

## Module Specification

### Module Summary Information

<b>1</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	Essential Academic Skills for Master's Level Study
<b>2</b>	<b>Module Credits</b>	20 credits
<b>3</b>	<b>Module Level</b>	Level 7
<b>4</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	LBR7559
<b>5</b>	<b>Semester Taught</b>	1 & 2

<b>6</b>	<b>Module Overview</b>
<p>Academic skills are the foundational building blocks we use to successfully communicate our knowledge, demonstrate our understanding, and advance our thinking on any topic. This module is aimed at students who wish to develop these essential skills in order to improve their capabilities and excel at master's level study. You will be facilitated to develop the independent learning and advanced academic scholarship required to support your continuing personal and professional development. This module is tailored to your needs and delivered by nurturing and caring experts in academic skills.</p> <p>This module will explore, practise, and develop the essential skills required for successful master's level study. Structured around skills related to approaching, preparing for, planning, drafting, editing, and delivering academic work, this module will aid the development of skills such as critical thinking, academic writing, presentations, planning, editing and reflection. The module is flexible however, and the precise content is tailored to the needs of students. This approach involves students being active partners in their own development, in both directed and self-directed learning, on which you will receive regular feedback and opportunities to discuss progression with the module team, in order to optimise the development of your academic skills.</p> <p>A blended and flipped learning approach is adopted for this module, where the content is delivered asynchronously online, which is then strengthened, practised, and applied in the live teaching sessions. The skills are then reinforced and honed further through self-directed learning. All these activities form part of the assessment for the module. This is a portfolio assessment that showcases the various skills you have mastered in the module towards the development of an essay, as well as reflections on your academic skills. This demonstrates and critically engages with your development of essential academic skills for master's level study.</p> <p>This module aligns with the Professional Practice Programme philosophy and is designed to be flexible and practice-led. You will have the opportunity to develop skills of enquiry, reflection and problem solving. A blended learning approach is taken in line with the university's learning and teaching strategy. You will be encouraged to think critically and share practice experiences with your fellow students, as well as engaging in both directed and self-directed learning activities. You will be an active partner in your own learning and development and in return you will receive regular feedback and feedforward aimed at developing your academic skills, and have the opportunity to discuss your progress with the module team.</p>	

<b>7</b>	<b>Indicative Content</b>
<p>This module will cover the key academic skills needed for master's level study that relate to six different stages of academic work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Approaching academic work:</b> productive study, reflection, being critical.</li> </ul>	

- **Preparing for academic work:** understanding assignments, learning resources, using evidence critically, reading critically
- **Planning academic work:** structure, planning
- **Drafting academic work:** academic writing, writing critically
- **Editing academic work:** editing and finalising academic work
- **Delivering academic work:** presentations.

8		Module Learning Outcomes
<b>On successful completion of the module, students will be able to:</b>		
1	Critically discuss what constitutes successful academic work at master's level, considering its theoretical underpinning.	
2	Demonstrate academic skills appropriate for master's level work.	
3	Critically reflect on your academic skills to inform your continuing development at master's level.	

9				Module Assessment
Learning Outcome Number (from table 8)	Coursework	Exam	In-Person	
1, 2 and 3	x			

10			Breakdown Learning and Teaching Activities
Learning Activities	Hours	Details of Duration, Frequency and other comments	
<b>Scheduled Learning (SL)</b> includes lectures, practical classes and workshops as specified in timetable	30 hours	2-hour online workshop x 15.	
<b>Directed Learning (DL)</b> includes placements, work-based learning, peer group learning external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning, as directed on VLE	30 hours	2-hour asynchronous content engagement x 13.  4 hours of online tutorials.	
<b>Private Study (PS)</b> includes preparation for exams	140 hours	Wider reading, thinking and practice. Development of portfolio elements.	
<b>Total Study Hours:</b>	200 hours		

11		Key Texts and Online Learning Resources
		No books are recommended as must-purchase titles, due to the individual nature of academic skill development needs and the well-resourced library. The following books are highly recommended and will be used throughout the module:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bonnett, A. (2011) <i>How to Argue</i>, 3<sup>rd</sup> edn. Harlow: Pearson.</li> <li>• Casey, D., Clark, L. and Hayes, S. (2017) <i>Study Skills for Master's Level Students: a reflective approach for health and social care</i>, Banbury: Lantern Publishing.</li> <li>• Chatfield, T. (2017) <i>Critical Thinking</i>, London: Sage.</li> <li>• Egege, S. (2021) <i>Becoming a Critical Thinker</i>, London: Red Globe Press.</li> </ul>

- Graff, G. and Birkenstein, C. (2018) *They Say, I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing*, 4<sup>th</sup> edn. London: W.W. Norton & Company.
- Katz, L. (2018) *Critical Thinking and Persuasive Writing for Postgraduates*, London: Palgrave.
- Mewburn, I., Firth, K. and Lehmann, S. (2019) *How to Fix Your Academic Writing Trouble*, London: Open University Press.
- Read, S.H. (2019) *Academic Writing Skills for International Students*, London: Red Globe Press.
- Samuels, B. and Garbati, J. (2018) *Mastering Academic Writing*, London: Sage.
- Shon, P.C. (2017) *The Quick Guide to Academic Writing: How to Avoid Big Mistakes and Small Errors*, London: Sage.