

MRes Advanced Quantitative Methods in Social Sciences (THED-APM72)

Course and Award Details

Course title	MRes Advanced Quantitative Methods in Social Sciences
Route(s)	MRes Advanced Quantitative Methods in Social Sciences
Awarding body	University of Bath
Award	Masters Degree not mainly by Research
Award name	Masters - Postgraduate Taught
Course mode of delivery	Part time
Course length	2 years
Entry point	September 2024
Main location of study	University of Bath, Main Campus, Claverton Down
Course-owning school/department	Education

Course Description

Course Summary

Develop in-depth knowledge and research skills in social science. You'll learn advanced techniques to analyse large data sets and draw effective insights.

Course Description

By combining a substantial theoretical and quantitative core with comprehensive qualitative training, this course will help you gain the essential skills to become a working social science or educational researcher.

You'll enhance your understanding of the techniques used in the analysis and presentation of quantitative data in a social science context. This will allow you to apply key research techniques to large scale data sets in public and commercial life, and draw actionable conclusions.

A key element of your studies will be to identify and investigate your own original research question using advanced quantitative methods.

This course is designed to enable you to carry out high-quality doctoral research or pursue other professional research activities in private or public sector settings.

>South West Doctoral Training Partnership

>This MRes is recognised by the Economic & Social Research Council (ESRC) (<https://esrc.ukri.org>), specifically, as part of the larger South West Doctoral Training Partnership (SWDTP) (<https://www.swdtp.ac.uk>). It can be taken as a course in its own right, or if you hold an SWDTP studentship (<https://www.swdtp.ac.uk/prospective-students-and-fellows/esrc-funded-studentships/>) you can take the 1+3 (MRes + PhD) pathway.

>If you wish to be considered for a 1+3 SWDTP studentship, then you must apply for your preferred PhD route and not the stand-alone MRes. You should follow our how to apply ([/guides/how-to-apply-for-doctoral-study](#)) guidelines.

>For those holding a 1+3 SWDTP studentship, progression from the MRes to the MPhil or PhD stage is dependent on an acceptable level of achievement.

>Read more about other funding that you may be eligible for(/campaigns/find-funding-for-doctoral-research/).

Learn from experts in their field

You'll learn from experts in social science research. Their passion, knowledge and research shape their teaching to enhance your learning experience.

Gain important career skills

We work to provide you with the tools and support to prepare you for employment and further study.

This includes advanced quantitative research skills, and bibliographic skills; and the use of appropriate technology to undertake tasks that use these skills.

Graduate prospects

There is increasing demand for high-level quantitative skills from a wide range of private and public sector recruiters.

Many firms and government departments are now committed to data-driven decision-making, making use of the increased availability of big data.

This course will equip you with a hybrid skill set that combines quantitative, computing and analytical skills with an understanding of social science research and enquiry.

This MRes also equips you to go into further study at PhD level.

Contact hours

Students studying the full-time variant of this course are expected to spend approximately 35 hours per week studying, with around 8-10 of those hours being structured classes. This will be made up of a combination of lectures and seminars.

In each semester, part-time students typically study for approximately 40%-60% of the full-time equivalent. This usually involves taking 2 or 3 taught units per semester, alongside completing a research project that is submitted at the end of the course.

Delivery methods

The following list provides an indication of some of the learning and teaching methods used on the course:

Lectures
Seminars

Assessment summary

You will experience a range of different forms of assessment designed to support your professional development. This will include coursework, project work, examinations, and a dissertation.

We can make reasonable adjustments to assessment procedures for students with disabilities. Take a look at our Disability Service's pages(/professional-services/disability-service/) for information.

