

UNIT SPECIFICATION				
Unit title		Research Methods for Health and Social Care		
Level	Level 7	Credit value	20 (10 ECTS)	
Is this a common unit?		No	Expected contact hours for unit	30
Pre and co-requisites None				
Aims The aim of this unit is to enable students to critically appraise the merits of various research methods in addressing health and social care questions.				
Intended learning outcomes (ILOs) Having completed this unit the student is expected to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. be familiar with common methodological approaches to research, and assess their comparative value in exploring specific types of research questions; 2. critically evaluate the benefits and challenges of a variety of research methods in addressing research questions/aims; 3. appraise approaches to sampling and their relevance to specific research questions or aims; 4. understand the principles that underpin commonly used methods of data analysis; 5. demonstrate the ability to determine the quality of published research. 				
Learning and teaching methods The unit will use a variety of online learning and teaching methods, including videos, online presentations, case studies, blog discussions, quizzes, and reading tasks				
Assessment				
Formative assessment/feedback Formative work will be comprised of online tasks and activities that facilitate both peer and tutor feedback. For example blog entries discussing students' perspectives on various elements of the research process.				
Summative assessment ILOs 1-5 will be assessed by 100% coursework			Indicative assessment The unit coursework will comprise an essay [3000 word equivalent] critically evaluating one published research study in relation to its methodology, including data collection methods and analysis.	
Indicative unit content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The centrality of the research question/aim in determining research methodology and methods • Common methodological approaches to research • Quality indicators in research • Methods that can be used in research • Sampling strategies • Methods of data analysis • The principles of evaluating published research 				

Indicative learning resources

Bowling, A. 2014. *Research methods in health*. Milton Keynes: Open University Press.

Curtis, E. and Drennan, J. 2013. *Quantitative health research: Issues and methods*. Milton Keynes: Open University Press.

Gerrish, K. and Lathlean, J. 2015. *The research process in nursing*, 7th Ed. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell.

Hewitt-Taylor J. 2011. *Using research in practice: it sounds good but will it work?* Basingstoke: Palgrave.

Holloway, I. and Galvin, K. 2017. *Qualitative research in nursing and healthcare*. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell.

Martin, W.E. and Bridgmon, K.D. 2012. *Research methods for the social sciences*. San Francisco. Jossey-Bass.

Ross, T. 2012. *A survival guide for health research methods*. Maidenhead: McGraw -Hill Education.

Web resources

National Institute for Health Research website: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk>

NHS Health Research Authority: <http://www.hra.nhs.uk/resources/>

National Institutes of Health website: <https://www.nih.gov/research-training/research-resources>

Unit number	2	Version number	1.2	Date effective from	Sep 2020
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