

Programme Specification Pro-forma (PSP)

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Programme Title:	Master of Research (MRes)
2. Final Award:	Master of Research (MRes)
3. Exit Awards:	Postgraduate Certificate of Research Postgraduate Diploma of Research
4. Awarding Body:	Glasgow Caledonian University
5. Period of Approval:	January 2021-2026
6. School:	N/A
7. Host Department:	Research Directorate, GCU
8. UCAS Code:	N/A
9. PSB Involvement:	N/A
10. Place of Delivery:	GCU Glasgow Campus; Distance Learning (online delivery)
11. Subject Benchmark Statement:	QAA (2020) Masters' degree characteristics, QAA (2014) Chapter B11: Research Degrees SCQF Level 11
12. Dates of PSP Preparation/Revision:	Nov 2020

2. EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME

The programme aims to provide advanced training for research contributing to the growth and development of the knowledge economy.

The programme aims to:

- 1) Produce graduates who have developed the skills, knowledge and opportunity to pursue careers in research;
- 2) Produce graduates who can critically explore key issues in research philosophy, ethics, and methodology and analyse complex research;
- 3) Provide training in the formulation of research projects and the use of a range of practical research skills and techniques;
- 4) Produce graduates who are able to integrate theory and practice and who are critical, reflective thinkers;
- 5) Foster an ethos of career-long self-directed learning through continuous professional development;
- 6) Develop the student's ability to critically analyse published material including supportive data;
- 7) Increase the proficiency of the student in effective communication of research knowledge;

- 8) Provide students with a supportive learning environment;
- 9) Be inclusive of all sectors of society and be responsive to the needs of individuals, employers and stakeholders;
- 10) Provide an academically free standing programme of research training, but also provide comprehensive preparation for students wishing to undertake a PhD.

By the Pg. Certificate in Research exit point students will have acquired a critical understanding of key issues relating to research philosophy, methodology and methods in research. Study to certificate level allows the student to critically assess outputs of research.

By the Pg. Diploma in Research exit point students will have acquired a deeper understanding of key research methods, have developed the ability to execute a critical literature review and have a deeper understanding of issues of research design. Study to diploma level allows the student to critically assess and apply a range of research methods.

By the Masters exit point, students will have acquired an advanced level of analytical competence in research, coupled with increasing independence and ability for self-directed learning.

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

Module		Credits
Trimester A		
MMN121380	Nature of Research Enquiry	15
MML321383	Critical Review of Research	15
MMN121381	Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods	15
MMX225607	Introduction to Quantitative Research Methods	15
Trimester B		
MMX224423	Quantitative Data Analysis	15
MMN121382	Applied Skills in Qualitative Research Methods	15
MML321384	Research Design and Research Project Management	15
MML321393	Independent and Negotiated Study	15
Trimester C		
MML321379	Masters Research Project	60
Total		180

Students can exit at three levels:

Exit Award	Number of modules	Number of Credits
Postgraduate Certificate of Research (Pg.C Research)	4	60
Postgraduate Diploma of Research (Pg. D Research)	8	120
Master of Research (MRes)	8 + project	180

It is expected that those students pursuing:

- 1) a 1+3 model of doctoral research will aspire to the MRes degree exit award and continue on to PhD study or Professional Doctorate (through RPL)
- 2) a professional research career in a specific discipline in the public, voluntary and private sectors will aspire to the MRes degree exit award
- 3) PhD preparation study in a 1 in 3 model within the doctoral research will select modules according to their research training needs analysis and may if deemed necessary aspire to the Postgraduate Certificate in Research while also undertaking their PhD study programme.
- 4) continuous professional development for career researchers and research managers generally employed in the public, voluntary and private sectors will select modules according to their research professional needs and may aspire to completion of modules on a part-time basis to exit at any one of the above levels.

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, Taught Postgraduate Assessment Regulations, dependent on year of entry can be found at:

<https://www.gcu.ac.uk/academicquality/regulationsandpolicies/>

Curriculum Map for Masters of Research (MRes) Framework

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

PSMAP

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

	Code	Title	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	E1	E2	E3	E4
			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	MMN121380	Nature of Research Enquiry	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x		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	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	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	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	MML321384	Research Design and Research Project Management	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x		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	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	MMX224423	Quantitative Data Analysis	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	MML321379	Masters Research Project	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	MML321393	Independent and Negotiated Study	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

SCQF11

Completion of Programme Specification

Programme teams:

- are expected to review the programme specification as part of the annual programme monitoring process
- will use this amended pro-forma for new programmes approved from September 2018
- will be expected to modify the current specifications on the next occasion programmes are reviewed

Each Programme Specification should be accompanied by a Curriculum map (PSMAP).

Intended Learning outcomes

Learning outcomes should be defined by the programme development team in accordance with SCQF guidance on level descriptors ([SCQF Level Descriptors \(revised 2015\)](#))

As part of the development of the Common Good Curriculum, on 11 May 2016 APC approved a set of Common Good Attributes to formally replace GCU Graduate Attributes as part of mainstream programme development, approval and review ([Common Good Attributes](#)). These are:

- Active and global citizenship
- Entrepreneurial mindset
- Responsible leadership
- Confidence

From Session 2016/17, Programmes undergoing approval or review must demonstrate how the achievement of the Common Good Attributes is embedded in the programme. The Common Good Attributes Template should be completed as part of programme approval and reviews. [\[Please link to Common Good Attributes Template\]](#)

NB.

- The expectation is that not all of the learning outcomes are necessarily directly assessed e.g. a task might be undertaken as a team but individually assessed.

Further Links

QAA guidelines for the creation of a Programme Specification Proforma can be found at [Guidelines for the creation of a PSP](#)

Information on Subject Benchmark Statements can be found on the QAA site at [Subject Benchmark Statements](#)

ASSESSMENT LOADING MATRIX**Appendix 2**

SCQF Level 11									
Module Code	Module Title	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					
MMN121381	Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods	A	15	100					
MMX225607	Introduction to Quantitative Research Methods	A	15	100					
MMX224423	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					
MML321393	Independent Negotiated Study	A-B	15	100					
EXIT AWARD: Postgraduate Certificate in Research (Pg.C in Research) 60 credits									
EXIT AWARD: Postgraduate Diploma in Research (Pg. Dip. In Research) 120 credits									

SCQF Level 11									
Module Code	Module Title	Trimester	Credits	Assessment Weighting					
				Cw1	Cw2	Cw3	Exam1 (Exams Office)	Ex2 (Exams Office)	Ex3 (Class Test)
MML321379	Masters Research Project	A-B-C	60	100					
EXIT AWARD: Master of Research (MRes) 180 credits									