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| **UNIT SPECIFICATION**  |
| **Unit title** Dissertation |
| **Level** | Level 7 | Credit value  |  60 (30 ECTS) |
| **Is this a common unit?**  | No | **Expected contact hours for unit** | 30  |
| **Owning Department** | Department of Medical Sciences and Public Health | **Owning Programme** | MSc Public Health |
| **Programme(s) where the unit is delivered**MSc Public Health |
| **Pre and co-requisites**None  |
| AimsThe dissertation unit aims to enable the student to bring together key strands from their learning throughout the programme, and showcase these in a self-managed but supervised study. |
| **Intended learning outcomes (ILOs)**Having successfully completed this unit the student is expected to demonstrate:1. The ability to design and conduct a clearly focused study.
2. Knowledge and appropriate application of a particular methodological approach
3. understanding of appropriate methods of data collection and analysis to address a specific study question,
4. Interpretation and evaluation of information related to specific study aims
5. An understanding of key ethical issues
6. An in-depth, critical, understanding of a topic of relevance to the award.
7. All dissertations should address SDG 3, many submissions will address other SDGs too.

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| **Learning and teaching methods**The unit uses a mix of learning strategies including individual and group learning session with a total contact time of 30 hours.  |
| **Assessment**  |
| **Formative assessment/feedback** Students will be encouraged to develop a study proposal, which will enable their supervisors to provide formative feedback. Formative feedback on written work will be negotiated on an individual basis between supervisors and students. |
| **Summative assessment** | **Indicative assessment** |
| **Assessment** | **ILOs assessed** | **Percentage weightings**  | The dissertation comprises a paper presenting the study which has been undertaken. 6000 words (15,000 words equivalent).The presented paper must include a critical discussion of the background to and rationale for the study, a discussion and justification of the methodological decisions and methods used in the study, a clear statement of the findings, a discussion of these, and the conclusions and rcommendations drawn. The effort required to produce a rigorous and systematic study at this academic level is equivalent to a 15,000 word assignment. The presentation of a 6000 word paper is intended to further develop student's skills in disseminating new knowledge by writing for publication. |
| **Examination** |  |  |
| **Coursework 1** | **ILOs 1 – 7** | **100%** |
| **Coursework 2** |  |  |
| **Indicative unit content**Students will have access to a series of taught sessions and various learning resources related to: common research approaches and study designs, developing a study proposal, ethical issues in research.Specific unit content will be dependent on the methodology and subject of each student’s dissertation and will be facilitated by their supervisor. |
| **Indicative learning resources**Allen, J.E., 2019. *The productive graduate student writer* [online]. Sterling, VA.: Stylus Publishing.Aveyard, H., 2019. *Doing a literature review in health and social care: a practical guide* [online]. 4th edition. London: Open University Press.Blair, L., 2016. *Writing a graduate thesis or dissertation* [online]. Rotterdam: Sense Publishers. Greenfield, T. and Greener, S. 2016. *Research methods for postgraduates* [online]. 3rd edition. Chichester: John Wiley.Hewitt-Taylor, J., 2017. *The essential guide to doing a health and social care literature review* [online]. London: Routledge.Jungmeister, A., 2016. *Innovation and reflexivity in the research process* [online]. Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.Lenz, E.R., Strickland, O.L. and Waltz, C.F., 2017. *Measurement in nursing and health research* [online]. 5th edition. New York, NY.: Springer.McClean, S., Bray, I., de Viggiani, N., Bird, E. and Pilkington, P., 2020 *Research methods in public health*. London: Sage.Roush, K., 2019. *A nurses’ step by step guide to writing a dissertation or scholarly* *project* [online]. 2nd edition. Indianapolis, IN.: Sigma Theta Tau International. |
| **Unit number** |  | **Version number** | 1.0 | **Date Effective from** | Sep 2023 |