

Programme Specification

Part 1: Basic Data			
Primary Programme Title	Master of Research in Sport and Exercise Science		
Target Award Titles	Mode and Typical Duration of Study	Professional Accrediting Body Links	Study Abroad / Exchange / Credit Recognition
MRes Sport and Exercise Science	Full-time 1 or 2 years Part-time 1, 2 or 3 years	N/A	N/A
Interim Award Titles	Postgraduate Award in Sport Studies Postgraduate Certificate in Research Methods (Sport and Exercise) Postgraduate Certificate in Sport Studies Postgraduate Diploma in Sport and Exercise Research Methods		
Teaching Delivery Method	Mixed		
Awarding Institution	Hartpury University		
Teaching Institution	Hartpury University		
Delivery Location	Hartpury		
Department Responsible for Programme	Sport		
Unit-E Code	MRTSSESX		
Entry Criteria Information	Applicants will have achieved entry criteria appropriate for the stage of entry, which can be found through the Hartpury website (www.hartpury.ac.uk).		
Most Recent Validation Date	28 February 2025	Due for Re-validation By	01 September 2030
Amendment Approval Date		Approved With Effect From	V4.0 - 01 September 2025
Professional Accrediting Body Approval Date	N/A	Date for Re-accreditation	N/A
Version	4.0		

Part 2: Programme Overview

Graduates from the MRes Sport and Exercise Science have developed a deeper understanding of the core principles of research as well as the ability to conduct research within the area of sport and exercise. Graduates understand how to work with others (e.g. through industry collaboration or academic partnership) to develop an applied research project that demonstrates novelty, rigour and significance, with potential real-world impact.

By engaging in a significant research project, together with completing specialist taught modules in their chosen area, graduates have developed a range of specialised research skills and applied these within practice. Graduates have benefitted from Hartpury's fantastic sport and exercise science facilities and professional sports network. Graduates have wider transferable skills such as communication, self-management, and planning. They are equipped with many skills needed for level 8 study or for entering the professional field.

Part 3: Programme Structure

This structure diagram demonstrates the student journey from enrolment through to graduation for a typical **full time student on the primary programme**, including:

- Level and credit requirements.
- Award requirements that are in addition to those described in the Hartpury University Academic Regulations.
- Module diet, including core and optional modules.

Please note:

*PAB these modules are subject to additional and variant regulations as part of an accreditation by a professional accrediting body

+ core modules marked + are not eligible for compensation

¹ these modules are accredited by a professional awarding body, but are not subject to variant regulations

^{AV} these modules are subject to additional and variant regulations but are not accredited by a professional awarding body

	Core Modules	Optional Modules	Target and Interim Awards
Stage 1	<p>HSPVJ5-30-7 + Applying Sport and Exercise Research</p> <p>HANVME-90-7 + Extended Postgraduate Research Project</p> <p>HANXKT-15-7 The Research Process</p>	<p>Level 7 validated Hartpury Sport modules.</p> <p>Module enrolment is subject to Programme Manager or Module Leader approval that the student has sufficient contextual knowledge to succeed.</p>	<p><u>Postgraduate Award in Sport Studies</u></p> <p><u>PG Cert Research Methods (Sport and Exercise)</u> This must include Applying Sport and Exercise Research and The Research Process.</p> <p><u>PG Cert Sport Studies</u></p> <p><u>PG Dip Sport Studies</u></p> <p><u>PG Dip Sport and Exercise Research Methods</u> This must include Applying Sport and Exercise Research and Extended Postgraduate Research Project.</p> <p><u>Master of Research in Sport and Exercise Science</u> This must include all core modules.</p>

Part time:

The part time student journey from entry through to graduation is individually negotiated with the student.

Part 4: Programme Learning Outcomes

Modules in bold are core modules and modules not emboldened are optional modules.

A denotes a module that assesses a learning outcome and B denotes a module aligned with a learning outcome.

