



Module code	RMHC	NQF level	6
Credit value	15	Study duration	9 weeks

# Research Methods in Healthcare

## Module description

This module will introduce students to various methods of research used to study healthcare. It will cover a variety of study designs, highlighting that research in health care is often “methods neutral” and can adopt several approaches, depending on the research question. We will discover what to measure (structures, processes, outcomes or a combination) and from whose perspective (decision-makers, providers, or clients), all which dictate the approach used. In contrast to other research methods modules students will have the opportunity to undertake mini-research activities to practice their research skills and develop their confidence in using research tools and analysing data.

## This module aims to:

- Introduce healthcare research questions
- Provide an overview of some key quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods approaches that have been used to study healthcare
- Introduce students to a range of research tools and provide them with the opportunity to develop their skills using these tools

## Learning outcomes

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

- design a healthcare management research question
- summarise the ethical considerations of a research project
- undertake basic statistical and descriptive analysis
- design a brief interview guide and practice interviewing a peer
- demonstrate some basic qualitative coding skills
- develop fundamental skills that may be applied to healthcare research in the future
- demonstrate their ability to reflect on their experience of development research tools and undertaking research

## Syllabus

- What is a healthcare research question?
- What to measure? Structure, processes, or outcomes?
- Whose perspective? Decision-makers, providers, or clients?
- Ethics
- Developing research tools
- Quantitative approaches to studying healthcare
- Basic statistical and descriptive analysis
- Qualitative approaches to studying healthcare
- Qualitative analysis and coding

## Learning and teaching methods

The learning and teaching methods for the module follow the online delivery strategy for the programme as a whole. The module will be delivered by reading materials available on the learning platform supported by pre-recorded lecturecasts, synchronous question and answer (Q&A) sessions, directed independent study, formative and summative activities and assessments. Across the programme students will undertake a variety of assessment which are aimed to evidence their learning against the learning outcomes and develop a broad range of skills. Students will be encouraged to identify and share relevant resources and are expected to extend and enhance the knowledge and understanding they acquire by regularly consulting on-line library materials relating to the course. Tutor support will be available to students via online office hours, prearranged telephone and/or Skype calls and email communication.

Description of unit of assessment	Length/Duration	Submission date	Weighting
Assessment 1 - e.g. portfolio including a reflective journal	Continuous development with final hand-in week 9	Unit 9	100%