NFQ Level: 9
ECTS Credits: 5

RESEARCH SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

The module entails evaluation of the different stages of the research process, its philosophy and management including the formulation of the research question. Students create a personal development plan in consultation with their supervisor. Finally students develop a detailed research proposal.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

On successful completion of this module the learner will be able to:

- Develop a research question appropriate for a doctoral programme
- Describe the research process and organising a research project
- Critique a range of research methodologies applicable to the research question
- Create a personal development plan
- Write a detailed research proposal in manner appropriate for a doctoral programme proposal

INDICATIVE CONTENT:

The Research Process; an overview
The 8 step model of research: formulating a research problem, conceptualising research design, constructing an instrument for data collection, sample selection, planning your research schedule, use of action plans, milestones, deliverables and Gantt charts in research time management, writing scientifically, writing the research proposal, collecting the data, processing and analyzing data and writing the research report. Data ownership; the role of intellectual property.

The Research Path
Development of a personal development plan in consultation with your graduate supervisory panel with a view to recognising learning achieved to date and planning modules and learning for future personal and professional development.

Research Methodologies
Examination and review of the different types of research methodologies applicable to your research question from published literature and planning the types of research methodology you will incorporate in your studies.

Constructing a Research Report
How to produce a successful report, writing scientifically, disseminating your research findings, researching the right journal/conference to present your work. Deciding on the appropriate form of writing i.e. an abstract, a short communication, a book chapter a full manuscript or a review. Interpreting the aims and scope of a journal.

Research Support
Literature searches using the library and internet, effective reference management, management of literature on a computer. Creation of a bibliography

MODULE RESOURCES

Recommended Book Resources

- Judith Bell and Stephen Waters 2014, Doing your Research Project: A guide for first-time researchers, 6th Ed., Open University Press [ISBN: 9780335215041]
- Ranjit Kumar 2011, Research Methodology, 3rd Ed., SAGE Publications London [ISBN:9781849203005]
- Gina Wisker 2009, The undergraduate research handbook, 1st Ed., Palgrave Macmillan Basingstoke [ISBN: 9780230520974]
- Catherine Dawson 2009, Introduction to Research Methods, 4th Ed., How To Books Oxford [ISBN:9781845283674]
- Joshua Schimel 2011, Writing Science: How to Write Papers That Get Cited and Proposals That Get Funded, 1st Ed., Oxford University Press [ISBN: 978-019976024]

Supplementary Book Resources

- Larry A. Machi, Brenda T. McEvoy 2012, The Literature Review: Six Steps to Success, 1st Ed. [ISBN: 978-1452240886]
- Wayne C. Booth 2008, The Craft of Research (Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing), 3rd Ed. [ISBN: 978-0226065663]
- Marian Petre and Gordon Rugg 2010, The Unwritten Rules of PhD Research (Open Up Study Skills), 2nd Ed., Open University Press [ISBN: 978-033523702]
- Dora Farkas 2009, The Smart Way to Your Ph.D.: 200 Secrets From 100 Graduates, 1st Ed., Your Ph.D. Consulting [ISBN: 978-098210920]
- Robert A. Day and Barbara Gastel 2011, How to Write and Publish a Scientific Paper, 7th Ed., Greenwood [ISBN: 978-031339197]

Other Resources

- Website: Miles T. BryantManaging an Effective and Ethical Research Project: A Guide for Organizational Researchers: http://cehs.unl.edu/mbryant/htmManaging%20an%20Effective%20and%20Ethical%20Research%20Project.htm
- Website: CIT LibraryLibrary guide CIT http://www.mycit.ie/libraryguide/
- Website: CIT Intellectual Property Policy http://www.cit.ie/contentfiles/PDFs/CIT%20Intellectual%20Property%20Policy%20Document.pdf
- Website: Policy Governing Academic Honesty, Plagiarism and Infringements Relating to Examinations and Assessments

COURSE WORK

Assessment Type	Assessment Description	Outcome addressed	% of total	Assessment Date
Written Report	Draft a research proposal and discuss with peers for feedback and review	1,2,3,4,5	20.0	Week 7
Written Report	Write the research report based on the previous draft incorporating feedback and comments	1,2,3,4,5	80.0	Sem End