



Introduction to Research Methods

Module Code	IRM	NQF level:	4
Credit Value	30	Study duration:	18 weeks

Module description:

This module aims to help students understand and develop their skills in the research process. Students will be introduced to the techniques and methods used through various stages of research and will have the opportunity to carry out data collection with a group of their peers. Students will be supported to carry out the appropriate design, data collection and analysis.

This module aims to:

- develop students' knowledge of the fundamentals of the research process, including ethics;
- develop students' understanding of the interdependence between each stage of the research process;
- develop students' capacity to formulate and test research questions and hypotheses;
- develop students' experience of both qualitative and quantitative research skills;
- develop students' hands-on experience with data collection and management.

Learning outcomes

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

- critically assess scientific methods;
- select appropriate analytical techniques;
- carry out qualitative analysis;
- plan, design, conduct, analyze and report a piece of scientific research.

Syllabus

- What is research
- Approaches: Qualitative and Quantitative
- Interpretative phenomenological analysis
- Ethics in research.
- The Qualitative Approach
- Methods, variables, research questions and hypotheses testing
- Data, sampling and power
- Ways of interpreting
- Parametric and non-parametric
- Basic statistical analysis, e.g. t-tests

Learning and teaching methods

The pedagogical approach for this module is informed through the principles of collaborative enquiry and constructionism. Collaborative enquiry is supported through our internet-mediated learning platform the aim of which is to develop a learning community that supports dialogue and collaboration between students through online peer discussion and debate to construct a unique learning experience which will enhance their subject understanding through social interactions which empowers them to explain their understandings, receive feedback from tutors and peers.

Teaching will be delivered through the provision of specified reading materials that will be provided on the UoEO Learning Platform, and will be supported by specified discussion forums, pre-recorded lecturecasts and biweekly online question and answer sessions (using synchronous communication software and application sharing facility). Students will be provided with indicative guidance on, and encouraged to look at relevant websites which are appropriate to the learning outcomes, and to identify and share appropriate web-based resources (as learning support references) with their fellow students. The pre-recorded lecturecasts and the online question and answer sessions will include referenced use of selected case studies which will be drawn from the reading materials and the practice-based and professional/educational contexts and experience of the Tutors. Self-managed learning will supplement lectures and students will be given direction on required and indicative reading.

Description of unit of assessment	Length/Duration	Submission Date	Weighting
Qualitative report	3000 words	Mid module	50%
Quantitative report	3000 words	End of module	50%