	Extended Postgraduate Research Project	The Research Process	Applying Sport and Exercise Research
Learning Outcomes:			
A) Knowledge and Understanding:			
1. A broad knowledge and understanding of relevant theories, concepts and research paradigms, and a critical awareness of problems associated with their chosen specialist area of sport and exercise science.	A		A
2. An understanding of philosophical, methodological, ethical, equality and diversity, inclusion, and sustainability issues underpinning scientific research within the field of sport and exercise science.	A	B	A
3. An advanced knowledge and understanding of theoretical and practical scientific methodology to enable them to be competent in designing research and facilitating applied research projects within the field of sport and exercise science, including data interpretation and analysis, scientific writing, and presentation and dissemination of research findings.	A	A	A
B) Intellectual Skills:			
1. Demonstrate critical evaluation of research methodologies and methodological concepts appropriate to the individual's specialism within sport and exercise science.	A	A	A

2. Demonstrate an ability to craft a research question, develop a research design, and to plan for practical, methodological, and ethical problems within the field of sport and exercise science.	A	B	A
3. Show evaluation of best practices and apply these to successfully propose solutions to sport and exercise science problems in the context of their individual research project.	A		A
4. Evidence the ability to articulate the originality, rigour and significance of an independent research study compared to contemporary research.	A		A
C) Performance and Practice			
1. Demonstrate project management skills from initial research conception to a successful conclusion.	A		A
2. Demonstrate proficiency in appropriate quantitative or qualitative analysis utilised within sport and exercise science, as required for their chosen research area.	A	B	A
3. Display confident practical competence in the use of technical equipment related to their chosen specialism with sport and exercise science.	A		A
4. Show an ability to consider the views and requirements of key stakeholders in the design and dissemination stages of a research project	A		A
D) Setting, Personal and Enabling Skills			
1. Articulate different research and knowledge exchange strategies to communicate key findings from a research project to enhance its reach and potential impact to a wide range of individuals.	A	B	A
2. Critically reflect on their own academic, vocational and professional performance, including understanding the factors that have influenced this.	A		A
3. Utilise problem-solving skills in a variety of theoretical and practical situations and show foresight in identifying potential setbacks and how these will be proactively solved or reacted to.	B		A

Part 5: Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Journey

The Master of Research in Sport and Exercise Science programme is designed to develop students in research methods that are commonly used within the sport and exercise industry, and then enable them to apply these skills within an independent piece of research. The teaching is a mix of online, on-site and placement learning (if selected), with substantial amounts of independent research and study time required. Online learning is common across the core modules within the programme and this provision will be predominantly through synchronous means, although some content will utilise asynchronous sessions. This places a distinct emphasis on supporting the development of autonomous learning. Depending on the choices made, the optional modules could be offered on-site via classroom learning. This might include a combination of lectures, seminars and practicals. The Postgraduate Industry Placement Experience optional module may include some onsite schedule learning, with students also expected to engage in an approved work placement(s). They will be supported within this module by an individual placement tutor.

Students will be expected to engage in a significant amount of independent study during this programme. Successful completion of the programme will be dependent on undertaking the required amount of independent learning, via a combination of individual and group activities, to ensure that students remain engaged with their programme while not on campus. The group activities are designed to enable peer interaction and build a sense of community for the students. Furthermore, during these learning activities, students will be required to assimilate complex theories and concepts to solve real world problems and advance current scientific thinking within the field of sport and exercise science. Students are therefore able to positively contribute to the evolving sport and exercise industry through their work. Engagement with the wider sport and exercise research community at Hartpury will further enhance these skills and develop research confidence which may open up the opportunity for research dissemination by publication in peer reviewed literature and / or conference attendance.

Online learning throughout delivery of the programme will be supported by the virtual learning environment (VLE) and a variety of media. This will facilitate learning in a variety of synchronous and asynchronous modes, whilst supporting international recruitment and students seeking more flexible learning opportunities, potentially due to ongoing work commitments. With access to a range of academic journals online, and software to enhance learning, there is opportunity for those individuals currently working in industry to fully engage with the research process whilst immersing themselves in 'live' research that is externally driven, or for those that may wish to work collaboratively with an industry partner through the Hartpury Sports Business Hub.

In order to support students progressing onto study at Level 7, students will receive a detailed induction and tutorial support (either in person or online) to ensure they develop appropriate skills and depth of knowledge. Students will be allocated subject specialist tutors for modules and research supervision as appropriate. The flexibility of the regularity and mode of support will ensure all students, regardless of location or academic experience, will be supported.

