

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	Master of Research Social Sciences and Humanities
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 7
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	None
Credit Structure ²	180 Credits at level 7
Mode of Attendance	Full-time and Part-time
Standard Length of Course ³	1 year full-time
Intended Award	MRes Social Sciences and Humanities MRes Social Sciences and Humanities (Childhood) MRes Social Sciences and Humanities (Criminology) MRes Social Sciences and Humanities (Education) MRes Social Sciences and Humanities (History) MRes Social Sciences and Humanities (Psychological Therapies) MRes Social Sciences and Humanities (Psychology)
Named Exit Awards	PgD Social Research PgC Social Research
Entry Requirements ⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be at least 18 years of age on 1 October of the year for which admission is sought. - Have been awarded an undergraduate bachelor's honours degree in a cognate field at 2:2 or equivalent. <p>Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have acquired subject expertise and qualified experience through professional employment that enables the candidate to study successfully at master's level.
Delivering Institution	University of Suffolk

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the Master of Research Social Sciences and Humanities course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 7 in the 2021-2022 academic year⁵.

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

² All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#).

³ Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards](#).

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#) and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the [University's DBS webpage](#).

⁵ The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#).

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Course Summary

The Master of Research (MRes) in Social Sciences and Humanities degree offers students the opportunity to develop essential research skills and expertise that would allow them to pursue further academic careers through a PhD programme or research careers in professional organisations.

Course Aims

- Offer high quality postgraduate training in theories of research, methodologies, and the practice of research.
- Enable students to acquire high-level skills needed to become a confident, professional researcher with a good command of a range of research skills and methods, with a focus on both quantitative and qualitative methods
- Enable students to critically evaluate the application of advanced and alternative approaches, methodologies, and paradigms of research in social sciences and humanities.
- Offer an integrative, dynamic, and flexible programme that critically considers the development in academic study within a discipline of interest from the social sciences and humanities.
- Develop a range of intellectual skills reflecting both the ethos of lifelong learning and the rigour required at Master's level, a high level of student autonomy and self-direction in order to facilitate students to demonstrate initiative and originality, alongside integrity and ethical judgement in advanced scholarship and to become influential and effective specialists in a field of specialism within social sciences and humanities.
- Equip students with the skills needed to design and conduct a high-quality independent research project using any of the main methodologies of the social sciences.

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the MRes Social Sciences and Humanities course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 7 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁶.

1. Detailed, in depth, and critical understanding of various advanced research methodologies and designs, research processes, and ethical aspects related to research, and ability to make connections between methodological assumptions, research design and research findings.
2. Ability to evaluate and critique research methodologies and methods from published research literature and scholarly work.
3. Systematic knowledge, understanding and critical awareness of theories, contemporary issues, and recent developments which are at, or informed by, the forefront of an area of specialism within social sciences and humanities.
4. Ability to clearly construct and communicate oral and written arguments to a high academic standard.
5. Developed skills required to exercise independent learning and to apply these skills to a sophisticated level in planning, managing, conducting, and reporting on an independent piece of high-quality research, working with self-direction and originality.

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks:

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#) [Master of Research Social Sciences and Humanities] (IPLSSH/ISSHMRES21)

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- QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (20082014) - 2014

Course Structure

The Master of Research in Social Sciences and Humanities comprises modules at level 7.

Module Specifications for each of these modules are included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷
Level 7		
Principles of Research	20	M
Systematic Review Methodology	20	M
Advanced Qualitative Research Methodology	20	M
Advanced Quantitative Research Methodology	20	M
Dissertation Project	80	M
Students who want to be awarded a MRes Social Sciences and Humanities should select the following module		
Independent Learning Project	20	O
Students who want to be awarded a MRes Social Sciences and Humanities (pathway) should select a module from an existing Social Sciences and Humanities Masters programme		
<i>[topic specific module from an existing Master programme]</i>	20	O

Optional modules available in any year will be communicated to you prior to your enrolment to facilitate module choice. Some optional modules may not run in every year of study, and the availability of optional modules depends on the level of student demand, the availability of specialist staff and timetabling constraints. In addition, we regularly review our curriculum to ensure it is up-to-date, relevant, draws on the latest research and addresses contemporary issues. As a result, the modules we offer may change over the course of your degree.

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a MRes Social Sciences and Humanities. To be awarded an MRes with a pathway, students will need to have completed an existing MA/MSc module on which the pathway is mapped and complete a Dissertation research project in a cognate subject. If students have completed instead the Independent Learning Project or they have completed an existing MA/MSc module, but their Dissertation research project is not in a cognate subject, they will be awarded the generic MRes Social Sciences and Humanities.

The final type of award will be decided at the final Assessment Board of the course.

Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a PgD Social Research award on successful completion of 120 credits or a PgC Social Research on successful completion of 60 credits.

⁷ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards](#) [Master of Research Social Sciences and Humanities] (IPLSSH/ISSHMRES21)

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Course Delivery

The course is delivered at University of Suffolk – Ipswich Main Campus. Students studying full-time on Master of Research Social Sciences and Humanities are likely to have approximately 38 tutor structured learning activities per module. Tutor structured learning will be a mix of lectures (on campus or online), seminars, workshops, and independent online activities (Brightspace and other digital platforms). Students will normally be expected to undertake 32 hours of independent study in an average week but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. The majority of the assessment on the course will be coursework (including written assignments, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals and research projects) with at least one timed constrained activity.

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute.

Course Costs

Students undertaking MRes Social Sciences and Humanities will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£8,235 per year
Part-time UK	Not applicable
Full-time EU/International	£12,150 per year
Part-time EU/International	Not applicable

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).