

<b>Module Title:</b>	Research Skills
<b>Module Code:</b>	BSCS02H
<b>Level:</b>	6
<b>Credits:</b>	15
<b>Pre-requisites:</b>	NONE

**Module Description:**

The module is designed to encourage students to develop a critical awareness with respect to the strengths and weaknesses of a range of strategies, designs and methods used for construction research. The module aims to provide the learner with requisite knowledge and skills to successfully plan and implement an independent research project.

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**Indicative Content:**

- Selecting relevant and practicable research topics.
  - Inductive and deductive research
  - Primary and secondary research
  - Critically reviewing literature
  - Quantitative and qualitative methods
  - Surveys and sampling
  - Case studies
  - Questionnaires
  - Interviewing
  - Observation
  - Ethics in research (Kant v Hegel, Ethical dilemmas, Professional Codes of Conduct)
  - Using secondary data
  - Analysing data
  - Presenting information
  - Writing a research proposal
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**Learning and Teaching Methods:**

In this module students will be introduced to the discipline of research methods and the techniques of research. This will be achieved through a series of lectures and seminars. Students will be given the opportunity through a series of workshops to engage in the practical work of designing questionnaires and interview schedules, analysing data and presenting information. As students progress to the stage of writing their individual research proposals, formal classes

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**Module Specifications: Schools of Construction and Engineering**

will be replaced by individual guidance tutorials.

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**Specific Learning Resources:**

None

**Bibliography**Highly Recommended

Naoum, S.G. (2006) Dissertation Research Writing for Construction Students  
Oxford: Butterworth Heinemann

Fellows, R.F. & Liu, A. (2008) Research Methods for Construction 3rd Edition  
Oxford: Blackwell Publishing Ltd

Recommended

Farrell, P, (2010) Writing a Built Environment Dissertation: Practical Guidance and  
Examples Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell

Willis, G.B. (2005) Cognitive Interviewing: A Tool for Improving Questionnaire  
Design London: Sage Publications Ltd

Weyers, J. & McMillan K. (2011) How to Write Dissertations and Project Reports  
London: Pearson

Background Reading

Seely, J. (2005) Oxford Guide to Effective Writing and Speaking Oxford: Oxford  
University Press

Fink, A and Kosecoff J (2008) How to Conduct Surveys: A Step by Step Guide 2nd  
Edition Thousand Oaks: Sage

Turk, C & Kirkman, J (1998) Effective Writing: Improving Scientific, Technical and  
Business Communication 2nd Edition Abington: Spon Press

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**Module Learning Outcomes****Subject Specific Learning Outcomes**

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

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<b>LO 1</b>	Identify researchable construction, site and commercial management related issues.
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<b>LO 2</b>	Review published research and literature in relation to the chosen area of study.
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<b>LO 3</b>	Analyse the wide range of research methods available to the construction researcher and develop skills in the application of the methods.
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<b>LO 4</b>	Develop the skills necessary for managing the development and implementation of a research project.
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**Module Specifications:** *Schools of Construction and Engineering*

**LO 5** | Devise a research proposal.

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<b>Assessment Title or element</b>	<b>Weighting (%)</b>
Presentation (15-minute duration)	15%
Report (2,500 words)	85%

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*Information correct at point of publication.*