

Film 2: Over view of the Research Methodologies module

This module introduces you to the main concepts that will help you conduct a piece of research within an educational setting, and the assessment requires you to do two things:

1. Produce a poster that explains a proposal for a piece of research you'd like to research undertake.
2. Then you will need to design a data collection instrument for your proposed research and pilot it with some participants. Once you have done this you will write a critical evaluation of the design and data collection process.

The module specification explains what is required in more detail.

To help you complete these assessments, the module will start by looking at research in education and move on to introduce you to a research cycle that suggests how you can move from an initial idea for a topic to research to undertaking a literature review that enables you to then identify a research question or questions for your study. So as part of this we will look at what a literature search and literature review are and how the latter will influence the research questions you might ask. Then you will explore how you select a research methodology and data collection instrument or instruments to enable you to answer your research question. The final topic you will look at is the ethical considerations you need to be aware of and comply with when carrying out a piece of research.

An important part of this module will be the supervision of your research by your centre tutor. Your supervisor will coach you through this module by asking you a set of questions that will help you to select your area of research and then develop this into a research proposal that you can base a pilot study on. Remember this is your research and your supervisor will expect you to make the important decisions about what you are going to do.

When you have finished this module you will get a chance to take the next step in your research and actually develop the pilot study into a full piece of research as part of the next module, the Major Study.