

**MODULE CODE:** CYCS7014  
**TITLE:** Study and Research Methodology  
**DATED:** 16/07/2012

**MODULE CO-ORDINATOR:** Dr Jane Cartwright  
**LEVEL:** 7  
**CREDITS:** 20

**TEACHING METHODS:**

<b>Distance learning:</b>	<b>100%</b>
<i>Directed learning</i>	<b>90%</b>
<i>E-mail, Skype, phone</i>	
<i>and/or face-to-face tutorials</i>	<b>10%</b>

**JACS CODE:** Q561

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### **AIM(S)**

- To provide postgraduate students with an induction course which will cover the necessary study and research skills required throughout their MA programme, including honing their academic writing skills and acknowledging bibliographical sources.

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

By the end of this module students should be able to:

- produce well-written, coherent, intelligent and informative pieces of writing;
- demonstrate that they can write in a concise and disciplined style;
- demonstrate that they have an advanced knowledge of how to plan an essay and acknowledge primary and secondary sources correctly;
- critically evaluate and appraise relevant secondary sources (including book publications and web-based sources).

### **CONTENT**

- This module will re-introduce students to academic writing, help hone their writing technique and equip them with the necessary skills to complete their postgraduate course successfully. It will focus on a series of useful study and research skills and encourage students to write in a structured and disciplined fashion.
- Students will be encouraged to read broadly in the field of Celtic Studies and select a recently published academic volume for review. They will be required to appraise the publication critically and produce a well-balanced and well-structured review imagining that they are aiming to send their review to a particular academic journal.
- Students will survey the use of encyclopaedias in academic research and be required to write an informative and concise encyclopaedia entry adhering strictly to the style of the encyclopaedia identified.

- Students will then be provided with an essay title and will be required to research the topic, compile a full bibliography following *The MA in Celtic Studies' Reference Guide* and provide a brief essay plan indicating how the essay would be structured and the main points it would cover.
- Web sources are becoming increasingly essential to the effective researcher. However, whilst many websites are useful academic tools, others are potentially hazardous to the research student. Students are required to survey a range of websites in their academic area and produce a critical evaluation of five relevant websites that they may use, or may have used, during the course of their postgraduate studies. They will be encouraged to compare and contrast the five sites, discussing their reliability, academic credentials, potential pitfalls and ease of use, as well as their strengths.

## ASSESSMENT

<b>Coursework</b>	<b>100%</b>
Book review (1,250 words)	25%
Encyclopaedia article (1,250 words)	25%
Essay plan and bibliography (1,250 words)	25%
Review of five websites (1,250 words)	25%

### *Example of assignments:*

A review of Patrick Sims-Williams, *Irish Influence on Medieval Welsh Literature*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011 for *Studia Celtica*.

An encyclopaedia entry on 'Bendigeidfran' for John Davies *et al.* (eds), *The Welsh Academy Encyclopaedia of Wales*, Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 2008.

Provide an essay plan and bibliography following *The MA in Celtic Studies' Reference Guide* for the following essay title: 'Are the Druids rightly described as the 'religious class' of the early Celtic world?'

Critically evaluate five websites relevant to researching a particular topic in the field of Celtic Studies.

This lecture note on research methodology is primarily aimed at health science students. It is also hoped to be useful for other individuals who would like to understand the basic principles and undertake health research. There is a strong belief that it will serve as a guideline for undergraduate health science students as they are required to identify the most important health problems and carry out some research work. This will facilitate the smooth conduct of the research and increases the chance that the results of the study will be implemented. 5. Applicability of possible results and recommendations Is it likely that the recommendations from the study will be applied?