Assessment throughout the programme has been designed to assess the student's ability to apply theoretical principles and philosophies to practice to resolve and make an impact on real world issues within their specialised field of sport and exercise science. As such, students could see their research outcomes informing future practice and

Part 5: Learning, Teaching and Assessment

creating new knowledge for their chosen field of sport and exercise. This will be achieved via a wide variety of assessment methods, including research reports, presentations, oral defence and a thesis for the independent research project. Assessments will focus on skill development, including the appropriate use of media, methods of communication and negotiation. This will be facilitated through formative group tasks, activities both in person, on site and online, and engagement with academic and industry professionals within the student's area of study. Development of research skills and autonomy in learning will be crucial for the successful graduate from this programme, with independent learning inherent within all assessment. Students can expect ongoing feedback and feedforward from their nominated research supervisor to develop and refine skills to enable research to have maximal impact. Students will be expected to independently research topics thoroughly, produce rigorous research methods and conduct comprehensive literature reviews to inform future developments.

On completion of the programme, students will be expected to be autonomous learners, able to enter doctorate level study or appropriate employment within the sport and exercise sector. The assessment strategy has been designed to promote effective learning and engagement and to ensure that student knowledge, understanding, abilities and skills required for this programme can be comprehensively evaluated. Each application will be considered on an individual basis considering learning and assessment needs. For further information regarding this please refer to the VLE.

This programme will be assessed according to the approved Academic Regulations.

Students registered on this programme will have access to the Hartpury University support services.

The distinctive module used by the Programme Examination Board to inform recommending differential awards for students when considering borderline performance profiles will be:

Extended Postgraduate Research Project

Professional Accrediting Body documents to which this programme is mapped and or aligned: None

Assessment Map									
		Type of Assessment*							
		Coursework	Report	Portfolio	Written Examination	Written Test	Practical Skills Examination	Practical Skills Assessment	Oral Assessment
Core Modules Stage 1	The Research Process	A (90) Coursework		B (10) Coursework Portfolio					
	Extended Postgraduate Research Project		A1(30) Literature Review A2 (50) Project Report						A3 (20) Oral Assessment
	Applying Sport and Exercise Research						A (100) Oral Examination		
Optional Modules	The assessment mode will depend on the choice of option module selected.								
<p>*Indicative assessment types for new students enrolling on this programme after the date this specification takes effect (Part 1) are shown in terms of either Coursework, Written Examination, or Practical Examination as indicated by the colour coding above.</p> <p>This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of individual modules can be found through Hartpury's website (www.hartpury.ac.uk).</p>									

Approved Programme Amendment Log

Primary Programme Title:	Master of Research in Sport and Exercise Science (award was Masters in Research until V2.0)
Programme Code:	MRTSSESX
Initial Approval Date:	01 December 2021

Changes: *Most recent at the top of the page*

Current version number: 3.0	
Outline Change Details: Part 2: Programme Overview: modifications to Programme Overview. Part 3: Programme Structure: modifications to Programme Structure for what modules should be included for core and target awards. Part 4: Modifications to Programme Learning Outcomes to more accurately reflect content within the module and the Hartpury Academic Framework. Part 5: Learning, Teaching and Assessment - Learning, Teaching and Assessment Journey updated.	
Do the changes presented alter the mapping against the Hartpury University Curriculum Framework (delete as appropriate)? Yes If yes, please provide the details of the changes: Updated for accuracy.	
Material Alteration: No	
Rationale: Changes have been made to the programme to ensure the learning outcomes and language throughout the document more appropriately reflects the nature of the degree.	
Change requested by: Ben Drury I can confirm that student representatives have been consulted about this change I can confirm that colleagues impacted by this change have been consulted I have retained evidence of these consultations, which will be summarized within the Programme Enhancement Report	
Signature: Ben Drury	Date: 14.11.24
Name of Head of Department: Sarah Lee I confirm that this change does not require additional resources beyond the scope of those already present or planned for by the department	
Signature: Sarah Lee	Date: 18.11.24
Approval Committee and Date:	CSP Chair's action 2025 02 28 (from CSP 2024 11 19)
Change approved with effect from:	01 September 2025
Resulting new version number:	4.0

Current version number: 2.2	
Outline Change Details: Part 5: Assessment Map – assessment for core modules updated in line with module amendments. The Research Process changed from Oral Presentation with Questions and Coursework to Coursework and Coursework Portfolio; Applying Sport and Exercise Research changed from Poster Defence and Report to Oral Examination.	
Do the changes presented alter the mapping against the Hartpury University Curriculum Framework (delete as appropriate)? No	

