



Module code	RM2	NQF level	7
Credit value	20	Study duration	12 weeks

Research Methods

Module description

This course enables you to explore theoretical and practical issues in relation to the research process, with specific emphasis on research in health and social care. You will develop the ability to understand and use relevant research literature and acquire the skills you need to plan and carry out your own research. A defining feature of the course is that the research principles that are encountered will constantly be applied to real health and social care settings.

This module aims to:

- Develop critical appraisal skills related to the evaluation of evidence
- Develop a critical understanding of different research methodologies, research methods and epistemologies
- Have a critical understanding of the ethical issues which may arise in health and social care research
- Practically demonstrate their understanding of qualitative and quantitative analysis

Learning outcomes

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

- have an advanced knowledge of the range of research designs, research methodologies, research epistemologies, sampling methods and research methods that are commonly used in health and social care research
- critically appraise research papers, undertake a literature review and critically explore what is meant by evidence in health and social care research
- understand the principles of qualitative and quantitative data analysis
- critically explore ethical issues in health and social care research

Syllabus

- Key aspects in research in practice including focus on epistemologies, positionality, research methodology, research design and theoretical frameworks
- Critical appraisal of research and literature reviews as well as exploration of what is meant by evidence. Introduction to critical appraisal tools such as CASP and KMET
- Research design: collecting quantitative, and qualitative data including sampling. Introduction to mixed methods, data quality control including reliability, validity and rigor (creditability, transferability, thick descriptions)
- Research analysis: analysing qualitative and quantitative data
- An exploration of ethical issues which arise in health and social care research, as well as an understanding of informed consent, recruitment, withdrawal and protection issues

Learning and teaching methods

The learning and teaching methods for the module follow the intended online delivery strategy for the programme as a whole. The module will be delivered through the provision of specified reading materials on the virtual learning platform, which shall be supported by specified discussion forums and lecturecasts, and tutor support will be available to students via phone, email, and question and answer (Q&A) sessions.

Description of unit of assessment	Length/Duration	Submission date	Weighting
Written assignment 1 - e.g. systematic literature review	2,000-2,500 words	Unit 6	40%
Assessment 2 - scientific research poster (mixed methods) and online conference	1,000 words	Unit 12	60%