

Module Details	
Module Title:	Critical Appraisal
Module Code:	LIS7022-B
Academic Year:	2019-20
Credit Rating:	20
School:	Life Sciences (Faculty-wide)
Subject Area:	Life Sciences (Faculty-wide)
FHEQ Level:	FHEQ Level 7 (Masters)
Pre-requisites:	
Co-requisites:	

Contact Hours	
Type	Hours
Lectures	1
Tutorials	14
Directed Study	185

Availability	
Occurrence	Location / Period
BDA	University of Bradford / Semester 1 (Sep - Jan)

Module Aims
To provide the opportunity for students to: Autonomously plan, undertake and report, orally and in writing, a comprehensive analysis of a topic at the forefront of research in their chosen programme specialisation. Develop a critical awareness and a comprehensive understanding of research being undertaken by other scientists in a specific topic.

Outline Syllabus
Introduction to critical appraisal. Techniques for critical analysis. Introduction to the library,

literature searching, Turnitin and plagiarism awareness, preparing libraries and bibliographies using Endnote.

Independent study supported by an individual academic supervisor to conduct research on your selected topic. Presentation of a seminar, attendance at seminars presented by other students and contribution in the form of questions and discussion.

Learning Outcomes

1	Plan and implement autonomously a critical appraisal of a selected area of previously reported research.
2	Apply critical thinking and analytical skills to explain and critically evaluate scientific data and literature in a specialist subject area.
3	Understand research and scientific methods.
4	Apply effective written communication skills to produce an extended piece of scientific writing in the format of a review article.
5	Develop literature searching skills using electronic databases.
6	Plan, organise and manage an extensive literature search at the forefront of knowledge.
7	Work co-operatively with a supervisor to manage work, objectives and responsibilities.
8	Demonstrate effective oral communication skills to produce and deliver an oral presentation, and contribute to discussions on presentations.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

Each student will choose a topic of interest relevant to their selected programme specialism from an extended list at the beginning of the semester, then plan, undertake and report on this topic. The emphasis is on developing learner autonomy as students conduct individual research, consulting and reviewing recent papers in the scientific literature, supported by an academic member of staff who acts as a supervisor for their topic, providing guidance and advice on the research area through 1-1 tutorials.

Introductory lectures and workshops at the beginning of the module introduce the research, literature analysis and IT skills required to complete the learning outcomes. Students will be supported by supervisors to plan their literature search and essay. A full draft of the essay will be produced in the middle of the semester for formative feedback, before summative assessment of the essay at the end of the module. Students will also have the opportunity to receive formative feedback on their presentation before summative assessment at the end of the module.

The module is assessed by production of an extended essay (LO1-7) and delivering a presentation on the topic (LO2, 8).

Mode of Assessment

Type	Method	Description	Length	Weighting
Summative	Presentation	Powerpoint presentation of essay	15 minutes	15%

		topic		
Formative	Coursework	Draft essay	0-5000 words	%
Summative	Coursework	Extended essay critically appraising a selected topic	0-5000 words	85%

Reading List

To access the reading list for this module, please visit <https://bradford.rl.talis.com/index.html>.

Please note:

This module descriptor has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but minor changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Upon commencement of the module, students will receive a handbook with further detail about the module and any changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.