Material Alteration: Yes and is accompanied by the relevant course information document.	
Rationale: Requirement to write a research proposal has been removed from The Research Process since this duplicates the work students will be undertaking in the Applied Research Practice and dissertation module. Instead students will be better scaffolded, via two summative assessments, in their critical analysis of research methodologies.	
Change requested by: Ben Brilot I can confirm that student representatives have been consulted about this change I can confirm that colleagues impacted by this change have been consulted I have retained evidence of these consultations, which will be summarized within the Programme Enhancement Report	
Signature:	B Brilot Date: 26/04/24
Name of Head of Department: Sarah Lee I confirm that this change does not require additional resources beyond the scope of those already present or planned for by the department	
Signature:	Sarah Lee Date: 23.04.24
Approval Committee and Date:	CVC 2024 07 16
Change approved with effect from:	01 September 2024
Resulting new version number:	3.0

Current version number: 2.1	
Outline Change Details: Part 3: Programme Structure - optional module Postgraduate Independent Study updated from HANVL4-15-7 to HEQVSN-15-7, in line with module amendment.	
Do the changes presented alter the mapping against the Hartpur University Curriculum Framework (delete as appropriate)? No	
Material Alteration: No	
Rationale: As programmes taking this module have altered the department responsible has moved to ensure they have actual insight into the module and can effectively manage it.	
Change requested by: Ben Brilot I can confirm that student representatives have been consulted about this change I can confirm that colleagues impacted by this change have been consulted I have retained evidence of these consultations, which will be summarized within the Programme Enhancement Report	
Signature:	B Brilot Date:05/03/24
Name of Head of Department: Sarah Lee I confirm that this change does not require additional resources beyond the scope of those already present or planned for by the department; OR;	
Signature:	Sarah Lee Date: 06.03.24
Approval Committee and Date:	CSP Chair's Action 2024 03 21
Change approved with effect from:	01 September 2024
Resulting new version number:	2.2

Current version number: 2.0	
Outline Change Details: Parts 1 and 3: Interim awards updated to include the new PG Cert Research Methods (Sport and Exercise).	
Material Alteration: No	
Rationale:	

To ensure accuracy and include requested new addition PG Cert RM (Sport and Exercise)	
Change requested by: Jane Williams I can confirm that student representatives have been consulted about this change I can confirm that colleagues impacted by this change have been consulted I have retained evidence of these consultations, which will be summarized within the Programme Enhancement Report	
Signature: Jane Williams Date: 19/4/22	
Name of Head of Department: Sarah Lee I confirm that this change does not require additional resources beyond the scope of those already present or planned for by the department	
Signature: Sarah Lee Date: 28.04.22	
Approval Committee and Date:	CVC Deputy Chair's action 2022 06 22
Change approved with effect from:	01 September 2022
Resulting new version number:	2.1

Current version number: 1.0	
Outline Change Details: Award title changed from Masters in Research to Master of Research Parts 3, 4 and 5: HANVME-90-7 Extended Postgraduate Research Project replaces HANVL6-120-7 Extended Postgraduate Dissertation; HSPVHV-15-7 Sport and Exercise Placement Experience removed as optional module. Parts 1 and 3: interim awards updated to include Postgraduate Diploma in Sport and Exercise Research Methods and the new 30 credit Postgraduate Award in Sport Studies.	
Material Alteration: Yes and is accompanied by the relevant course information document.	
Rationale: Award title changed in line with sector norms to reflect the advanced level taught award.	
Change requested by: Sarah Lee I can confirm that student representatives have been consulted about this change I can confirm that colleagues impacted by this change have been consulted I have retained evidence of these consultations, which will be summarized within the Programme Enhancement Report	
Signature: S Lee Date: 28/01/2022	
Name of Head of Department: Sarah Lee <input type="checkbox"/> I confirm that this change does not require additional resources beyond the scope of those already present or planned for by the department	
Signature: S Lee Date: 28/01/2022	
Approval Committee and Date:	Refresh Approval Panel action 2022 03 21
Change approved with effect from:	01 September 2022
Resulting new version number:	2.0

Current version number: 0	
Outline Change Details: New programme	
Approval Committee and Date:	CVC Chair's action 2021 12 01
Change approved with effect from:	01 September 2022
Resulting new version number:	1.0