

## Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	<b>Course Title</b>	Masters by Research (MRes)
2	<b>Course Code</b>	PT1814
3	<b>Awarding Institution</b>	Birmingham City University.
4	<b>Teaching Institution(s)</b> (if different from point 3)	N/A
5	<b>Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation</b> (if applicable)	N/A

6	<b>Course Description</b> (Marketing text for website)
	<p>The Masters by Research (MRes) course is a flexible research-based course designed to provide graduates with a foundation for a career in research, the public/private sector, healthcare or academia (i.e. PhD studies). The purpose is to offer high quality postgraduate training in methods and practice of research and relevant transferable skills that offer a unique learning experience to advance knowledge within your specialist area of either Life Sciences, Sport and Exercise, or Health.</p> <p>The course allows for plenty of opportunities to craft the course to your needs, along with the chance to specialise in an area of choice. You will benefit from being able to work within, and study alongside, a multidisciplinary team of experienced researchers and health professionals. The course is suitable for diverse backgrounds including, but not limited to, sports, medicine, nursing, midwifery, allied health professions, social work, social and natural science, where a research focussed career in Sport and Exercise, Life Sciences, or Health is of interest to you.</p> <p>The course offers three possible routes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Life Sciences</li> <li>2. Sport and Exercise</li> <li>3. Health</li> </ol> <p><b>What's covered in the course?</b></p> <p>Throughout the course you will develop a keen understanding of advanced research methods. This will take you on the journey from an initial research idea and proposal, to embedding research philosophy and contemporary methodologies and analysis within your work. This is geared towards producing a piece of research that could be pursued further at doctoral level, for a publication, or display the relevant skills to be competent within industry, healthcare or the public sector.</p> <p>Given that careers in research are growing, including those in industry, this MRes will prepare you to be able to disseminate complex research to a wide variety of audiences. In addition, you will gain an understanding of how this can be delivered through technology enhanced learning. This aims to try to bridge the gap between researchers and society when trying to ensure evidence-based research-informed practice occurs. In turn, this will allow you to maximise the impact of research dissemination, whilst also ensuring you foster contemporary approaches to scholarship.</p>

	To help build these skills there are opportunities to work in hand with industry through our wide range of industrial, educational, and healthcare partners, something which will enhance your future employability or potential for progression. This will primarily be housed at our recently extended campus in Edgbaston, Birmingham, which contains state-of-the-art facilities to support you with your research.
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<b>7</b>	<b>Course Awards</b>		
<b>7a</b>	<b>Name of Final Award</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Credits Awarded</b>
	Masters by Research	Level 7	180
<b>7b</b>	<b>Exit Awards and Credits Awarded</b>		
	PGCert in Health Sciences Research	Level 7	60

<b>8</b>	<b>Variation from the University Regulations</b>
	N/A

<b>9</b>	<b>Delivery Patterns</b>			
	<b>Mode(s) of Study</b>	<b>Location(s) of Study</b>	<b>Duration of Study</b>	<b>Code(s)</b>
	Full Time	City South	1 year	PT1814

<b>10</b>	<b>Entry Requirements</b>	
	<b>Home:</b>	<i>The admission requirements for this course are stated on the course page of the BU website, available here: <a href="https://www.bcu.ac.uk/courses/mres-health-sciences-2024-25#entry_requirements">https://www.bcu.ac.uk/courses/mres-health-sciences-2024-25#entry_requirements</a></i>
	<b>EU:</b>	<i>IELTS 6.5 overall with 6.0 minimum in all bands, or equivalent</i>
	<b>International:</b>	<i>IELTS 6.5 overall with 6.0 minimum in all bands, or equivalent</i>
	<b>Access:</b>	N/A
<b>11</b>	<b>Course Aims</b>	
	<i>The Masters by Research (MRes) course aims to provide graduates with a foundation for a career in research, the public/private sector, healthcare or academia (i.e. doctoral level study). The purpose is to offer high quality postgraduate training in methods, funding, and practice of research, as well as relevant transferable skills that offer a unique learning experience to advance knowledge within your specialist area of: Life Sciences, Sport and Exercise Sciences, or Health Sciences.</i>	

<b>12</b>	<b>Course Learning Outcomes</b>	
	<b>Knowledge and Understanding</b>	
<b>1</b>	Demonstrate a mastery of your specialist area through in-depth knowledge and critical awareness of current research and contemporary issues	
<b>2</b>	Design an original, feasible and novel research proposal within your specialist area	
<b>3</b>	Demonstrate critical thinking and analysis and evaluate the most appropriate research designs and methodologies to your specialist area	
<b>5</b>	Demonstrate comprehensive research skills and the ability to carry out the appropriate methods within your specialist area	

<b>6</b>	Conduct a substantial piece of independent research which shows evidence of original thinking and has demonstrated the potential to be developed at a doctoral level
	<b>Skills and Other Attributes</b>
<b>1</b>	Apply reflective practice to show the importance of continued independent learning and professional development
<b>2</b>	Apply innovative and appropriate technology to disseminate complex research to a wide variety of audiences in your specialist area

