Module Title:	Introduction to Research Skills
Module Code:	BAED05C
Level:	4
Credits:	15

Module Description:

This module introduces the theory and practice of research in educational contexts. It provides training in using resources for research and the principles, methods and strategies used in education research, and will equip students with the skills to design and implement small-scale, independent research projects. Using individual and group activities, students explore different research methodologies, study their methods and explore their underlying values and ethics. Students identify a topic for a small-scale research project, and consider the research design and research methods that best meet the project's requirements. Throughout the module, support and guidance is provided on preparing the overarching research questions of a study, and in identifying which research designs and research methods are most suitable to answer those questions.

Indicative Content:

Within the stated aims of the module learning outcomes, the content and delivery methods will be modified to meet the needs of each learning cohort. A general outline of the course is indicated below.

- Understanding research
- The different approaches to gathering data including positivist and interpretivist methods.
- Research populations, samples and ethical considerations.
- Analysing and presenting qualitative and quantitative data.

Learning and Teaching Methods:

The module will be delivered through a combination of lectures and seminars. Students engage in individual and group activities. Students will be encouraged to learn from key texts and share learning with their fellow students. Self-managed learning and study will supplement lectures. A small-scale individual research project proposal will form part of this module and if required, can be undertaken in the subsequent Research Project 1 module.

University Centre Colchester

Specific Learning Resources

Bibliography

Highly Recommended

Alasuutari,P., Bickman, L., & Brannen, J. (Eds.), *The SAGE Handbook of Social Research Methods.* London: SAGE.

Bell, J. (2005). *Doing Your Research Project: A guide for first-time researchers in education, health and social science* (4th ed.). Maidenhead: Open University Press.

Robson, C. (2011) *Real World Research. A resource for users of social research methods in applied settings,* (3rd ed.). London: Wiley

Recommended

Blaxter, L. Hughes, C. and Tight, M. (2010) *How to Research.*(4th Edition) Maidenhead: Open University Press

Clough, P., & Nutbrown, C. (2007). *A Student's Guide to Methodology (*2nd ed.). London: Sage.

Greener, I. (2011). *Designing Social Research: A Guide for the Bewildered.* London: Sage.

Henn, M., Weinstein, M., & Foard, N. (2009). *A Critical Introduction to Social Research* (2nd ed.). London: SAGE.

Hakim, C. (1987). *Research design: strategies and choices in the design of social research.* London: Allen and Unwin.

Silverman, D. (2013). *Doing qualitative research* (4th ed.). London: Sage.

Module Learning Outcomes

Subject Specific Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module you will be able to:

LO1	Demonstrate an understanding of what constitutes research.
LO2	Show their knowledge of a range of diverse research methodologies.
LO3	Design, conduct and analyse the findings of an original small-scale research project in their institutions that demonstrates engagement with research and knowledge creation.

Assessment Title or element

Participants will provide evidence of their skills to plan the research process. 3,000-word evaluation of the sections of a research project to include introduction, abstract, methodology, literature review, ethical considerations, findings, recommendations, conclusions.

Information correct at point of publication.