

**UNIVERSITY OF CUMBRIA
 COURSEWORK REASSESSMENT REQUIREMENT**

Module Code: HSOG5001

**Module Title:
 Research methods and Data Handling**

Tutor: Andy Chick

Title of the item of work: Research portfolio

Wordage: 3000

Details and Criteria: (Please attach additional sheets if necessary)

itle of Assignment: Research Proposal (70% of Module Assessment)

Learning Objectives:

Understand a range of quantitative and qualitative research methods. Be able to choose an appropriate method to answer a research question; justify your choice of method and assess its limitations.
 Correctly choose, apply, and interpret parametric and non-parametric statistical tests.
 Understand and evaluate research design from hypothesis formation to examining data, including an appreciation of how statistical tests are linked to initial sampling strategy.
 Consider ethical and safety aspects of research projects.
 Locate, evaluate critically, and cite academic literature.

Task Outline:

Produce a *Research Proposal* on a topic of your choice, bringing together all strands of research planning and design covered in Research Theory and Practice (LO1). You are asked to *design* (but not carry out) a project that aims to collect research data that could be analysed statistically using parametric and/or non-parametric methods. This could be an experiment, an observational study or a questionnaire, or

use more than one of these approaches. The research proposal must be individual work.

It should be clear from the Methods how the Aims and Objectives of the proposal would be met, that the proposal is feasible, and scientific in approach.

The level of research to be considered for this proposal should be *feasibly achieved for an undergraduate dissertation* (i.e. devise a project that would involve 400 hours of work). Your actual dissertation proposal will be submitted separately (and may be on the same or a different topic).

An essential, assessed part of your submission will be the Risk Assessment, COSHH Form and/or Ethics Form. All projects will involve at least one of these (usually Risk Assessment), but some will require multiple documents. These must be included as appendices to your submitted proposal.

The proposal should include:

- Title, which clearly expresses the proposed research topic or question
- Introduction – a brief summary of your context and rationale (expanded in lit review) and why it is important, leading to:
- Literature review – provide the background for your proposed research, including the relevant theories on which it is based
- Research Aims and Objectives, which clearly summarise what you are trying to achieve, and hypotheses

- Methods to be used for data collection and analysis, and justification. Written in *prose*, this might include a description of the study site (e.g. for a field study) and equipment needed
- Data Analysis (a subheading under Methods)
This is a particularly important part of the assessment (LO2 and 3). Here, you must give and justify an appropriate sample size and sampling strategy. This should observe principles of research design to minimise bias and make sure results are representative. It should be clear how statistical tests are linked to the initial sampling strategy.
- Summary/conclusion of what the research project is about and what it will achieve (its wider importance and contribution).
- References and citations correctly presented in the Cite them Right style.
- Appendices (which should be referred to where appropriate in the main text). These will include a Risk Assessment, relevant COSHH and Ethics Forms, and any other material relevant to your proposal (e.g. questionnaires, data collection tables etc).

Your total word count is 3000 ± 10%, excluding the Reference List and Appendices. Please state your word count clearly at the end of your work.

You must submit an **electronic copy** only of your report (PDF format) via the submission point on Blackboard.

SUBMISSION DATE AS PER STUDENT PORTAL

(please tick as appropriate but must be completed)

To be submitted by **4 PM** on **12/8/2022** in accordance with instructions given by the course team. If you are posting your course work the receipt of postage must be by date and time of submission, you may be asked to present this.

To be submitted through the Virtual Learning Environment (eg. Blackboard / Pebblepad etc.) in pdf format, or in person/by RECORDED DELIVERY to the Programme Administration at the **XXXXXX Campus** of the University of Cumbria.