

## Research Proposal: Additional guidance

*It is expected that you are using the Assessment Proforma for guidance on the structure that is expected for this assessment. The information below is additional and relates specifically to the resit assessment question for the 2019/2020 academic year.*

### Title:

This should be an informative snapshot of what you are proposing to explore in your research. Attempt to include information about the type of design you are planning to use and the target population (where applicable). If you are specifically looking to explore attitudes towards mental illness in care workers, for example, make that clear.

### Background:

This assessment is asking you to prepare a research proposal for a potential research project. Within this section you should include relevant psychological literature that provides a justification for WHY this project is worth doing – what does previous literature say about attitudes towards mental health in general? Are you proposing to focus on a specific facet of mental health, or a particular disorder? Are you planning on exploring a specific population? If so, include literature that is relevant to these to support why this project is worth doing. You can choose to prepare this proposal from any direction you would like. [One journal article has been provided on Moodle](#) – this is related to student nurses attitudes towards mental health and you may decide that this is not something you would like to focus on; that's fine – choose a specific topic, choose a population and explore literature in that area. [The Community Attitudes towards the Mentally Ill \(CAMI\) has also been provided for you.](#) Again, this is a measure you *may* decide to use to explore attitudes towards mental health in general or you may decide to propose an adaptation to this measure to explore a specific mental health disorder. Again – this is fine – justify it and explain it.

**NB:** I have also provided a list of **potential** sources of information for you related to different elements/types of mental health, populations, etc. You may find some of these useful so please feel free to use them.

### Methods:

Intended participants: Who are they? Are you proposing to target a general population or a specific population (males only, student nurses, care workers, police officers, etc)? How many are you proposing to collect data from?

Design: what type of design are you proposing to employ? Between-subjects (looking at differences in attitudes between two independent groups of participants) or within-subjects (aiming to explore potential changes in attitudes across time, or following some form of intervention)? If planning on exploring your question experimentally, what variables are you going to be including? (hint – your dependent variable overall is going to be attitudes towards mental illness...)

Materials: What will you be asking participants / what do you plan to use to collect data from participants? Again, the CAMI may be a questionnaire you want to propose to use – explain what this questionnaire measures, how many questions it contains, what final scores indicate, etc. Give as much detail as you can. [An example of a materials section has been provided for you on Moodle.](#)

Recruitment plan: how are you planning on recruiting participants to take part in this study? Remember that this is a proposal – you can propose to recruit participants in any way that you want here (providing it is at least somewhat realistic!) Are you proposing to recruit student nurses via a university campus? Perhaps police officers via online mechanisms requesting police officer engagement in the project?

### **Ethical considerations:**

There will (and should) be some! How will you offer informed consent to participants? Will they be debriefed? Are there any possible issues with confidentiality (if you are proposing to target police officers, for example, or children, what must you ensure you make clear in regards to confidentiality of their data?) Are you proposing any element of deception? Is this necessary? Provide justifications where applicable.

### **Study Outcomes:**

What could the results of the study – the outcomes – add to the existing literature based? What are the potential real-world implications of the project? Could you possibly be proposing a training method for a particular population based on the potential outcomes? Are you interested in how changes in attitudes can be observed over time – why would these findings be relevant? Provide a brief discussion here of these things and remember that you should have some idea of what you would be expecting to find (based upon the literature you had read and included in the background), and also why the project could be important (otherwise why do it...).

**Reference list:** in APA style!