### Module Title
Research Methods and Project Planning

**School**
Mathematical & Computer Sciences

**On or Off-Campus**
On

**Module Co-ordinator**
Greg Michaelson

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>SCQF</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>F21RP</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15</td>
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1. **Pre-requisites**
None

2. **Linked Modules**
F21MP Masters Project & Dissertation

3. **Excluded Modules**
None

4. **Replacement Module**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Code:</th>
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<th>5. Availability as an Elective</th>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes ☐  No ✓</td>
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5. **Availability as an Elective**
Yes ☐ No ✓

6. **Degrees for which this is a core module**
Mandatory module for all courses in the Computer Science PGT Programme

7. **Aims**

To enable students to develop skills in critical thinking, research planning, academic writing and experimental design appropriate for a post-graduate programme.

To enable students to gain skills in project planning

To give students an awareness of legal, social, ethical and professional issues relevant for IT practitioners.

To enhance students’ employability by development of job seeking and career planning skills.

8. **Syllabus**

- Research aims and objectives, literature search, critical analysis and review.
- Technical writing.
- Project planning, testing, risk analysis, requirements and design.
- Human factors in software development.
- Experimental design and software evaluation.
- Professional standards and issues.
- Legal, social and ethical issues in IT.
- Job seeking and career planning.
## 9. Learning Outcomes (HWU Core Skills: Employability and Professional Career Readiness)

**Subject Mastery**

*Understanding, Knowledge and Cognitive Skills*  
- Ability to write literature review which critically evaluates research and current technical developments against a stated aim.
- Ability to search for and evaluate the value of written and online material.
- A critical understanding of the role of human factors in software development, and of a range of techniques for designing and evaluating with users in mind.
- A detailed understanding of general issues in experimental design, and how to verify a research hypothesis.
- An ability to apply general methodologies for project planning, and more specific methodologies related to IT projects.
- Awareness of what employers are looking for in prospective employees.
- Awareness of professional codes of conduct, safety, quality and security standards, UK computing law and ethical aspects of computing

*Scholarship, Enquiry and Research (Research-Informed Learning)*

**Personal Abilities**

*Industrial, Commercial & Professional Practice*  
- A proper appreciation of current professional standards in software documentation, and professional legal and ethical standards relevant to the IT industry.
- Ability to work independently on a small project, planning and managing time.
- Ability to present work effectively to others, orally and written.
- An ability to use software tools appropriate to IT project planning and evaluation.
- Ability to write a CV and develop a personal career plan.
- Ability to reflect on relevant normative issues arising from computing practice

## 10. Assessment Methods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Duration of Exam (if applicable)</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
<th>Synoptic modules?</th>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Duration of Exam (if applicable)</th>
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<td>Continuous assessment</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Coursework</td>
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## 11. Re-assessment Methods

- 

## 12. Date and Version

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of Proposal</th>
<th>Date of Approval by School Committee</th>
<th>Date of Implementation</th>
<th>Date of Implementation</th>
<th>Version Number</th>
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<td>February 2009</td>
<td>February 2009</td>
<td>September 2009</td>
<td></td>
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