

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

MODULE TITLE	Designing and Planning Your Research Project		
MODULE CODE	ED 4995 (L7)	CREDIT VALUE	20 UK CREDITS / <u>10 ECTS</u>
SCHOOL	SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT		

MODULE AIMS

The aim of this module is to outline the general nature of the research task and the restrictions upon research within the award format in higher education. The module leader and the individual supervisors will then offer ways of focusing upon titles, hunches and questions which will clarify the central point(s) and purpose of the research project.

The module will serve a number of groups including those in the University not on the suite of awards but who are beginning to engage in the research process (including M Phil or bursary applicants). It will also be used jointly with postgraduate students within Social Work, Dentistry, Health, Deaf Studies and other allied subjects. One of the core aims of the module is to facilitate this working across disciplinary boundaries and to reflect the research interests and needs of a range of practitioners and professionals in different roles.

As an inter-disciplinary module, forming the pathway to different UCLan MA awards, the module will also focus specifically on ethics of research with a range of potential participants, and on inter-agency research activities.

MODULE CONTENT

Content will include:

- Starting from where you are – beginning to conceptualise your project
- Playing with hunches and guesses
- Focusing and re-focusing
- Research concepts and their operationalisation
- Individual presentations
- Theory and method including ethics in research
- Traditional and alternative research approaches

The module is related to individuals' professional practice, the content reflects the interdisciplinary nature of educational research, and of working with children and young people as well as adults. .

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this module a student will be able to:

1. Understand the design and development of a research project.
 2. Use relevant research literature in an informed and critical way to support the research focus and approach
 3. Critically reflect on the issues inherent in operationalising such a project.
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TEACHING METHODS

This module will use course members' initial ideas for a research project as a focus for study and through tutor input, discussion, group workshop and individual presentations, participants will refine their ideas individually and collaboratively.

In order to meet the aims of the module, a range of different teaching and learning strategies will be used. The activities listed below are designed to develop and enhance students' knowledge and understanding of the subject content and key issues surrounding the topics of learning, curriculum and assessment. The module will also equip students with a range of subject specific and generic skills that are crucial to increased employability.

Whole Group Lectures:

These will convey core knowledge and key principles and concepts underpinning the subject area to the student group. Sessions will be made as interactive and stimulating as possible through the use of short group tasks and exercises, videos and question and answer sessions in order to encourage engagement and application of new and existing knowledge. The lectures are learning delivered in two 'blocks', each of which is linked to a specific theme (theory or practical planning of).

Seminars and online learning:

These are student-led discussion groups in much smaller numbers, in an informal environment.

This module comprises of two different types of seminar: face-to face seminars and virtual seminars. Face-to-face seminars relate to the previous block of learning and lecture input, and so students interrogate, scrutinise and critically reflect upon input from the lecture in order to enhance their understanding. Students work on specific tasks set by the tutor and are guided in their small group activities. Students will have prepared for these face-to-face seminars through participation in virtual seminars in which they are prescribed reading and set questions that link to the current block of learning. The virtual seminars are monitored by tutors and students are encouraged to contribute to discussion boards. There will be synchronous and asynchronous delivery, with live discussion groups.

Tutorials and online tutorials:

These one-to-one sessions will form part of the learning for this module. They will provide opportunities for students to share and present their ideas in development and bring together key knowledge, theories and concepts and consider the application of these to practice. They will get feedback from the tutor on progress, online tutorials will also be offered.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

This module is assessed through an Assignment.