## Module: Research Methods

The module assessment is about the research process. It will involve you writing about a HYPOTHETICAL project of your choice.

You will describe the stages and processes needed to complete a degree level project – you will not actually implement the project for this module.

The students will compile an individual research report between 3,000-3,500 words.

#### Assessment Guidelines

This assignment focuses on the identification of a research problem and designing a proposed research strategy. The final proposal should be 3,000-3,500 words and structured in the following manner.

* Justification for selection of topic (no more than half page)

*Why did you select this topic*? W*hy is it particularly interesting to you?*

* Problem definition (no more than 2 pages)

*Using literature justify why this is a topic suitable for investigation. This is not a full literature review but does involve critical analysis of existing literature*

* Present a draft title and research aims and objectives
* Present an overview of the research design (no more than 2 pages)

*Use reference to a model such as Saunders’s research onion to discuss the overall design including choice of philosophy and approach*

* Present a detailed methodology (minimum 3 pages) using references to support your arguments
* *What methods do you intend to use for data/information collection?*
* *Why have you chosen this/these method(s)?*
* *What are the limitations?*
* *How do you intend to gain access to data?*
* *How will you analyse the data?*
* *What is your sampling framework, and how was this decided?*
* *Ethics implications*
* *Feasibility considerations in terms of size and scope*
* A timetable of activities (one page maximum)

*Using a suitable time management planning tool identify when would you need to undertake various tasks to complete the thesis within a six month period.*

This assignment should be word processed, using 12pt font size Times New Roman / Arial, with 2.5cm margins all around and 1.5 spacing. References and tables/figures/graphs may be single-spaced with a font size 10. All sources should be referenced using the Harvard system. A full reference and bibliography list of all sources must be included at the end of the report

## Assessment Criteria

When marking assignments the examiners will be looking for the following criteria:

* Clear legible presentation.
* There should be good use of spelling, grammar and language throughout.
* Appropriate focus meeting learning outcomes/assignment criteria
* Logical progression and structure of arguments.
* Normally assignments will require an introduction, a well-developed discussion and a conclusion summarising the work.
* The introduction will include an exploration of the focus of the assignment and discuss the way the assignment has been approached.
* There should be a coherent flow of information/discussion with clear links back to the question set.
* Evidence of a range of relevant supporting reading
* Use of accurate, evidence based information to support the arguments made
* Correct use of the University Harvard referencing system
* The student should maintain confidentiality of the patient /client and colleague/ PCT details at all times and adhere to NMC codes of professional conduct.

#### Presentation

The work must –

Include a title page with:

* + The name of the university
  + The course title and pathway title.
  + The module title
  + The module code
  + The name of the module leader
  + The student name, number and date.
  + state the word count
* Include a contents page to enable cross referencing between the sections.
* Include page numbers (Pages should be numbered at the bottom right).
* Be word processed
* Assignments should be 1.5 spaced, justified and printed on single sides of paper.
* There should be a 1” margin and at least a 11 font should be used.
* Use the Harvard system of referencing
* Follow normal academic conventions.
* The assignment must be written at the academic level being studied