

# INTRODUCTION TO MODULE

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**Dissertation**

**Research Project**

BSc Health and Social Care, BSc Health  
Management, BSc Children and Young People



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# Brief Overview

- Duration: All Year
- Credits
- DISSERTATION: 40 credits
- RESEARCH PROJECT: 20 credits



# Level of Study : 6

- Achievement at Level 6 reflects the ability to refine and use relevant understanding, methods and skills to address **complex** problems that have limited definition.
- It includes **taking responsibility** for planning and developing courses of action that are able to underpin substantial change or development, as well as exercising broad autonomy and judgement.
- It also reflects an **understanding of different perspectives**, approaches or schools of thought and the theories that underpin them.



# Aims of Module

- The dissertation provides an opportunity for students to produce a **substantial body of work** which has been instigated, developed and produced as a consequence of their **own initiative**.



# Aims

- The dissertation normally arises from individual interest or from a professional internship period
- WILL require the student to undertake an independent research investigation.
- •In this context it will also aim to allow the student to apply a range of analytical skills and techniques
- Develop research based skills by undertaking structured and methodical research.

# Learning Outcomes

- Develop a suitable and appropriate research proposal.
- Appraise critically the literature pertaining to a problem domain.
- Evaluate, select and apply relevant research techniques in secondary fields.
- Analyse rigorously the evidence gathered.
- Generate and justify appropriate conclusions based on the previous analyses, demonstrating awareness of the limitations of the research.
- Produce an organised and structured document that adheres to academic convention.



# Develop a suitable and appropriate research proposal

- What do you think this will entail?

# Appraise critically the literature pertaining to a problem domain.

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- How can this be done?

# Evaluate, select and apply relevant research techniques in secondary fields.

- Break down the key words and write a description of the meaning of each

# Analyse rigorously the evidence gathered

- What are you being asked to do?
- What are your own methods of doing this?

- Generate and justify appropriate conclusions based on the previous analyses, demonstrating awareness of the limitations of the research
- How could you ensure this activity is met?

# Produce an organised and structured document that adheres to academic convention.

- What tools may you need to achieve this?

# Any Questions

- At this point?

# Lesson Content

- Developing and structuring a research proposal: problem identification, formulating aims/hypotheses, sampling, ethical issues and the practicalities of design.
- Research principles and approaches (e.g. the research process, purpose, sources of data including primary/secondary research, quantitative/qualitative data, objective/hypothesis formation, reliability, validity, generalisability)

# Lesson Content

- Research design strategies, (e.g. action research, experiments, surveys, case studies, ethnography), their advantages and limitations, and their suitability to a variety of research contexts.
- Data collection & sampling methods (e.g. interviews, questionnaires, observation), and their advantages and limitations in a variety of contexts.
- Data analysis of both qualitative and quantitative information
- Development of documentation for academic dissertations.
- Subject-specific content as required.

# Assessment 1– 10%

## THE RESEARCH PROPOSAL

- A written research proposal (coursework, 1,500-2000 words) detailing the background to the study, the research objectives, research methods, planning/resources and ethical considerations.
- Identify an area of study, relevant to your degree pathway, in which you would like to conduct your own research
- Produce a dissertation research proposal in which you introduce and justify your chosen research
- Approximately 1,500-2,000 words



# The Research Proposal

- This makes up the 'bare bones' of your final thesis
- You CAN use it in your final thesis
- A template WILL be provided

# Content: 5 Sections

- Background to the study
- The research aim and objectives
- Research methodology and methods
- Planning/resources
- Ethical considerations.

# Assessment 2 - 90%

- A written Dissertation (coursework, approximately 12,000 words)

OR

- A written Research Project (coursework, approximately 5,000 words)

# Deadline Dates

- There are staggered deadline dates throughout the year to help you organise your work
- **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MEETING THESE DEADLINES**



# VERY IMPORTANT

- Reading
- READING
- READING
- Is the MOST vital aspect of this module

# How to Read

DO NOT USE THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR THESIS:

- ANY Daily newspaper article (although you can source materials from them and go to the source)
- Wikipedia (same again for accessing the source)
- Websites that CANNOT be verified (when in doubt, stick to those linked to government agencies, charities, universities and any recommended on any UWTSD reading list)
- PRIMARY or FIRSTHAND data

