

Full Title:	Research Methods
Module Code:	RESA S7001
Credits:	5
Valid From:	Semester 1 - 2013/14 (September 2013)
Module Delivered in	2 programme(s)
Module Description:	The main aim of this module is to provide an overview of research perspectives, methodologies and strategies. The module also aims to ensure students gain an understanding of the process of data collection and analysis, to facilitate the development of a research proposal and dissertation and to develop key generic research skills.
Learning Outcomes:	
<i>On successful completion of this module the learner should be able to</i>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work effectively as part of a team to research, produce and defend a poster relating to an aspect of the programme. 2. Carry out a critique of the available and relevant literature on a topic of their choice. 3. Write a detailed literature review and deliver a high standard multimedia presentation of their findings. 4. Develop a coherent research plan incorporating an appropriate methodology. 5. Use statistical knowledge and software to analyse and summarise research data. 	

Module Content & Assessment

Indicative Content
Reviewing and Critiquing Literature Methods of locating relevant literature; Search strategies; Interpretation and evaluation of information; Limiting the search; Critiquing; Layout and presentation of the Literature review; Referencing; DKIT Academic Policy.
Design of Academic & Conference Posters Basic principles, poster design, poster content, printing.
Search Methodologies Library databases; e-journals; Archival material; Books & journals; World wide web
Creating a Research Plan Aims, objectives and feasibility; Design of research plan; Methodology: Ethical considerations; Data collection methods; Data analysis.
Communication and Presentation Skills Defending your work orally; Answering questions and arguments; Summarising your work; Academic presentations.
Introduction to Statistics and Experimental Design Frequency Distributions. Mean, Median, Mode. Measures of data spread – range, interquartile-range, standard error, standard deviation. Intro to Experimental Design.

Assessment Breakdown	%
Course Work	100.00%

Full Time

Course Work							
<i>Assessment Type</i>	<i>Assessment Description</i>	<i>Outcome addressed</i>	<i>% of total</i>	<i>Marks Out Of</i>	<i>Pass Marks</i>	<i>Assessment Date</i>	<i>Duration</i>
Written Report	Literature review & research plan	2,3,4	35.00	0	0	Week 12	0
Presentation	Presentation of literature review	3	15.00	0	0	Week 12	0
Group Project	In small teams, research, produce and defend a poster relating to an aspect of the programme.	1	25.00	0	0	Week 7	0
Continuous Assessment	Statistics assessment	5	15.00	0	0	Week 10	0
Other	Report to supervisor for advice, support and guidance. Maintain a detailed resource file.	2,3,4	10.00	0	0	Every Second Week	0

No Project

No Practical

No End of Module Formal Examination

DKIT reserves the right to alter the nature and timings of assessment

Module Workload & Resources				
Workload: Full Time				
Workload Type	Workload Description	Hours	Frequency	Average Weekly Learner Workload
Practical	Statistics	1.00	Every Week	1.00
Lecture	n/a	3.00	Every Week	3.00
Independent Study	n/a	2.00	Every Week	2.00
Directed Reading	n/a	2.00	Every Week	2.00
Total Weekly Learner Workload				8.00
Total Weekly Contact Hours				4.00

This course has no Part Time workload.

Resources
<i>Recommended Book Resources</i>
<p>Dawson, C. 2009, <i>Introduction to Research Methods: a practical guide for anyone undertaking a research project</i>, Oxford, How to Books</p> <p>Blumberg, B. 2011, <i>Business research methods</i>, 3rd Ed., McGraw-Hill</p> <p>DkIT 2009, <i>Credit Where Credit is Due: a guide to referencing in DkIT</i>, Dundalk Institute of Technology</p>
<i>Supplementary Book Resources</i>
<p>Walliman, N. 2011, <i>Your Research Project: Designing and Planning Your Work</i>, 3rd Ed., Sage Publications Ltd</p> <p>Cameron, S, and Price, D. 2009, <i>Business research methods : a practical approach</i>, Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development</p> <p>Grix, J. 2010, <i>Information Skills: finding and using the right resources</i>, Palgrave Macmillan</p>
<i>Recommended Article/Paper Resources</i>
<p>Hess, G. Tosney, K. and Liegel, L. 2013, <i>Creating Effective Poster Presentations</i>, North Carolina State University. http://www.ncsu.edu/project/posters/</p> <p>2011 <i>DkIT Academic Integrity Policy</i> https://www.dkit.ie/registrar/policies/academic-integrity-policy</p>
<i>Other Resources</i>
<p>Website: DkIT Library 2013, <i>Homepage</i> https://www.dkit.ie/library</p> <p>Website: Citethisforme.com 2013, <i>Resource to assist with Harvard Referencing</i> http://www.citethisforme.com/</p> <p>Website: Centre for Learning and Teaching 2009, <i>Resources</i>, DkIT https://www.dkit.ie/celt/resources</p> <p>VLE: DkIT 2013, <i>Moodle</i></p> <p>Link: <i>Library Catalogue</i> http://tinyurl.com/ng7zmdp</p>

Module Delivered in

Programme Code	Programme	Semester	Delivery
DK_SAGRI_8	Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Agriculture	5	Mandatory
DK_SAGRI_7	Bachelor of Science in Agriculture	1	Mandatory