

Master of Science Gerontology and Global Ageing, awarded by University of Stirling

Module Title	Description
<p>Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Ageing</p>	<p>This 20-credit module is an introduction to ageing from an interdisciplinary perspective that underpins the MSc in Gerontology and Global Ageing. The module will reflect an integrated approach to the process of growing older covering the major theoretical frameworks related to human ageing and its biological, psychological and sociocultural aspects. Key contributions from a range of disciplines to the science of ageing will be examined and the growing trend towards cross-disciplinary perspectives and methods in research on ageing and older age will be highlighted. These gerontological frameworks and empirical evidence will be used to consider selected issues and problems of ageing individuals, their families, environments and communities. The focal topics to be introduced from (inter)disciplinary perspectives will serve as a theoretical platform for further consideration of these areas in the content of modules to be taken in subsequent semesters of the MSc.</p> <p>You'll explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the history of the field of gerontology and its sub-fields • principal biological, psychological and social science concepts and theories of ageing • disciplinary paradigms and methodological approaches to studying ageing • retirement, health, leisure, living environments and other key topics through the lens of gerontology policy and practice implications of (inter)disciplinary approaches to ageing and later life
<p>Research Methods in the Social Sciences</p>	<p>This 20-credit module, also offered to students in other programmes in the Faculty of Social Sciences, is an introduction to research methods, theories, techniques and ethics. The module will draw on a breadth of research methods topics (e.g. theories of knowing, qualitative methods, quantitative methods, mixed methods, ethics, and user involvement). The module will be informed by relevant research methods readings, which are common across subjects, and also have specific gerontology and global ageing research readings, which accompany the module.</p> <p>You'll explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an introduction to research • identifying and critically engaging in research literature • methods, methodology and knowledge construction • choosing methods: qualitative, quantitative, mixed-methods (including design, data collection and analysis of a small number of methodologies) • research ethics • sampling • user involvement/engagement in research design
<p>A Lifecourse Approach to Healthy Ageing</p>	<p>This 20-credit module is considers ageing from a lifecourse perspective that highlights key factors associated with differential health and well-being outcomes in older age. The module reflects a developmental approach to the process of healthy ageing covering the major theoretical frameworks related to lifecourse trajectories of health. Key contributions from a range of disciplines and longitudinal cohort studies will be examined to illustrate the malleability of health across life stages, from in utero through later life. Principal lifecourse frameworks and evidence will be used to consider selected issues for older adults' health and well-being, and the relevance of a lifecourse perspective to healthy ageing for policy and practice for all ages.</p> <p>You'll explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key concepts and theoretical frameworks of lifecourse approaches to health • Lifecourse epidemiology and the development of a lifecourse approach to healthy ageing • Birth cohort studies and longitudinal ageing studies as resources for healthy ageing research • The impact of social inequalities and other health risk factors through the lifecourse health lens

<p>An Integrated Approach to Frailty</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy and practice implications of a lifecourse approach to healthy ageing <p>Taking an assets-based approach to frailty appears contradictory in the knowledge that frailty is the most common condition leading to death among the population of people aged over 80. Yet, we know that frailty is not an inevitable consequence of ageing and can be delayed or prevented. This module will enable students to understand the experiences of the frail older person in a range of cultures and contexts and to reflect on assessment, prevention and enabling interventions.</p> <p>Topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • medical and social gerontological perspectives on frailty • the assessment of frailty in the older patient • care pathways for frailty • optimising function in persons with frailty and frailty prevention • frailty as a global condition • the lived experience of frailty
<p>Living with Dementia</p>	<p>In this module, students are afforded the opportunity to explore, examine and reflect on the experiences of people with dementia through the lifespan of the condition from diagnosis to end of life care and death. Examples are drawn from a wide range of groups and individuals to illustrate diversity in the experiences of people with dementia. The module focuses on the lived experiences of people with dementia and draws on the increasing amount of research literature that engages directly with people with dementia and their carers. The responses of individuals, families and communities to dementia are explored and how these responses impact on the experiences of the person with dementia are examined.</p> <p>The module aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explore the experiences of people with dementia and their carers in their journey through the condition from diagnosis to end of life • examine the diversity in the experiences of people with dementia, their carers and families • reflect on the response to dementia by individuals, families and communities and to consider their experiences within different cultures • evaluate service responses and policy frameworks for people with dementia, families and communities.
<p>Multimorbidity in the Older Person</p>	<p>Multimorbidity means the presence of two or more co-occurring diseases. People are living for longer with multimorbidity which presents complex challenges for global health care needs. This module provides students with the knowledge to develop a critical understanding of assessment, monitoring and outcomes in the older adult with multimorbidity.</p> <p>Topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding multimorbidity and its impact on the older person • National and global epidemiology of multimorbidity in the older person • Common conditions experienced by the older person • Exploring approaches to assessment and models of care • Interprofessional communication • Pain and pain assessment • Lived experiences of multimorbidity • Asset-based and outcome-focused approaches to multimorbidity
<p>Healthy Housing</p>	<p>This module aims to provide an understanding of the elements which contribute to healthy housing for people with a diverse range of health and care circumstances. It considers the links between housing, health and well-being, with particular emphasis on the importance of inter-professional working and service user involvement, including the perspectives of client groups with particular housing and social needs.</p> <p>Topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is healthy housing? • Providing care and support in healthy housing • Understanding interprofessional, interagency and partnership working

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and housing needs, including theory and practice of service user involvement
Dissertation	<p>This module aims to provide an in depth understanding of how research is undertaken in the field of global ageing. It will allow students to put into practice what they have learned across other modules, through an understanding of key theory and research in the field, as well as in terms of research methods. The module aims to promote research-minded practice and to develop skills in critically analysing, engaging with and applying research. In a previous module, students will receive methodological training which will equip them to undertake a piece of research in the field of global ageing. Online workshops will support discussion of key concepts, theories and methodologies applicable to the research process and your ongoing study, for example: learning expectations, project management, working with a mentor, scientific writing.</p> <p>You'll explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the understanding of theoretical, methodological and ethical issues in the design and conduct of research • identifying and justifying research question(s) in relation to appropriate literature • developing research, policy and practice recommendations as a result of conducting an extended literature review • developing a clear research project to be conducted, from gaps in the literature, as a result of developing a research project proposal • demonstrating an ability to exercise substantial autonomy and initiative in undertaking research activities