Assessment methods

The following list provides an indication of some of the assessment methods used on the course:

Coursework
Dissertation
Examinations
Project output (other than dissertation or report)

Budgeting statement

You will need to budget at least £100 for the cost of photocopying, printing and binding. You will also need to budget for the cost of textbooks. Some courses involve visits away from campus and you may be required to pay some or all of the costs of travel, accommodation and food and drink. If you're on a placement, you're responsible for your own travel, accommodation and living costs. You should also consider the financial implications if you go on an unpaid or overseas placement. If you are thinking about studying or working abroad as part of your course, you may have to prove that you have a certain amount of money in your bank account to get a visa. Please read the information about planning your finances for your placement year

Course Assessment Regulations

Applicable Assessment Regulations	Postgraduate Taught Assessment Regulations - https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/postgraduate-taught-assessment-regulations/
Exemptions from Regulations	Not specified
Course Progression Requirements	Not specified

Course Structure

Year 1

Period of study	Module code	Module title	Module status	Level	Credits	Option choice rules
AY	ED00000	Academic integrity training & test	Extra	Foundation (FHEQ level 3)	0	
AY	HS52009	Dissertation	Part 4 Project/Diss Designated Essential Unit	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	40	
AY	HS52015	Principles of social sciences research	Part 4 Taught Compulsory	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	10	
S1	HS52008	Digital methods and data skills for MRes	Part 4 Taught Compulsory	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	5	
S1	HS52016	Introduction to quantitative and qualitative research methods	Part 4 Taught Compulsory	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	10	
S1	HS52013	Research design and methods for AQM	Part 4 Taught Designated Essential Unit	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	5	

Additional rules for module selection

None

Year 2

Period of study	Module code	Module title	Module status	Level	Credits	Option choice rules
S1	HS52004	AQM 1 - Experimental and quasi-experimental quantitative methods for social science	Part 4 Taught Designated Essential Unit	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	5	
S2	HS52005	AQM 2 - Advanced modelling techniques for social sciences	Part 4 Taught Designated Essential Unit	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	5	
S2	HS52012	Mathematics and programming skills for social scientists	Part 4 Taught Designated Essential Unit	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	5	
S2 MRes AQM S2 options						
	HS52002	Advanced qualitative methods	Part 4 Taught Optional	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	5	Select 1 module from this group in this period
	HS52010	Independent research essay	Part 4 Taught Optional	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	5	
	MN52056	Business analytics	Part 4 Taught Optional	Masters UG & PG (FHEQ level 7)	5	
Additional rules for module selection						
None						

Year 3

Period of study	Module code	Module title	Module status	Level	Credits	Option choice rules
		No data found				
Additional rules for module selection						
		None				

The availability of optional units is subject to constraints such as staff availability, minimum and maximum group

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, you will be able to

	Knowledge and Understanding	Professional and Intellectual Transferable Skills	Study Year	Placement	Abroad
Appraise the basic principles of research design, epistemological positions and appreciate multiple alternative approaches to research questions	✓				
Critique the theoretical and data structure assumptions underlying a range of advanced quantitative methods	✓				
Examine the appropriate contexts for different analytical techniques and their limits	✓	✓			
Justify the effectiveness and appropriateness of advanced quantitative techniques drawn from a range of social science disciplines	✓	✓	✓		
Be competent in questionnaire design, interviewing and survey design, the interpretation of measurement error, and data gathering through the Internet	✓	✓			
Appreciate the strengths and weaknesses of data from primary and secondary sources, and be able to select relevant information and data sources		✓	✓		
Be competent at implementing a range of advanced quantitative methodologies using appropriate computer packages including Stata, R, MLWin, and Python		✓	✓		

Critically evaluate and interpret research findings using advanced quantitative methods and refine research in light of findings	✓	✓
Develop bibliographic and computing skills including word processing, spreadsheet and database management	✓	
Appreciate issues posed by social research in relation to ethics, confidentiality and legality, and acquire the skills needed in order to respect, consider and attend to the rights of other researchers and research participants	✓	
Effectively communicate complex quantitative methods to a lay audience with policy or societal focus	✓	
Develop research leadership skills, research management skills including the development of research proposal for external funding, time and resource planning and monitoring, archiving of data at completion of end-of-award reports to sponsors	✓	

Alternative Courses and Exit Awards

Designated Alternative Courses (DAC) and exit awards	Exit awards: Generic Postgraduate Diploma: 60 ECTS of FHEQ level 7 units passed Generic Postgraduate Certificate: 30 ECTS of FHEQ level 7 units passed Please speak to your Director of Studies for further information about possible named exit awards
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