

Glossary of useful terms

Term	Meaning
Academic integrity	Conducting all aspects of your academic life in a professional manner.
Academic schools	The different academic departments in the university.
Activity	A task, or set of tasks, to be completed while studying a theme in this module.
Applied research	This is carried out in order to solve specific, practical questions or problems.
Bibliographic resources	Written resources. These can be online or offline resources.
Bibliography	A list or collection of written resources.
Citation	A brief identification of a source used in a written work.
Constructivism	Believing that each individual constructs his/her own reality so there are multiple interpretations.
Discipline	An academic discipline is just a department or area of research.
Dissertation	A substantial piece of written work based on research.
Epistemology	The philosophical theory of knowledge.
Ethics Committee	A team of people who review research proposals which deal with people, animals and living organisms. They look at the ethical impact of the research and the research process.
External examiner	A senior academic in another institution who is appointed to examine a thesis.
Extrinsic	External; e.g. extrinsic motivators are things like money, discounts, tangible rewards.
Gantt Chart	This is a bar chart / time line which is used to show work that is planned and to help monitor progress.
Generic	General; e.g. generic skills, such as reading critically or writing well, are useful to all researchers, regardless of their subject area.
Grey literature	These are documents which is not commercially published or publicly available, such as technical reports or internal business documents.
Harvard referencing	A specific style for citations and references.
Hypothesis	A proposition which is assumed to be true and usual one the goes on to try and prove if it is true or false.
Intrinsic	Internal; e.g. intrinsic motivators are feelings like fun, happiness, goodness.
Log book	A file where you record useful resources, reflections on your progress and so on. In this module some of the themes use a specific Word file as the log book.
Methodology	Your strategic approach to find things out and doing research.
Mini thesis	Or Transfer Thesis is a document one produces about 18-24 months into their Masters/PhD programme detailing work done so far and work still to be done.
Ontology	1. <philosophy> A systematic account of Existence. 2. <artificial intelligence> An explicit formal specification of how to represent the objects, concepts and other entities that are assumed to exist in some area of interest and the relationships that hold among them.

Paradigm	A set of assumptions, concepts, values, and practices that constitutes a way of viewing reality for the community that shares them, especially in an intellectual discipline.
Periodical	A journal, or other regularly produced publication.
PERT chart	Programme Evaluation review Technique chart. This is a diagram consisting of nodes and directional lines, it can be used to identify the critical path.
Plagiarism	Copying someone else's work without acknowledgement or citation. This is a breach of academic integrity (see above) and usually results in penalties.
Positivism	Recognising only observable phenomena and therefore verifying things by experiments and testing.
Post positivism	Believing that we need context for our research, and thus context free experimental design is not sufficient.
Primary sources (or data)	Original work presented for the first time (or data which you have collected yourself).
Pure research	This is exploratory in nature and is conducted without any practical end-use in mind.
Qualitative Research	This is based on factors which cannot be measured.
Quantitative Research	This is based on measurable factors.
Reference	The full details of a source cited in a written work.
Research project	This is done by researchers and covers everything from collecting data to writing up their findings in a paper, thesis or dissertation.
Risk assessment	All research activities must be assessed for hazards and evaluated for risk. The process of doing this, and the document produced is called a risk assessment.
Scholarly journals	These are academic journals which publish papers that have been peer reviewed.
Secondary sources (or data)	These materials summarise, review and report on original (primary) sources (or data which has been collected by others).
Student number	Your unique identification number. If you do not know it, ask in your School Office.
Supervisor	The academic member of staff who guides you in your research.
Theme	A unit of the module; e.g. Literature Review is a theme.
Thesis	A substantial piece of written work based on research.
Tutor	The academic member of staff who guides you while you are studying this module. This could be the same person as your supervisor or may be someone different.
Vancouver referencing	A number is given to each reference as it is used. If the same reference is used again it keeps it's original number. The references are listed in numerical order at the end of the text.
Wikipedia	This website is not peer reviewed and anyone can contribute to entries, so it may not be correct. On the other hand it can be a very useful place to start when looking for information.

