

Module code	RP	NQF level	7
Credit value	40	Study duration	24 weeks

# Dissertation

## Module description

The aim of this module is to support and guide students through the process of carrying out an independent small-scale research project focussed on a topic related to teaching and learning in their individual educational context. The project will be undertaken with supervision from a member of the programme's academic faculty who will advise on the research proposal, peer review, research process, collation and presentation of data and on the structure and academic conventions of the report. Choice of topic or research question is the responsibility of students, though guidance will be offered if sought. Data collected may be qualitative or quantitative in nature and methods should be selected and justified according to their appropriacy, reliability and validity. Students are expected to refer to relevant academic literature throughout the project.

## This module aims to:

- Familiarise students with the stages and conventions of proposing, conducting and evaluating a small-scale practice-based research enquiry into an aspect of learning and teaching
- Develop students' independent research skills
- Develop students' transferable skills, including time and project management, organisational skills, data collection and analysis, and communication skills
- Promote students' critical thinking skills
- Increase students' knowledge and understanding of their chosen topic

## Learning outcomes

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

- carry out an independent small-scale research project, using an appropriate approach and adhering to academic conventions
- select appropriate, valid and reliable research approaches and methods and apply them in practice to gather data
- interpret research findings and apply them to educational practice with a view to enhancing an aspect of teaching and learning
- demonstrate self-direction, organisational skills and effective communication skills to enable the conduct and completion of each project stage

## Syllabus

- Minimum of 4 supervisory meetings

## Nature of the project

Students will be required to produce a research proposal for a small-scale practice-based investigative enquiry, supported by a literature review, which will be reviewed by a peer. Based on feedback, students may amend their proposal before conducting the research. The investigation may combine existing published material or statistics and new data obtained from primary research. Once data is collected and evaluated and conclusions drawn, students will write up the project and submit a report.

Description of unit of assessment	Length/Duration	Submission date	Weighting
Part 1: Peer review of research proposal*	10,000 words	Week 6	Formative
Part 2: Draft 2 research proposal plus plan for research and data collection		Week 9	Formative
Part 3: Written project report		End of module	100%