

Programme Specification

MRes Social Science

<i>School:</i>	York Business School
<i>Subject area:</i>	Social Sciences
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2023-24
<i>in the month(s) of:</i>	September
<i>Awarding institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Teaching institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Delivery location:</i>	York St John University
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Postgraduate Certificate Social Science
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	Not applicable
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	ESRC Postgraduate Training and Development Guidelines QAA benchmark groups not applicable for PG study in Social Sciences
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Postgraduate periods of study for full-time / part-time
<i>Language of study:</i>	English
<i>Paired with foundation year</i>	No
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	No
<i>Placement year opportunity:</i>	No

Introduction and special features

The MRes Social Science is a master's level qualification which builds on your undergraduate skills and capabilities through advanced level research training and one-to-one supervision with research practitioners at YSJU. The programme offers a platform to develop a detailed and meaningful social science research project. The hands-on experience of conducting research will provide you with valuable academic and transferrable skills.

In Term 1, you will take two taught modules: Advanced Research Methods 1 and 2. These modules ensure that you gain experience in a range of research techniques as well as an understanding of the philosophical debates underlying research methods and research design. The modules emphasise hands-on exercises of conducting social research and analysing data and provide practical experience needed to successfully undertake your MRes dissertation.

In Term 2, your supervisor will guide you through writing a research proposal and gaining ethics approval. You will meet with your supervisor fortnightly. Supervisions are student-led and will culminate in the completion of a research proposal and a conference presentation of the proposed work delivered at the *Social Sciences Postgraduate Research Conference* towards the end of Term 2.

In Term 3, you will engage in independent research towards an MRes dissertation. Your dissertation provides you with an opportunity to master relevant methods in social research, and to deepen your understanding of a social scientific area of interest. Your supervisor will continue working with you throughout Term 3.

Special features of the programme

- **Flexibility**

You are able to pitch and negotiate your own project throughout the course, in line with established assessment criteria and reflecting the diversity of research specialisms at YSJU, such as deviant leisure, social inequalities, political sociology, technology, youth, migration, gender, cultural criminology, criminal justice, health, the body and embodiment

- **One-to-one supervision**

You will have access to an MRes supervisor throughout your programme, but particularly in Term 2 and 3 where you will be guided through the design, planning, data collection and analysis stages of your dissertation

- **Involvement in a broader research community**

A conference presentation given at the annual Social Sciences Postgraduate Research Conference at YSJU affords you experience of presenting your research ideas in professional settings. You will also be encouraged to get involved with wider research activities at YSJU including Social Science postgraduate research seminars and reading groups, and presenting your work at other University (and external) events where appropriate

Admissions criteria

You must meet the University's general entry criteria for [postgraduate](#) study. In addition, you must have:

- A minimum of a 2:1 or higher in an undergraduate discipline such as sociology, criminology, anthropology, or social policy
- In your application, you will be asked to write a brief, preliminary and non-binding, research proposal (up to 500 words), describing the research that you would like to pursue, and the methods that you may draw on

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <https://www.yorks.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>).

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of [Recognition of prior learning \(RPL\)](#). [We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing](#).

Programme aim(s)

The overall aim is to develop your capacity for project planning and implementation alongside decision making and both analysis and evaluation. As a student on the MRes in Social Science you will be required to identify a researchable problem and formulate an approach to investigating this. You will be supported in undertaking this work. As such as a student on MRes in Social Science you will have considerable autonomy to determine your own research agenda and we see this as an opportunity to enhance the sorts of skills that have value in the workplace. A more specific aim is to equip you with relevant research skills so that you may successfully carry out advanced social scientific research with a view to having an impact on the challenging problems that face global communities. This should enhance your ability to shape relevant policy outcomes in a number of arenas.

This interdisciplinary course is ideally suited for those interested in pursuing doctoral research, alongside those benefitting from advanced and research skills in their current or future employment.

Programme learning outcomes

The programme learning outcomes are drawn from the learning outcomes specified in the *UK Quality Code for Higher Education* (2014: 28) and the *ESRC Postgraduate Training and Development Guidelines* (2015: 7-8).

Upon successful completion of the programme students will be able to:

Level 7

- 7.1 To demonstrate critical understanding of qualitative and quantitative research methods across the social sciences, including how qualitative and quantitative epistemologies shape research design, methods, and the analysis and presentation of data
- 7.2 To critically evaluate and systematically apply qualitative and/or quantitative research methods through an original and independent piece of advanced social scientific research
- 7.3 To understand and critically evaluate epistemological and theoretical positions underlying analysis, and to develop original analyses based on relevant disciplinary insight
- 7.4 To develop and employ ethical research practice
- 7.5 To engage in dialogue around research design, findings and analyses with academic, lay and stakeholder audiences
- 7.6 To demonstrate originality and self-direction in designing and undertaking advanced social scientific research and analysis

Programme structure

Code	Level	Term	Title	Credits	Module status	
					compulsory or optional to take C or O	non-compensatable or compensatable NC or X
SSC7001M	7	1	Advanced Research Methods 1	30	C	X
SSC7002M	7	1	Advanced Research Methods 2	30	C	X
SSC7003M	7	2	Designing Social Research	40	C	NC
SSC7004M	7	3	Dissertation	80	C	NC

Learning, teaching and assessment

Our ethos is to help our students explore their critical thinking and research skills through the practical application of cutting-edge research practices. The modules and supervisions are run by active researchers in the field, and you will be working with academics who have particular expertise in, for example, social inequalities, deviant leisure, gender and the body, mortality, health and wellbeing, criminal justice, political sociology, technology and work.

The taught modules emphasise hands-on exercises of conducting social research and analysing data (using software packages such as Stata and Nvivo), and provide practical experience needed to successfully undertake the dissertation. You will learn about research ethics and about participant recruitment, but also about connecting with relevant stakeholders to design research that is impactful outside academia. You will receive regular formative feedback from supervisors on research design, methods, recruitment, analytical approaches, dissemination, networking, and impact so that you are able to undertake the completion of the dissertation independently. One-to-one dissertation supervision with expert researchers is student led and focuses on your needs as a researcher. Additionally, you will be attending the School of Psychological and Social Sciences Research Seminar Series, as well as guest lectures on cognate work. You will also have access to a wide variety of University support structures to help you throughout your studies.

The overall workload for the course varies from Term to Term, with the emphasis on you as an independent researcher working in tandem with academics in the field.

Following successful completion of the dissertation there will also be opportunities to develop this further for publication if you wish.

Progression and graduation requirements

The University's [general regulations](#) for postgraduate awards apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section as non-compensatable.

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University Mission Statement](#) [see page two onwards]
- [Strategic Plan 2015-20](#) [see page four onwards]
- [ESRC Postgraduate Training and Development Guidelines](#)

Date written / revised: 19/03/19

Programme originally approved: 19/03/19