

HEALTH RESEARCH METHODS

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| Module Code: | GP113 |
| Credit Weighting: | 10 ECTS |
| Contact Hours: | 10 (plus allow 3-4hrs per week x 6 weeks distance learning) |
| Timing: | Trimester 1 (September - December) |
| Module Leaders: | Mette Jensen, Research & Education Foundation, Sligo General Hospital Edel Tierney, Graduate Entry Medical School, University of Limerick |

Module Description

The purpose of this module is to introduce learners to research methods as a set of multiple systematic strategies derived from both the quantitative and qualitative paradigms. Participants will learn how to construct feasible research questions, select appropriate research designs, and write a research protocol.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module practitioners will be able to:

1. Explain the meaning of key vocabulary terms used in health services research
2. Distinguish between different research paradigms and explain the philosophical principles behind them
3. Construct a meaningful research question
4. Choose a suitable research design for a particular research question and justify the choice of design
5. Describe a range of qualitative and quantitative approaches to sampling, data collection and analysis and justify the use of different approaches
6. Justify the application of different approaches to sampling, data collection and analysis in a range of contexts
7. Design a research questionnaire
8. Perform qualitative data analysis on standard transcript data using MS Word
9. Write a comprehensive research proposal.

Module Content

This module has 6 distance learning units (1 week each) supported by 2 workshop days.

1. Quantitative Research Strategies
2. Sampling in Quantitative Research
3. Questionnaires
4. Qualitative Design
5. Sampling in Qualitative Research
6. Qualitative Data Collection and Analysis

The workshops focus on writing appropriate research questions, interpretivist and positivist research paradigms, and designing a research protocol.

Teaching and Learning Strategies

Online distance learning and face-to-face workshops.

Assessment Strategy

45% continuous assessment (E-tivities and online participation)

55% assignment on completion of module (research protocol).