

MAEL 101 - Methods of Research for the Educational Leader

ECTS Value: 8 ECTS

Overall Objectives and Outcomes

Research, which involves the gathering of data from carefully identified sources, is useful; particularly when the ultimate aim of every research is to acquire knowledge that will contribute to the area of discipline of the researcher. Hence, the prospect for students to do a research project is growing in many areas of study, one of which is education. Conducting a research project has become synonymous with programmes for postgraduate students pursuing a Master degree. The scope of this module is to introduce participants to research methods and delve into the different styles of doing qualitative or quantitative or mixed method research.

By the end of this module, the learner will be able to:

Competences

- a. initiate, devise and conduct qualitative, or quantitative research, or mixed methodology approach;
- b. evaluate and critique the advantages and disadvantages of qualitative or quantitative research, or mixed methodology approach;
- c. have a comprehensive understanding of the different styles of qualitative, or quantitative research, or mixed methodology approach and the different instances when each can be used;
- d. appraising a text in a critical and focused manner;
- e. conducting a review of the available literature and developing a critique disposition;
- f. become sensitive to the general ethical issues in research.

Knowledge

- a. an array of qualitative, quantitative research methods, or mixed methodology approach;
- b. related theories;
- c. notions of validity, positionality, reliability, ontology, and epistemology, generalisation and its limits, replication;
- d. writing a research proposal;
- e. the research problem/question, hypothesis and null hypothesis;
- f. correlational research;
- g. the importance of piloting a study;
- h. critically assess the process of sampling for reliability;
- i. become acquainted with the division of chapters in a dissertation and the scope of each chapter;
- j. comprehensively identify the ethical responsibilities of the researcher and knowledge of ethical issues as identified by Accredited Research Bodies;
- k. understand what plagiarism is and how it can be avoided;
- l. understand what is the role of *gate keeping* in research;
- m. identify ways how to work best with the assigned supervisor.

Skills

- a. Critique the different methodologies and their application;
- b. devise and conduct interviews;
- c. compiling items on the self-completion questionnaires and response styles;
- d. initiate and manage different methods of qualitative and quantitative research, or mixed methodology approach;
- e. systematically analyse qualitative and quantitative data, and interpret results;
- f. organising the research project by effectively managing time, resources, reading material, ideas and concepts for best results when conducting research;
- g. comprehensively identify the most relevant literature for the research and develop a coherent link between the research question/s, the literature, research design and discussion of the findings;
- h. interpret the results obtained from the data;
- i. compiling a matrix of required revisions on the dissertation

Assessment Methods

This module will be assessed through: Assignments

Suggested Readings

These will be provided by the lecturer.