<b>13</b>	<b>Level Learning Outcomes</b>
	<b><i>Upon completion of 60 credits at Level 7 / the PG Cert, students will:</i></b>
<b>1</b>	<i>Have a comprehensive understanding of knowledge, skills, methods and techniques applicable research methods in Health, Life Sciences, and Sport and Exercise.</i>
<b>2</b>	<i>Have the ability to design and disseminate research to a variety of audiences through the use of technology enhanced learning and digital scholarship, within Health Life Sciences, or Sport and Exercise.</i>
	<b><i>Upon completion of 180 credits at Level 7 / the MRes, students will:</i></b>
<b>1</b>	<i>Have a systematic/expert understanding of the key aspects of a particular topic in Health, Life Sciences, or Sport and Exercise, including acquisition of coherent and detailed knowledge.</i>
<b>2</b>	<i>Possess originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques/methods of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline of Health, Life Sciences, or Sport and Exercise.</i>
<b>3</b>	<i>Have a conceptual understanding that enables the student to devise and sustain arguments, solve problems, make decisions and inform and integrate research in Health, Life Sciences, or Sport and Exercise.</i>

<b>14</b>	<b>Course Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy</b>
	<p><i>This section explains the learning and teaching approaches, activities and experiences that this course will offer; the range of assessments and types of feedback and feed forward you will encounter and explain how these will support continuous learning throughout the course and explain the expectations in this learning partnership.</i></p> <p><i>During the MRes course, students will experience a range of learning and teaching approaches delivered in-person, online, in both a synchronous and an asynchronous manner, as well as independent research. They will attend lectures, seminars, and tutorials, engaging with their peers and members of the teaching team. Students can access the learning materials via the University's Virtual Learning Environment – Moodle, Microsoft Teams and other means subject to the modules undertaken.</i></p> <p><i>In addition to the scheduled teaching, students will be given directed learning activities pre and/or post classroom activities and they will be expected to undertake any reading required e.g., access to journal articles, funding agencies, policy documents or guidelines. They will also be expected to spend a significant amount of time on their own independent study to give them the opportunity to explore, develop, and shape their research journey.</i></p> <p><i>It is expected that students will fully engage with all of the resources available to them to maximise their learning opportunities. The library will play a key role in the learning journey and students will receive both written and verbal guidance regarding accessing and utilising library resources. In addition to the course leader, students will have access to various staff members throughout their learning journey. Each of the modules is led by a module lead and students will be encouraged to discuss any specific issues regarding the module with them as required, in addition to a dissertation supervisor, who the student will be expected to work closely with in developing and completing their research.</i></p>

*Students will be guided on the assessment/s associated with each module to ensure they are clear of the expectations for successful completion. Students will be exposed to a range of assessment tasks including research proposals, digital scholarship, coursework, funding applications, dissertation, and viva voce examination.*

*The course leader, module lead and dissertation supervisor are all available via e-mail, teams or by telephone.*

**15 Course Requirements**

**15a Level 7:**

***In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 180 credits):***

<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Module Name</b>	<b>Credit Value</b>
RES7005	Digital Scholarship and Research Development	20
RES7007	Advanced Research Methods	40
RES7011	Masters by Research Dissertation	120

<b>15b Structure Diagram</b>
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**Full-time**

**Level 7**

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO	SEMESTER THREE
Masters by Research Dissertation (120 credits)		
Digital Scholarship and Research Development (20 credits) *		
Advanced Research Methods (40 credits) *		

**\*Credits combined entitle the individual to a PGCert in Health Research**

**Part-time**

**Level 7**

**Year one**

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO	SEMESTER THREE
Masters by Research Dissertation (120 credits)		
Advanced Research Methods (40 credits) *		
Digital Scholarship and Research Development (20 credits) *		

**Year two**

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO	SEMESTER THREE
Masters by research Dissertation (120 credits)		

**\*Credits combined entitle the individual to a PGCert in Health Research**

<b>16</b>	<b>Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment</b>
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Overall student *workload* consists of class contact hours, independent learning and assessment activity, with each credit taken equating to a total study time of around 10 hours. While actual contact hours may depend on the optional modules selected, the following information gives an indication of how much time students will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

- *Scheduled Learning* includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, contact time specified in timetable
- *Directed Learning* includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning
- *Private Study* includes preparation for exams

The *balance of assessment* by mode of assessment (e.g. coursework, exam and in-person) depends to some extent on the optional modules chosen by students. The approximate percentage of the course assessed by coursework, exam and in-person is shown below.

### Level 7

#### Workload

##### 8% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	76 (4%)
Directed Learning	409 (23%)
Private Study	1315 (73%)
<b>Total Hours</b>	1800

#### Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	87
Exam	0
In-Person	13