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

DSAW6075 Work-based Research Methods

Day 1: Introduction, Research Defined, Research Methods

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Session Objectives

- By the end of today's session, you should:
  - have an understanding of the way the module will run;
  - complete all necessary paperwork for enrolment and registration;
  - understand what research is, how it is defined, and how it can be used in workplaces;
  - understand the definitions of some of the most relevant research methods, as well as their benefits and limitations.

Session Schedule

- During today's session, you will:
  - Complete any necessary registration/enrolment paperwork;
  - Meet your lecturer and know his/her contact details;
  - Learn the basic history of UWTSD, the Wales Institute of Work-based Learning, and the GWLAD Project;
  - Learn the basics of how to use:
    - your course Moodle page,
    - the GWLAD Learner Zone Moodle page,
    - the UWTSD Library page;
  - Go over the module and understand the aims, objectives, content, and assessments;
  - Receive basic information on plagiarism and extenuating circumstances;
  - Set the final submission dates for any module assignments;
  - Learn about research – how it is defined, how it can be used, etc.
  - Learn about the most relevant research methods, their benefits, and their limitations

Induction

- The University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD)
- The Wales Institute for Work-Based Learning (WIWBL)
- The Growing Workforces through Learning and Development (GWLAD) Project

All the sites you need!

- The UWTSD website
- ‘Quick Links’
  - Email
  - Moodle
  - Library
- Moodle
  - Module Page
  - The GWLAD Learner Zone
- The Library website

As a UWTSD student…

- You are a member of the UWTSD Student Union – don’t hesitate to get involved!
- You have access to:
  - Student Services
  - Student Well-Being
  - Mental Health Support
  - Disability Support
  - Mature Student Support
- You can find links to all your services and support offices on the Learner Zone Moodle page!

Programme Specifications

- DSAW6075
- 30 credits
- HE Level 6 (equivalent to final year at University)
- 4 taught sessions
- 9:30 – 5:00

Module Aims and Outcomes

- The aims of DSAW6075 are:
  - To develop critical awareness of the main issues in undertaking research in work-based settings.
  - To prepare learners to design and pursue independent, work-based research.
- Upon completion of DSAW6075, you should be able to:
  - identify and evaluate a range of methodological approaches, research designs, and a range of methods appropriate to gather data from complex work-based settings;
  - analyse, interpret, and evaluate relevant data from a work-based setting;
  - critically evaluate the ethical issues surrounding research, with a particular focus on ‘insider research’ issues.

Topics

- ‘What is research?’
- Research Methods
- Ontology, Epistemology, and Methodology
- Research paradigms
- Research and Ethics
- Research design
- Data analysis
- Reporting and communicating data
- Opportunities for research in the work place
- Getting ready for the work-based project

Readings

- **Essential**
  - Cohen, L., Manion, L. and Morrison, K. (2011) *Research Methods in Education.* Abingdon: Routledge.
  - Costley, C., Elliott, G., and Paul Gibbs (2012) *Doing Work Based Research, Approaches to Enquiry for Insider-Researchers.* London: Sage.
  - Gill, J and Phil Johnson, (2012) *Research Methods for Managers*. (4th ed) London: Sage.
  - Gray, D. E. (2004). *Doing Research in the Real World*. London: Sage.

- **Recommended**
  - Bell, J. (2005) *Doing your Research Project.* (4th ed) Buckingham: Open University Press.
  - Blaxter, L., Hughes, C. and Tight, M. (2010) *How to Research.* (4th ed) Maidenhead: Open University Press.
  - Chevalier J. M. and Buckles, D. J. (2013) *Participatory Action Research*. Abingdon: Routledge.
  - Davies, M.B., (2007) *Doing a Successful Research Project - Using Qualitative and Quantitative Methods*. London: Palgrave.
  - Easterby-Smith, M., Thorpe, R., and Jackson, P., (2012) *Management Research.* (4th ed) London: Sage.
  - Reason, P. and Bradbury, H. (2001) *Handbook of Action Research: Participative Inquiry and Practice*. London: Sage.
  - Saunders, M., Lewis, P. and Thornhill, A. (2009) *Research Methods for Business Students.* (5th ed) London: Pearson Education Ltd.
  - Walliman, N. (2001) *Your Research Project: A step-by-step guide for the first-time researcher.* London: Sage

Websites

- OpenLearn (2008) *LDT 3: Working with charts, graphs and tables:* http://openlearn.open.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=2880.

- OpenLearn (2008) *T175 Presenting Information* from:
- http://openlearn.open.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=1232.

- Palgrave' s Study Skills: http://www.palgrave.com/studentstudyskills/page/choosing-appropriate-research-methodologies

- Sage Research Methods: http://srmo.sagepub.com/publicstart?authRejection=true

Assessments - 6075

This module has two assessments:

- **Assessment Component 1 – 50%**
  - Written Assignment – 3,750 words or equivalent
    - ‘Critically examine a range of research methods, indicating the ontology, epistemology, and methodology associated with each, and evaluate within your work-based context.’
- **Assessment Component 2 – 50%**
  - Written Assignment – 3,750 words or equivalent
    - ‘Outline the possible method(s) used to generate a given data set, making reference to any ethical considerations involved, and any possible issues of insider research. Analyse the data provided, discussing the likely conclusions resulting from your analysis.’

Drafts, submissions, and due dates

- For each assessment, you are allowed ‘formative feedback’
  - You may receive formal, written feedback once
- We will set assessment due dates together now
  - Once decided, due dates are set in stone!
  - The due date for receiving formal, written formative feedback will be 3 weeks before the due date
    - You will receive your formative feedback within 2 weeks
  - You will receive your feedback, as well as your provisional mark, 4 weeks after the due date
- Your final work must be submitted on or before the deadline
  - **THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS AN EXTENSION**
  - If you miss the submission deadline, you must either:
    - apply for ‘Extenuating Circumstances’
    - Submit late, for which your final mark is capped at the Pass Mark of 40%
      - Late submissions MUST be received within 1 week of the original submission deadline, otherwise you will receive a 0%

Plagiarism

- ‘Plagiarism’ is passing off, or attempting to pass off, another’s work as your own
- Plagiarism can happen intentionally or unintentionally
  - Plagiarism is one of the worst crimes in academic life, and the punishment for plagiarism can be severe
- It is perfectly OK to use words, images, ideas, or research from others, as long as it is properly cited
  - GWLAD use the Harvard referencing system
- For more detail on plagiarism and how to avoid it, see your hand-out

Extenuating Circumstances

- Remember, there is **NO SUCH THING AS AN EXTENSION**
  - Your lecturer has no right to grant you an extension on any of your assessments, and neither does anyone within GWLAD, so please don't ask
- As a lecturer, I cannot provide you with any guidance or advice on Extenuating Circumstances beyond the exact information available on your hand-out (or in the Academic Quality Handbook)
- If you have concerns, or feel you may be able to apply for Extenuating Circumstances, please contact Student Services

Lecturer's Expectations

- Learners will attend class sessions
- Learners who cannot attend class sessions will email/call
- Learners will do the essential reading
- Learners will contribute to classroom discussions
- Learners will feel free to ask questions and 'interrupt' sessions
- Learners will complete all assessments
- Learners will submit drafts for all assessments to receive feedback
- Learners will submit on time
- Employers and line managers will give learners the time and space to engage in the learning process at work
- Employers and line managers will respect the learning process

Student’s Expectations

- ???