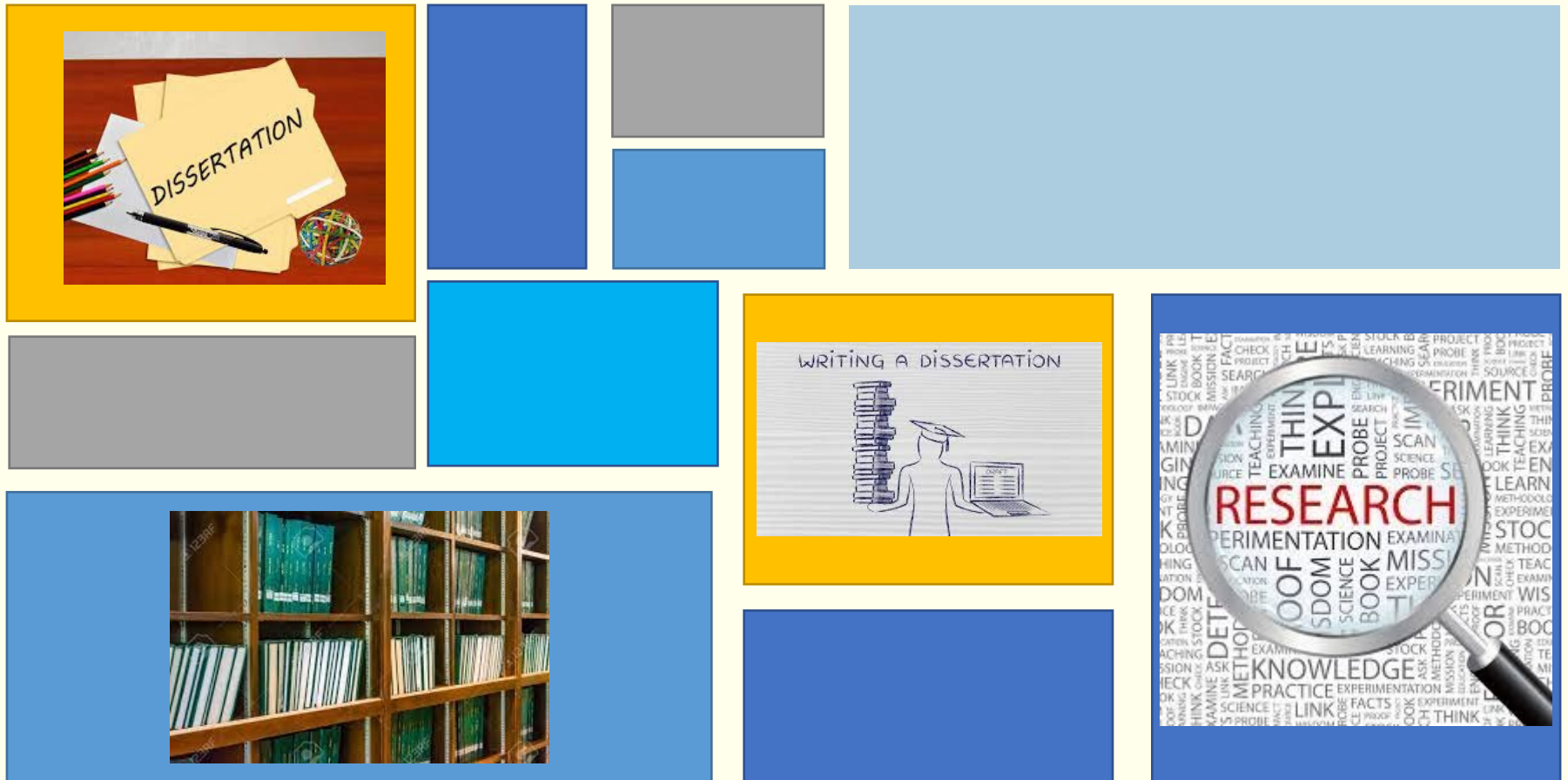




Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Trawsnewid Addysg, Trawsnewid Bywydau
Transforming Education, Transforming Lives



ECGE6003Q: Independent Project

Theme 1: Your Research Project

ECGE6003Q: Module Aim

‘To develop the ability of students to engage critically and innovatively with theory and/or practice relevant to their studied subject areas in order to produce a discipline specific in-depth project’.

ECGE6003Q: Learning Outcomes

Upon the successful completion of this module, the student should be able to:

- Demonstrate intellectual skills in the identification of an appropriate topic, problem or challenge for investigation pertinent to their field of study and formulate a suitable plan for further research utilising relevant investigative methods in order to produce a response.
- Evidence in-depth knowledge and critical understanding of principles necessary to underpin their education within their chosen field of study and problem solving techniques applicable to this.

