

**Master of Research (MRes)**

**General overview of the programme**

The MRes is a flexible project based programme supported through an academic tutorial system and a taught research methods framework. It reflects an underpinning commitment to develop within the University, intellectually rigorous M level programmes that, through collaborative engagement of students and academic staff, can contribute to the development of the University applied research portfolio (where appropriate through co-authored publications) as well as deepening links with related professions.

The programme provides the opportunity for practitioners from a range of professional backgrounds to gain a critical appreciation of issues leading to changes and challenges in their profession and to enhance the analytical and research skills necessary to respond effectively to such change. Specialist topics are dependent on the focus of research active staff. Current projects sit for example, within the following subject areas (initial staff contacts provided):

- Applied Linguistics (Dr. Steve Disney)
- Communication Disorders (Dr. Tomasina Oh)
- English Literature (Dr. Paul Bentley)
- Outdoor Education (Dr. Mark Leather)
- Outdoor Learning (Dr. Mark Leather)
- Social Sciences (Dr. Lystra Hagley-Dickinson)
- Sport and Exercise Medicine (Dr. Saul Bloxham)
- Sport and Exercise Science (Dr. Lance Daggart)
- Sport and Health Science (Dr. Saul Bloxham)
- Sport Development (Dr. Aaron Beacom)
- Sport Management (Dr. Vassilios Ziakas)
- Journalism (Mr. Mike Baker)

The programme focuses, through a flexible though clearly structured set of three supervised projects, on key themes, which contribute to the development of a critical understanding of the chosen specialist area - addressing underpinning conceptual and theoretical debates, exploring contextual issues that define the parameters of provision and engaging in developmental based project work. The precise title and scope of each project is agreed with your designated supervisor who is research active in your specialist area.

Each project (attracting 60 M level credits – a Masters programme requires 180 credits) equates with a 'stage' in the overall programme.

Stage one (60 credits - PG Cert): *Conceptual and Theoretical Discourses.*

Stage two (60 credits – PG Dip): *Contemporary Contextual Issues*

Stage three (60 credits – MA): *Masters Project (Developmental Considerations)*

A realistic time-frame for project completion should be negotiated with the supervisor, however, bear in mind that most students complete in either one (where students are able to engage with their studies on a full-time basis) or two calendar years (a calendar year being September to September).

As a project based programme, students will be expected to discuss with their project supervisor, a schedule of academic tutorials appropriate to their needs. We organise a full induction day in late September / early October followed by 3 twilight advanced research methods workshops scheduled during October. In addition students will have access to Faculty based seminars which run throughout the academic year and additional research methods support workshop as appropriate to their research area. In relation to study skills (including use of library resources) students will be able to access advice from support staff as appropriate.

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