

5.1 The Assignment: *Research Proposal*

You are required to write a research proposal on a topic of your choice. It is advisable that this should match your final-year dissertation.

You should include / consider the following:

- 1 Explain, backed up by the relevant academic literature, why you propose to carry out research on the chosen topic. The justification for this topic should be included.
(20 marks)
- 2 You should make it clear whether your proposed research will require ethics approval. Include the ethics checklist in your list of appendices.
(5 marks)
- 3 Design a conceptual framework for your proposed research.
(15 marks)
- 4 Describe your research methodology. Explain why you chose a qualitative / quantitative or mixed methodology. Back up your research methodology by appropriate references.
(20 marks)
- 5 Describe and justify the proposed tools to collect and analyse your data, for example, laboratory experiments, survey questionnaires, interviews, secondary data collection from reliable and a variety of sources, etc.
(20 marks)
- 6 Include a Gantt Chart of the proposed activities required to successfully complete the proposed research within the time framework.
(15 marks)
- 7 Ensure proper use of references. Use the Harvard referencing style.
(5 marks)

Research Methods (MOD002695)

<<Title of your report>>

Faculty: Science and Technology
Department: Computing & Technology

Academic Year: 2013/2014
Trimester:

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Research Methods

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Content

The following is suggested content and structure. Please delete comments in blue colour.

Please find detailed below an example report structure. This is not compulsory. This is only a suggested structure. Within each section I have listed the requirements from the Module Guide. There is no new information, but the structure may help to organise your ideas.

The following list of contents is linked to each of the headings that follow. To update this Table of Contents, click anywhere within the contents (so they all go grey), and hit the F9 key. If you update the entire table (for example if you have added sections, or changed the wording) you may need to select the Table of Contents and update the font style and size.

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1. Introduction (20 marks)

[Please delete the following text] Explain, backed up by the relevant literature, why you propose to carry out research on the chosen topic. Whilst there is no formal requirement for the volume for reading, the more you read the better the proposal is likely to be. You should have read a minimum of 6 academic papers (that is 1 paper for every 2 weeks of the module). You need not have read the entire paper in detail. These should be papers from academic peer-reviewed journals. These journals, and journal articles may be available online. These journal articles should provide the justification (the 'reasons') for why you wish to investigate your topic. It is recommended that you use more than 6 academic papers if possible. You may use other sources, but acknowledge any potential bias.

2. Ethics Checklist (5 marks)

[Please delete the following text] You may prefer to put your checklist in an appendix at the end of your report.

3. Conceptual Framework (15 marks)

[Please delete the following text] Design and present a conceptual framework for your research. This is a visual presentation of the key themes (ideas) for your research area. The diagram links these ideas together. The diagram can either show the process of research by asking *how*, or can show the relationships between the ideas (themes) by asking *why*.

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4. Research Methodology (20 marks)

[Please delete the following text] Describe your research methodology. Explain why you chose a qualitative / quantitative or mixed methodology. Back up your research methodology by appropriate references. Based on what you want to find out, how are you going to go about this? Is your research inductive or deductive

5. Data Collection Tools (20 marks)

[Please delete the following text] Describe and justify the proposed tools to collect and analyse your data, for example, laboratory experiments, survey questionnaires, interviews, secondary data collection from reliable and a variety of sources. Which tools (or techniques) do you plan to use to collect the data?

6. Project Plan (15 marks)

[Please delete the following text] Include a Gantt Chart and a critical path analysis of the proposed activities required to successfully complete the proposed research within the time framework. Gantt Charts can be created in software such as MS Project or Excel. There are a variety of sources of help for Gantt Charts, from text descriptions to YouTube videos that demonstrate this technique visually.

7. References

[Please delete the following text] Organise in alphabetical order by the lastname of the author. Make sure that websites have a full reference, and not just the URL. Higher marks will be awarded for a reference section where the font and font style is consistent with the rest of the report, and does not differ in style or size. (See the library's guidance on citation and referencing [http://libweb\(anglia.ac.uk\)/referencing/harvard.htm](http://libweb(anglia.ac.uk)/referencing/harvard.htm)). Remember that citations are included within your text, and are usually the last name of the author and the year of publication, for example (Brown, 2011). References are the full information required to recall the resource, for example a website would have the following structure:

NHS Evidence, 2003. National Library of Guidelines. [online] Available at:
<<http://www.library.nhs.uk/guidelinesFinder>> [Accessed 10 October 2009].