



Module Details

Short Title:	Research Planning and Methods	APPROVED
Full Title:	Research Planning and Methods	
Module Code:	EDUC9037	NFQ Level: Expert
		ECTS Credits: 10.0
Valid From:	Semester 1 - 2014/15 (September 2014)	
Module Coordinator:	Niall Smith	
Module Author:	SIOBHAN O SULLIVAN	
Description:	<p>The module entails evaluation of the different stages of the research process, its philosophy and management. It examines the formulation of the research question, research design, constructing an instrument for data collection, data collection, data processing and display, skillful report writing and dissemination of research findings. Students construct and develop a portfolio which will be used to document their professional development and learning throughout the research journey. Students create a personal development plan with their supervisor and graduate studies doctoral panel which is a key component of the portfolio and use this to map and document the research process and learning associated with it. Writing workshops and assignments develop students in report/proposal writing.</p>	
Learning Outcomes:		
<p>On successful completion of this module the learner will be able to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evaluate the reasoning for doing research, the research process and planning a research project. 2. Develop short and long term action plans and Gantt charts for the research project. 3. Evaluate research using metrics such as the citation index 4. Apply appropriate research and data gathering methods to a wide range of research tasks and questions. 5. Conform to standards of academic honesty and integrity and other ethical research standards. 6. Construct a research report or proposal. 7. Manage references using referencing software and produce a bibliography using such software. 8. Create a personal development plan. 9. Collaborate on the personal development plan with the research supervisor. 10. Produce a footprint of the research journey through development of a research diary with a reflective element 		
Pre-requisite learning		
Module Recommendations		
<p><i>This is prior learning (or a practical skill) that is strongly recommended before enrolment in this module. You may enrol in this module if you have not acquired the recommended learning but you will have considerable difficulty in passing (i.e. achieving the learning outcomes of) the module. While the prior learning is expressed as named CIT module(s) it also allows for learning (in another module or modules) which is equivalent to the learning specified in the named module(s).</i></p>		
No recommendations listed		
Incompatible Modules		
<p><i>These are modules which have learning outcomes that are too similar to the learning outcomes of this module. You may not earn additional credit for the same learning and therefore you may not enrol in this module if you have successfully completed any modules in the incompatible list.</i></p>		
No incompatible modules listed		
Requirements		
<p><i>This is prior learning (or a practical skill) that is mandatory before enrolment in this module is allowed. You may not enrol on this module if you have not acquired the learning specified in this section.</i></p>		
No requirements listed		
Co-requisites		
No co-requisites listed listed		



Module Content & Assessment

Indicative Content

- **Effective Research**
Developing research questions or hypotheses for research proposals and the research. The research process, research methodologies, conceptual frameworks, ethics and confidentiality.
- **The Research Process; a quick glance**
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 and Gantt charts in research time management, writing the research proposal, collecting the data, processing and analyzing data and writing the research report.methodologies.
- **Constructing a research report and/or a research proposal**
How to produce a successful report/proposal, disseminating your research findings, researching the right journal/conference to present your work.
- **Rating and evaluating good research**
How can we rate good research? Use of citation index and H index as an example in rating papers and researchers. How is research rated in your research area?
- **Research Methodologies**
Examination and review of the different types of research methodologies.
- **Research Support**
Literature searches using the library and internet, effective reference management, management of literature on a computer. Creation of a bibliography.
- **The Research Path**
Development of a personal development plan in consultation with the graduate supervisor and graduate studies board with a view to recognising learning achieved to date and planning modules and learning for future personal and professional development.
- **The Research Experience**
Use of a portfolio to archive the graduate research experience, achievements and artifacts together with a reflection on the learning process.

Assessment Breakdown	%
Course Work	100.0%
End of Semester Formal Examination	0%

Coursework Breakdown				
Type	Description	Outcome addressed	% of total	Assessment Date
Reflective Journal	Maintain a laboratory diary /portfolio with a reflective element.	1,2,4,5,10	40.0	Every Week
Written Report	Document the research schedule for the next 3,6 and 12 months. Link your action plans to a Gantt chart.	1,2	10.0	Week 2
Written Report	Draft a research report or proposal and discuss with peers for feedback and review.	4,5,6,7	15.0	Week 6
Written Report	Write the research report/proposal (based on the previous draft, incorporating feedback and comments) for particular purpose ie a funding body or for the graduate studies board/doctoral panel.	2,5,6,7	25.0	Sem End
Written Report	Produce a draft personal development plan.	1,8,9,10	10.0	Week 4

Reassessment Requirement
Coursework Only <i>This module is reassessed solely on the basis of re-submitted coursework. There is no repeat written examination.</i>

The institute reserves the right to alter the nature and timings of assessment



Module Workload & Resources

Workload		Full-time		
Type	Description	Hours	Frequency	Average Weekly Learner Workload
Lecturer-Supervised Learning (Contact)	Workshop based activities	5.0	Every Second Week	2.50
Independent & Directed Learning (Non-contact)	Workshop preparation, regular record keeping and reflection as part of portfolio	9.5	Every Week	9.50
Independent Learning	Research on topics related to research	2.0	Every Week	2.00
Total Weekly Learner Workload				14.00
Total Weekly Contact Hours				2.50

Workload		Part-time mode		
Type	Description	Hours	Frequency	Average Weekly Learner Workload
Independent & Directed Learning (Non-contact)	Workshop preparation, regular record keeping and reflection as part of portfolio	9.5	Every Week	9.50
Lecturer-Supervised Learning (Contact)	Workshop based activities	5.0	Every Second Week	2.50
Independent Learning	Research on topics related to research	2.0	Every Week	2.00
Part-Time Total Weekly Learner Workload				14.00
Part-Time Total Weekly Contact Hours				2.50

Resources

Recommended Book Resources

- **Martyn Denscombe, 2012, *Research Proposals: A Practical Guide*. Martyn Denscombe, 1st Ed., Open University Press [ISBN: 9780335244065]**
- **Gina Wisker 2009, *The undergraduate research handbook*, 1st Ed., Palgrave Macmillan Basingstoke [ISBN: 9780230520974]**
- **Judith Bell 2005, *Doing your research project*, 4th Ed., Open University Press [ISBN: 9780335215041]**
- **Catherine, Dr. Dawson, 2009, *Introduction to Research Methods*, 4th Ed., How To Books Oxford [ISBN: 9781845283674]**
- **Ranjit Kumar, 2011, *Research Methodology*, 3 Ed., SAGE Publications London, UK [ISBN: 9781849203005]**

Supplementary Book Resources

- **Lawrence F. Locke, Waneen W. (Wyrick) Spirduso, Stephen Silverman, 2013, *Proposals That Work*, 6th Ed., SAGE Publications UK [ISBN: 9781452216850]**

Other Resources

- **Website: Miles T. Bryant *Managing 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: Student and Learning Centre, RMIT University *Writing a research report*
https://www.dlswb.rmit.edu.au/lisu/content/2_assessmenttasks/assess_pdf/research_report.pdf**