ECGE6003Q: Learning Outcomes

Upon the successful completion of this module, the student should be able to:

- Evidence independence of thought and critical evaluation in the production of an independent piece of work, demonstrating transferable skills through exercising initiative and personal responsibility in planning own learning and self-management.
- Organise their knowledge and learning through use of a range of media, and present their work appropriately in a manner that can be understood by specialist and non-specialist audiences.

ECGE6003Q: Indicative Content

- Research paradigms, methods, and techniques of research and enquiry.
- Conducting and writing literature reviews.
- Ethical concerns and the research process.
- Resource, project, and skills management processes and techniques.
- Presenting and illustrating data and information.
- Communication of general, specialist, technical ideas and results.
- Problem solving, creative, entrepreneurial thinking and approaches.
- Collaboration, adaptability and reflection.

ECGE6003Q: Assessment Outcomes

- A **portfolio**
- A minimum of three elements
- Word count 10,000 words (+/- 10%)
- Weighting – 100%

ECGE6003Q: What is in the portfolio?

- Task 1: Your Research Proposal
 - This is where you outline what you intend to research
 - It is used to start your Dissertation
 - It can and will change as you begin your research
- Task 2: Your Ethics Form
 - Develops your proposal in more detail
 - Established the ethical parameters of your research
 - You **must** have this signed off in order to continue your research

ECGE6003Q: What is in the portfolio?

- Task 3: Your Dissertation
 - This will be what is marked
 - 10,000 words
 - You can copy and paste material from Tasks 1 & 2
 - Your Proposal and Ethics form will be added as Appendices to your Dissertation
 - They will not be taken into account in the Similarity Reports for plagiarism

Your Research Project: A Literature Review

- You will **not** be collecting new data for this project
- You will be undertaking a Literature Review
- You will be reading widely and developing your critical voice
- You will explore the 'results' of your literature review
- You will critically reflect on what you have read
- You will make recommendations for future action/change

Your Research Project: A Literature Review

- Two additional sources of information and advice on undertaking a literature review are:
- Arshed, N. & Danson, M (No Date)
- Siddaway, A.P., Wood, A.M. and Hedges, L.V. (2019)
- Dr Andy Siddaway has also written another paper on a systematic Literature Review which is included in the Information & Resources section on Moodle

Your Research Project in Three Stages

- The Research Proposal
- The Ethics Form
- The Dissertation

The Research Proposal

- Should be compact and precise
- Outlines the nature of the research proposed
- Explains why the research is needed
- Sets out how it will be carried out
- Hypothesises likely outcomes
- Defines the resources that will be needed

(Walliman, 2003)

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(Walliman, 2003)

The Research Proposal: A General Structure

- Creswell (2013, pp. 61-64) provides examples of research proposals
- Your proposal might begin with assumptions regarding:
 - Your interpretive theoretical lens
 - A definition of a specific social/human issue or problem
 - An exploration of meanings

A Practical Guide to your Research Proposal

- We need to better understand..... (the issue)
- We need to know more about.....(the issue)
- I propose to study.....(the purpose of my research)
- Setting the scene.....(definitions, influences on the issue)
- Seeking to generate answers.....(analysis of the issue)
- Ethical matters...(e.g. ethical approval)
- Findings

(Based on Maxwell, 2005 *cited in* Creswell, 2013, p.64)

Three Main Features of Research Proposals

1) A means of communication between the researcher and those who will:

- Assess the research
- Approve the research
- And, in many cases, fund the research

2) A plan of action to describe the:

- Scope
- Aims & Objectives (to be transferred to the Ethics Form)
- Steps by step procedures and expected outcomes

3) A form of contract between the researcher and the University

References

- Arshed, N. & Danson, M. (No Date) *The Literature Review* Available at: https://www.goodfellowpublishers.com/free_files/xChapter%203%20The%20Literature%20Review-75a2f76e024789383d7af4b12f09ea8e.pdf [Accessed 24/09/2023]
- Creswell, J.W. (2013) *Qualitative Inquiry & Research Designs* UK: Sage
- Punch, K.F. (2016) *Developing Effective Research Proposals* 3rd Edition UK:Sage
- Siddaway, A.P., Wood, A.M. and Hedges, L.V. (2019) 'How to Do a Systematic Review: A Best Practice Guide for Conducting and Reporting Narrative Reviews, Meta-Analyses, and Meta-Syntheses', *Annual review of psychology*, 70(1), pp. 747–770. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-psych-010418-102803> [Accessed 24/09/2023]
- Walliman, N. (2003) *Your Research Project: A Step-by-step Guide for the First-Time Researcher* UK:Sage