The Research Project

Module Lead: Dr Philip Cox

Term: Spring - Summer

Level / Credits: Level 7 / 80 Credits

Module status: Core Module

This module will allow you to undertake an in-depth project in a topic related to human evolution. You will be encouraged to choose a subject from the research areas of members of tutorial staff (currently including mammalian hard tissue biology, development of ontogeny, geometric morphometrics, functional morphology, imaging techniques, primate biogeography, morphology-behaviour-ecology interfaces, palaeoenvironments, nutritional and reproductive adaptations).

With the support of two tutors, you will review the recent and significant literature, formulate a research question, write a detailed project proposal, undertake original research (which can include projects based on systematic review of the current literature / re-analysis of existing datasets), write up your research in a 15,000 word dissertation and present your major findings as a 15-minute presentation.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this module, you should be able to show that you can:

1. Undertake a detailed literature review with a given topic and synthesise and critically evaluate this literature.
2. Formulate a research question.
3. Design a research project within a scientific framework.
4. Collect or collate and statistically analyse appropriate data.
5. Interpret research findings, and put them into context with existing knowledge on similar topics.
6. Evaluate research findings and recognise the limitations of your approach.
7. Present research findings in a coherent, structured and scientific manner, in both written and verbal forms.
8. Defend research findings to peers and others.
9. Present a detailed, critical and sophisticated account of a given topic within human evolution.
10. Manage time effectively.

Module Aims

The aims of this module are:

a) To provide the student with experience of conducting independent research, from formulating a research question to presenting findings in written and spoken form;
b) To give the student an opportunity to study a topic related to human evolution in great depth.
## Module Workload / Assessments

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<tr>
<th>Self-Directed Learning:</th>
<th>540 hours, including data collection and analysis, background reading, question formulation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment:</td>
<td>Project proposal and literature review - 20%</td>
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<td>Project Presentation – 10%</td>
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<td>Dissertation – 70%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>11 hours (2 hours introductory workshop, 2 hours first DAP, 2 hours second DAP, 5 hours tutorial)</td>
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