to complete a research proposal that addresses an identified scientific question.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Identify and evaluate types of data, select appropriate statistical tests, and use various statistical software packages to analyse, interpret, and present data

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	**Occurrence**	**Period**	**Location**	**Mode of Delivery**
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	**Hours**	**Learning Outcomes**	**Details of Duration, frequency and other comments**
Lectures	33	1-4	11 x 3 hours lectures/active learning
Other teacher managed learning	3	3-4	1 x 3 hour practical class/activity
Student managed learning	114	1-4	Background reading, online activities, preparation for lectures and practicals, and completion of assessments
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence

The assessment for some modules includes a presentation (see below for details on how this particular module is assessed). We recognise that presenting, especially to a large group, can cause significant anxiety or distress for some students. If this may affect you, please contact your Module Leader or the Disability and Neurodiversity Service as early as possible. We will work with you to consider appropriate reasonable adjustments. Depending on your individual needs, these might include, for example, presenting to a smaller group or presenting only to a member of academic staff.

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-4	100 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Project proposal (2000 words) and In-Class Test (1000 words equivalent)					

Assessment components for Element 010				
Component No.	**Assessment Title**	**Submission Method**	**Weighting (%)**	**Components needed for Mark Calculation?**
010/1	Statistical Quiz		30 (%)	All
010/2	Research Proposal		70 (%)	

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:
(a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above
(b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]