

Course:

Introduction to Research Fundamentals and Methods

Course Introduction:

Students today require an understanding of research approaches and skills, and importantly an ability to deploy them in their studies or in their professional lives. The Introduction to Research Fundamentals and Methods course aims to provide students with knowledge and understanding to conduct research projects.

In the first half of the course, students learn how to access and assess the available literature in their chosen discipline. Then students have the opportunity to acquire or develop skills and expertise relevant to their research interests. They gain the ability to analyze and evaluate different methods for conducting independent and collaborative research.

The course will take place over two weeks. It is divided between two modules. Each module is comprised of 5 lectures of 3 hours each with one supervision.

Introduction to the Modules:

The course is divided between two modules. Module 1 introduces Research Fundamentals. The module promotes students' knowledge and understanding of various philosophical and theoretical approaches to research. The final assignment in this module enables students to assess and evaluate literature critically for the development of research questions and/or hypotheses. The second module fosters students' knowledge and understanding of research design processes. This module concludes with student presentations of their chosen research question.

Module 1:

Research Fundamentals

This module focuses on research fundamentals. Research methods in all subject disciplines are grounded in the social and natural sciences and utilise similar techniques to conduct research, especially literature searches and reviews. However, there are distinct differences with regards to theory development, identifying research problems and developing research questions.

Aims and Objectives:

- Provide students with knowledge of the fundamentals of research

- Enable students to identify research problems and formulate research questions based on initial explorations of academic and non-academic literature
- Provide students with the knowledge and understanding of different skills and techniques to conduct systematic literature reviews

Evaluation:

During this module, students will conduct a systematic literature review in their chosen field. The students will apply their knowledge by completing a Literature review assignment for evaluation by the instructor.

Module 2:

Research Methods

In this module, students are guided to develop a working knowledge of the most commonly used qualitative and quantitative research methods. Students learn the differences between qualitative and quantitative research and how the choice of research method depends on the ontological position of the researcher and the epistemology suitable to the research question.

Aims and Objectives:

- Introduce students to different methodological approaches to research, including techniques to carry out qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods research;
- Deepen students' awareness of current and emerging themes in their discipline.

Evaluation:

This evaluation requires students to demonstrate a critical evaluation of different data collection methods and analytic tools, and methods that could be applied to address a research question. Students will deliver a presentation of research methods for their chosen research question.