

	Module Title Developing research: principles and practice	Reference GSM005 SCQF Level SCQF 11 SCQF Points 30 ECTS Points 15 Created September 2002 Approved August 2013 Amended August 2013 Revision No. 3
	Keywords Research methods, research question, qualitative, quantitative, data, analysis, critical evaluation, research governance, ethics, academic writing, research planning	

Prerequisites for Module

Acceptance onto a post graduate research degree programme (MSc/MPhil/MRes/PhD) or equivalent.

Corequisite Modules

None.

Precluded Modules

None.

Aims of Module

To further develop core skills appropriate for the development of research proposal including literature evaluation, research planning, research governance and academic writing. To further develop an awareness of appropriate research methodologies and methods in relation to the research proposal.

Learning Outcomes for Module

On completion of this module, students are expected to be able to:

1. Critically evaluate pertinent academic literature and develop a justifiable research question.
2. Discuss in depth and critique a relevant research method(s), including data or evidence gathering and analytical processes.
3. Situate the research project in terms of existing methodological approaches.
4. Defend the research with respect to ethical considerations.
5. Develop an appropriate dynamic research plan.

Indicative Module Content

Development of research questions/hypotheses, Literature searching, Ethical considerations, Explanation building, Making sense of method, Qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods research, Statistics, Presentation skills, research planning, research governance.

Close working between the supervisor and the module team will ensure that appropriate disciplinary content is developed.

Indicative Student Workload

Contact Hours	Full Time	Part Time
Assessment	10	10
Lectures/Workshops/Seminars	40	40
<i>Directed Study</i>		
Directed Learning	80	80
<i>Private Study</i>		
Self Directed Learning	170	170

Mode of Delivery

This module is delivered twice in an academic session and is made up of a combination of teaching and learning methods. This includes lectures, seminars and workshops during the teaching week, and supplementation of this learning by participating in appropriate School programmes, education sessions organised by DELTA and active learning sessions with the Principal Supervisor and members of the Supervisory Team.

Assessment Plan

	Learning Outcomes Assessed
Component 1	1,2,3,4,5
Component 2	1,2,3,4,5

Component 1 is an individual oral presentation. This is assessed on a pass/fail basis only.

Component 2 is a coursework assessment, consisting of a written research proposal with plan of work including a concise critical evaluation of the research study.

Indicative Bibliography

1. PHILLIPS, E.M. and PUGH, D.S., 2010. *How to get a PhD: a handbook for students and their supervisors*. 5th ed. Maidenhead : McGraw-Hill Open University Press. *ebook*
2. BLAXTER, L., HUGHES, C. and TIGHT, M., 2010. *How to research*. 4th ed. Maidenhead : McGraw-Hill/Open University Press. *ebook*
3. KOSSO, P., 2011. *A summary of scientific method*. Dordrecht: Springer. *ebook*
4. OLIVER P., 2012. *Succeeding with your literature review: a handbook for students*. *ebook*
5. MARTIN WE and BRIDGMON KD, 2012. *Quantitative and statistical research methods: from hypothesis to results* (*ebook*)
6. LAPAN, S.D., QUARTAROLI, M.T. and RIEMER, F.J., 2012. *Qualitative research: an introduction to methods and designs*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass. *ebook*
7. WALLWORK, A., 2011. *English for writing research papers*. New York : Springer. *ebook*
8. As directed by supervisory team

Additional Notes

The aims and learning outcomes of this module are to be interpreted by the supervisor in the context of the particular field of research. Students must successfully complete this module before undertaking the transfer process related to their research degree.