

Programme Specification Pro-forma (PSP)

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Programme Title:	Master of Research (M Res)
2. Final Award:	M Res Biological Sciences (or named discipline)
3. Exit Awards:	PgC in Research Methods, PgD in Biological Sciences
4. Awarding Body:	Glasgow Caledonian University
5. Period of Approval:	
6. School:	School of Health and Life Sciences
7. Host Department:	Biological and Biomedical Sciences
8. UCAS Code:	Not applicable
9. PSB Involvement:	Not applicable
10. Place of Delivery:	GCU
11. Subject Benchmark Statement:	
12. Dates of PSP Preparation/Revision:	December 2019/June 2020 No revision required September 2021

2. EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME

An introduction should be included here which describes the overall aim of the programme together with the educational aims of the programme at the exit points

Original, groundbreaking research lies at the heart of every University's endeavour, and this is particularly important at Glasgow Caledonian University, where our teaching and research are inextricably linked, promoting work-based education and meeting the University's Common Good mission. Our proposal is to offer at Masters level (SCQF Level 11), a programme in research training that will equip national and international students with the ability to improve their understanding of the nature and management of research, and the subject-specific practical skills necessary for its execution in the area of Biological Sciences. This full-time M Res provides a comprehensive programme of research training, drawing on expertise across the University and offers a balance of theoretical and practical studies with two projects (or placements) in key thematic areas of research aligned with the University's research strategy.

Students completing four taught generic research modules (4 x 15 Credits) drawn from our University-wide Master of Research programme will be eligible to exit with a Postgraduate Certificate in Research Methods (60 Credits). These modules offer the opportunity for acquisition of a range of generic research skills, which can be applied in any research setting, including the nature and philosophy of research, critical review of research, quantitative and qualitative research and research design and project management.

Students completing the four taught generic research modules (above) and one research project (or placement) will be eligible to exit with a Postgraduate Diploma in Biological Sciences (120 Credits). Students will have the option of studying a wide range of topics within the department, or placement (industrial or academic), designed to enhance their investigative and analytical skills, and independent thinking and creativity, through applied research in a subject relevant to Biological Sciences. This can include, but not limited to, microbiology, viral and fungal pathogens, biochemistry, cell biology, pharmacology and food science. The laboratory experience, and related coursework, will train students in concise academic writing,

presentation and analysis of results, and critical evaluation and interpretation of research outcomes in the context of existing knowledge.

Students completing the four taught generic modules (above) and two research projects (120 Credits) or placements in subjects relevant to Biological Sciences (above) will be eligible for the award of M Res in Biological Sciences (180 Credits). Students who choose to specialise by choosing two projects within one discipline will be able to graduate with a named M Res in that discipline, including but not limited to Microbiology, Pharmacology, Cell and Molecular Biology and Food Science. The extended laboratory experience, and related coursework, will require students to develop advanced practical skills, expand and refine their investigative and analytical thinking, and enhance their communication skills.

4. PROGRAMME STRUCTURES AND REQUIREMENTS, LEVELS, MODULES, CREDITS AND AWARDS

SCQF Level 11

Four taught generic research modules selected from

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
MMN121380	Nature of Research Enquiry	15
MML321383	Critical Review of Research	15
MMX225607	Introduction to Quantitative Research Methods	15
MMN121381	Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods	15
MMN224423	Quantitative Data Analysis	15
MMN121382	Applied Skills in Qualitative Research Methods	15
MML321384	Research Design and Research Project Management	15

Exit award – Postgraduate Certificate in Research Methods **60**

MMB126347	Research Project 1	60
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Exit award – Postgraduate Diploma in Biological Sciences **120**

MMB126348	Research Project 2	60
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Exist award – Master of Research **180**

in Biological Sciences or * named discipline

**Students select two research projects within the named discipline*

8. ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

Students should expect to complete their programme of study under the Regulations that were in place at the commencement of their studies on that programme, unless proposed changes to University Regulations are advantageous to students.

The Glasgow Caledonian University Assessment Regulations which apply to this programme, dependent on year of entry can be found at:

[GCU Assessment Regulations](#)

A curriculum map is attached showing how the outcomes are being developed and assessed within the programme. This relates the modules from Section 4 to the outcomes in Section 3.

DATE: **September 2021**

Curriculum Map for M Res Biological Sciences

The curriculum map links the modules (Section 4) to the Outcomes listed in Section 3

PSMA

This map provides both a design aid to help academic staff identify where the programme outcomes are being developed and assessed within the course. It also provides a checklist for quality assurance purposes and could be used in approval, accreditation and external examining processes. This also helps students monitor their own learning, and their personal and professional development as the course progresses. The map shows only the main measurable learning outcomes which are assessed. There are additional learning outcomes (e.g. attitudes and behaviour) detailed in the module specifications which are developed but do not lend themselves to direct measurement

Modules

			Programme outcomes																			
Modules			A1	A2	A3	A4	B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2	C3	C4	D1	D2	D3	D4	E1	E2	E3	E4
SCQF 11	MMN121380	Nature of Research Enquiry	X	X	X		X				X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
	MML321383	Critical Review of Research	X	X	X		X				X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	MMX225607	Introduction to Quantitative Research Methods	X	X	X		X				X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	MMN121381	Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods	X	X	X		X				X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	MMN224423	Quantitative Data Analysis	X	X	X		X				X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	MMN121382	Applied Skills in Qualitative Research Methods	X	X	X		X				X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	MML32184	Research Design and Research Project Management	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
	MMB126347	Research Project 01		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	MMB126348	Research Project 02		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

x

ASSESSMENT LOADING MATRIX

Appendix 2

Year 1: SCQF Level 11									
Module Code	Module Title Four modules chosen from:	Trimester	Credits	Assessment Weighting					
				Cw1	Cw2	Cw3	Exam1 (Exams Office)	Ex2 (Exams Office)	Ex3 (Class Test)
MMN121380	Nature of Research Enquiry	A	15	100					
MML321383	Critical Review of Research	A	15	100					
MMX225607	Introduction to Quantitative Research Methods	A	15	100					
MMN121381	Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods	A	15	100					
MMN224423	Quantitative Data Analysis	B	15	100					
MMN121382	Applied Skills in Qualitative Research Methods	B	15	100					
MML321384	Research Design and Research Project Management	B	15	100					
EXIT AWARD: Postgraduate Certificate in Research Methods – 60 Credits									

Year 1: SCQF Level 11									
Module Code	Module Title	Trimester	Credits	Assessment Weighting					
				Cw1	Cw2	Cw3	Exam1 (Exams Office)	Ex2 (Exams Office)	Ex3 (Class Test)
MMB126347	Research Project 01	B Non- standard dates (NSD)	60	15	15	70			
EXIT AWARD: Postgraduate Diploma in Biological Sciences – 120 Credits									

Year 1: SCQF Level 11									
Module Code	Module Title	Trimester	Credits	Assessment Weighting					
				Cw1	Cw2	Cw3	Exam1 (Exams Office)	Ex2 (Exams Office)	Ex3 (Class Test)
MMB126348	Research Project 02	C (NSD)	60	15	15	70			
EXIT AWARD: Master of Research in Biological Sciences (or named discipline)									

