

## **Postgraduate Research Methods Module**

**This is not a weekly breakdown of sessions but a thematic overview**

### **1. Introduction to postgraduate research**

- a. Is there a Dichotomy between Qualitative and Quantitative Research Techniques?
- b. Some Fundamental Environmental Research Concepts
- c. Reliability & Validity
- d. How to write a research proposal and module assessment
- e. Characteristics of a good supervisory relationship

### **2. Don't Reinvent the Wheel**

- a. The importance of topic choice in postgraduate research projects
- b. Setting the Research questions

### **3. The Review of Literature**

- a. Setting your work within an academic arena
- b. The general aim and scope
- c. Be logical and systematic
- d. Finding the literature
- e. Doing the literature review
- f. Writing up
- g. Characteristics of a good literature review
- h. Question and answer session

### **4. How to Choose a Suitable Methodology**

- a. Validity, Reliability, Objectivity and Truth
- b. Sampling
- c. Questionnaire Design
- d. Types of Interview and Other Forms of Data
- e. Analysis, Validity, Ethics

### **5. Research Analysis / Evaluation: The tip of the iceberg**

- a. Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis
- b. How to assess a dissertation exercise
- c. Review previous research in your subject

### **6. The Final Assault on the 'Summit': Writing UP!**

- a. How to write an abstract
- b. How to structure dissertation
- c. Tips on completing effectively

### **7. Q & A sessions with expert researchers in the field**

## **8. Yahoo I've finished!**

- a. The final stages
- b. Viva voce
- c. Publication/ conference presentations, further Research
- d. Research Ethics. The importance of completing the University requirements
- e. Research proposal exercise and Q&A session

Good luck and enjoy!