

**Course Code:**

PCRS101

**Session**

2017/18

**1. Course Title:**

Core Research Skills in Academic Skills for Masters Research

**2. Date of Production/Revision:**

20 April 2016

**3. Level:**

SCQF 11

**4. Credits:**

15

**5. Lead School/Board of Studies:**

Digital Design Studio

**6. Course Contact:**

Dr Daisy Abbott

**7. Course Aims:**

This course **'Academic Skills for Masters Research'** provides an advanced understanding of issues related to research methodologies that will facilitate the development of students' ability to identify and utilise appropriate methodological and theoretical frameworks to support and manage their Masters projects. By the end of this course students should be better prepared and equipped to investigate potential projects and should be able to take a structured approach to research topics and specialist areas. The course is for all postgraduate students, particularly, for MSc students. It will explore some of the following topics:

- Use and critical appraisal of sources
- Communication and presentation
- Writing an abstract
- Critical evaluation of sources
- Making notes
- Literature review
- Developing a project proposal

- Research project management
- Research methodology
- Data analysis
- Writing Masters thesis
- Research Ethics

This course aims to:

- Provide students with a variety of core research tools that are equally useful across a range of fields of postgraduate study;
- Facilitate cross-disciplinary thought and practical connections, by bringing together students on different programmes of study;
- Enable students to conduct and manage their own self-contained research projects;
- Interrogate the relationships between forms of research and modes of practice.

### **8. Intended Learning Outcomes of Course:**

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Use appropriate research resources and methods effectively;
- Understand the principles underpinning research at postgraduate level;
- Demonstrate understanding of the relationships between research and practice;
- Organise and conduct research projects effectively and efficiently.

### **9. Indicative Content:**

- Introducing research skills for postgraduate students
- Conceptualising a research question
- Understanding research resources
- Finding and managing information
- Mapping the context
- Developing and managing a project of research
- Practice as research
- Disseminating research outcomes
- Research Ethics

### **10. Description of Summative Assessment:**

Full attendance at lectures, seminars and group discussions is expected. In addition to this, students will be required to submit an assignment and/or presentation that presents an analysis of an idea or concept, artwork, practitioner, or debate which they consider to be at the cutting edge of their field of enquiry. This final assessment submission consists of the following:

No.	Assessment Method	Description of Assessment Method	Weight %	Submission week (assignments) or length (exam)
1	Portfolio	Portfolio of research assessment tasks, including a 1500 word Masters project proposal (see details below). Total word count 2500.	100	End of Stage 1

**10.1 Please describe the Summative Assessment arrangements:**

- Course assessment will be through a portfolio of short written coursework (see below assessment tasks), including a 1500-word Masers project proposal, which will prepare students for their Masters project (and thesis). Total word count is 2500 words.

**Assessment task 1:** Write a literature review, 40% weighting

**Assessment task 2:** Presentation, 20% weighting

**Assessment task 3:** Write a Masters project proposal, 40% weighting

**Assessment Criteria**

Students on this course will be assessed on their ability to:

- conceptualise and present a research problem;
- utilise appropriate methods and tools when planning a research project;
- situate their projects of research within a research context;
- critically reflect on the success and effectiveness of their own projects of practice and research;
- demonstrate a level of depth in the analysis of art works, practitioners, ideas, concepts and/or debates appropriate to postgraduate level.

**Please also refer to the course handbook for further specific guidance about the assessment criteria.**

**11. Formative Assessment:**

Formative Assessment takes place in week 5/6.

**11.1 Please describe the Formative Assessment arrangements:**

Students will have to prepare a bibliography and research abstract related to their proposed proposal. This will be used for formative feedback, which may be provided verbally or in writing.

**12. Collaborative:**

Yes

No

**12.1 Teaching Institutions:**

**13. Requirements of Entry:**

None

**14. Co-requisites:**

None

**15. Associated Programmes:**

All Postgraduate Taught Programmes

**16. When Taught:**

Stage 1

**17. Timetable:**

Normal timetable: 2 hours, Wednesday mornings between 9 – 1 pm.

The course may also be scheduled for part-time PGT students, to run during the summer.

**18. Available to Visiting Students:**Yes No **19. Distance Learning:**Yes No **20. Placement:**Yes No **21. Learning and Teaching Methods:**

Method	Formal Contact Hours	Notional Learning Hours (Including formal contact hours)
Lecture		
Studio		
Seminar/Presentation	20	20
Tutorial		
Workshop		
Laboratory work		
Project work		
Professional Practice		
E-Learning / Distance Learning		
Placement		
Examination		
Essay		
Private Study	Not Applicable	130
Other (please specify below)		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>150</b>

## 22. Description of "Other" Teaching and Learning Methods:

## 23. Additional Relevant Information:

This course introduces students taking taught postgraduate programmes at the Glasgow School of Art to a range of core research skills, from formulating research questions to methods of utilizing visual and written sources. The ways in which postgraduate study differs from undergraduate – and the significance of research to this distinction – will be explored. Central to the course is the importance of research for practitioners, and the notion of practice as a form of research.

The Core Research Skills courses taught in Stage 1 may include the following:

- **Academic Skills for Masters Research**
- **Archives and Historical Resources**
- **Business Skills and Creative Entrepreneurship**
- **Writing in Art, Design and Architecture**
- **Drawing as Research**
- **The Sociological Imagination**
- **Popular Culture and Creative Practice**
- **Philosophy and Creative Practice**
- **Analysis and Self Analysis**
- **Design Ethnography in Practice: applying the ethnographic perspective**
- **Visual Mapping: Analysis and Presentation through Graphics**

This list is subject to change

## 24. Indicative Bibliography:

Swales, J. M., & Feak, C. B. (2004). *Academic writing for graduate students: Essential tasks and skills* (Vol. 1). Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press.

Dunleavy, P. (2003). *Authoring a PhD: How to plan, draft, write and finish a doctoral thesis or dissertation*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Biggam, J. (2011). *Succeeding With Your Master's Dissertation: A Step-By-Step Handbook: A Step-by-Step Handbook*. McGraw-Hill International.

The course uses the Harvard System:

Anglia Ruskin University, 2013. Harvard System [WWW Document].

URL <http://libweb.anglia.ac.uk/referencing/harvard.htm> (accessed 12.17.14).