# What to Use

- Journals
- Sources from newspapers (The Guardian, Observer and Independent only please)
- Books
- Materials on any UWTSD reading list
- Government sites
- Reports from agencies and organisations that are verifiable
- SECONDARY data only

# Important: Justification and Back Up

- Do NOT include information you do not back up in a thesis

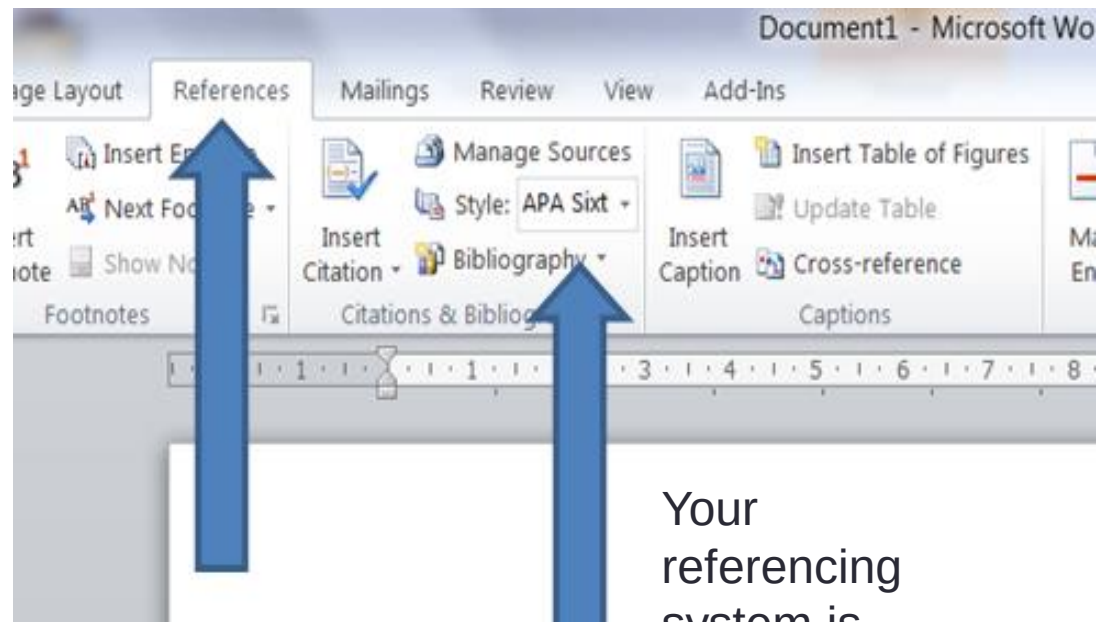
AND

- You have to JUSTIFY every decision and step you take throughout

# Referencing

- Makes up at least 20% of your grade
- You can utilise word referencing :

You can also input manually



Your  
referencing  
system is  
**HARVARD**  
2008



# Reading Lists

- Always check your handbook for reading lists
- Additional reading and links will also be found on your moodle page (more about this below)
- You can use campus libraries in this building (Swansea Business School), Townhill, Mount Pleasant, Carmarthen, or even Lampeter
- Libraries will order in books from other campuses or buy them in for you
- **DON'T BE AFRAID TO REQUEST WHAT YOU NEED**



# You Will Need ...

- Attendance
- Commitment
- Notes / Handouts / Print outs / Journal Articles / Books
- Time management
- Admin Organisation
- ★ • READING READING READING ★
- Support
- Virtual Learning Environment



# Virtual Learning Environment

- Moodle is the University's VLE and is used to support learning and teaching
- It can be accessed by **enrolled** students from anywhere in the world using the internet and a web browser.

Some of Moodle's features allow students to:

- Access course materials
- Facilitate communication between students and tutors
- Support group tasks
- Take online assessments with automatic marking and feedback facilities

Moodle can be used for administration tasks such as:

- Displaying announcements e.g. lecture venue changed
- Submission of assignments electronically
- Administration of online surveys, such as module questionnaires



# Your Next Steps

- Your title, aim and objectives need to be outlined as soon as possible
- Attend every session
- Start to read read read!



# Q&A

- Any Questions?

