Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD002950	**Version:** 10 **Date Amended:** 07/Apr/2025

1. Module Title
Research Methods and Preparation

2a. Module Leader
Havovi Chichger

2b. School
School of Life Sciences

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Science and Engineering

3a. Level
7

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions

Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	MSc Forensic Science MSc Applied Bioscience		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

This module is compulsory for all, and it serves as a pilot phase in which laboratory consumables are negotiated and ordered, techniques tested, and preliminary results obtained. During the module you will define an area of study that could or will form the basis of their Masters research project. You will be required to undertake an appropriate and critical review of the available literature and other relevant information pertaining to the proposed project. If a laboratory-based project is envisaged you will need to give due consideration to the instrumentation required, provide an experimental design for at least for the initial stages of the proposed work, and ensure compliance with health and safety regulations (including COSHH) and appropriate ethical considerations. If necessary, you will need to prepare a formal application for ethical approval.

Please note that failing to present in your report, as an appendix or otherwise, all necessary health and safety information (e.g. risk assessments of laboratory work) and/or consideration of ethical implications when these are required by law and/or University Regulations WILL result in failure of the module at first attempt.

6b. Outline Content

To be negotiated. The student will be required to indicate how it is proposed to meet the Learning Outcomes listed in Section 7.

6c. Key Texts/Literature

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

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

These will vary according to negotiated topic of study and indicative resources will be identified during the design phase.

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	Plan and document laboratory work in accordance with all legal and best-practice requirements for health, safety, risk minimalisation and management.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Critically evaluate complex issues from a variety of viewpoints and rigorously apply appropriate methodologies, techniques and practical strategies; being sensitive to the context.
3	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge and the scientific method to the solution of identified practical problems
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Deal systematically and creatively with complex issues of problem definition and experiment design, make appropriate sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialists

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	12	1-4	12 x 1 hr active learning
Other teacher managed learning	5	1,3,4	5 hours of supervisor meetings
Student managed learning	133	1-5	Background reading, online activities, preparation for lectures and practicals, and completion of assessments
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
Assessment No.	**Assessment Method**	**Learning Outcomes**	**Weighting (%)**	**Fine Grade or Pass/Fail**	**Qualifying Mark (%)**
010	Coursework	All	100 (%)	Fine Grade	40 (%)
Report; 3000 words					

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]