

ECDE7002 Suggested Assignment Structure

Assessment Component 1: 3500 words

Critically reflect on research paradigms that would enable you to conduct a mixed methods enquiry that would meet identified research questions. With reference to relevant literature, identify an area of research you may want to explore. Create between 1 and 3 research questions that would be answerable through a mixed methods approach to data collection. Critically appraise qualitative and quantitative research paradigms which link to your research questions, justifying why they are appropriate.

Section	Suggested content	Suggested word count
Introduction & rationale	What is your research about? Why have you chosen this topic? Why is it important (to you/to others)? Refer to literature to support your decisions.	300
Literature review	What does the published literature say about your topic? Do authors agree or disagree? Are there studies available that are similar to the study that you are proposing? Is there a gap in the literature that you intend to fill?	800
Theoretical framework / methodology	What is your positionality with regard to your topic? How do the following elements have an impact on your study: • Ontology • Epistemology • Research paradigm (e.g. positivism, constructivism, pragmatism) Refer to literature to support your points.	700
Research methods/tools	Why might a mixed-methods approach be useful in your study? What are the strengths and limitations of this approach? (You could include a discussion of qualitative and quantitative data here.) Refer to literature to support your points.	700
Research Questions	What are your research questions? Why have you chosen them? Within which paradigm do they sit? What type of data would need to be collected in order to answer each one? You could introduce each research question separately here. Refer to literature to justify your decisions.	900
Conclusion	Summarise your intentions.	100

Assessment Component 2: 3500 words

Outline your preferred approach (qualitative/quantitative/mixed methods) to this enquiry by focusing on ONE of your research questions. Plan an appropriate data collection process and associated analysis of the data, reflecting on its strengths and limitations. Critically reflect upon the ethical issues surrounding the research process.

Section	Suggested content	Suggested word count
Introduction	Briefly introduce your topic and the research question that you have chosen to focus on in this part of the assignment. What is the aim of your study?	200
Chosen method	What is/are your chosen method(s)? Quantitative Qualitative Mixed-methods approach	600
Sampling	What is/are your sampling method(s)?	500
Ethics	What are the ethical considerations that relate to your study?	700
Research tool(s)	What is/are the research tool(s) that you have selected?	1000
Data analysis method(s)	Which method(s) of data analysis have you chosen?	400
Conclusion	Summarise your intentions.	100

Assessment Component 3: 800-word equivalent

Consider the ethical implications of your identified research question. Using the UWTSD Ethics form, outline the responses you would provide to address the research question in component 2. You will need to complete the following sections:

- **SECTION L:** Types of Personal Data
- **SECTION M:** Participant Information and Consent
- **SECTION Q:** Risk Assessment