

UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD, SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND RELATED RESEARCH

MASTER/ DIPLOMA/ CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC HEALTH

HAR6030: Introduction to Research Methods (15 Credits) 2012/2013

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Assessment

There are two parts to the assessment, which together will demonstrate your engagement with the material and understanding of the key concepts contained within this module.

1. Formative assessment: On-line journal entries

Formative assessments give tutors an indication of student progress and indicate to students the standard of work expected. A formal mark is ***not*** recorded for formative assessments, but students will be given feedback on the quality of their work throughout the module (this may take the form of group or individual feedback).

The formative assessment for this module involves completing six on-line journal entries. These journal entries will enable students to think reflectively about the sections required for completion of the summative assessment below. You will complete your on-line journal entries in Weeks 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 9. **The on-line journal entries are considered mandatory and are an essential requirement for passing the module.**

You will have opportunities throughout the module to discuss issues arising from the on-line journal entries with your group tutor.

2. Summative assessment: Outline mixed-methods research proposal (100%)

For this part of the assignment, each student is required to produce a written outline for a **mixed-methods research proposal** of 2000 words (+/-200) on a health topic, keeping in mind the perspective you need to use for your Masters Programme, eg, Public Health, Public Health Management & Leadership, International Public Health or Clinical Research (possible examples are provided in brackets but you are free to choose your own):-

- 1) Environmental Hazards and Public Health (For example, you might want to focus on the health implications of factors such as climate change; hurricanes or toxic chemicals)
- 2) Infectious Diseases and Public Health (For example, you may want to examine aspects such as prevention, care or access to treatment in relation to specific infectious diseases such as:- HIV/AIDS; Tuberculosis; Malaria; H1N1 Swine Flu)
- 3) Family Relations, Childbirth and Parenting (In this broad subject area, there are a variety of topics you may wish to look at, for example, the impact of domestic violence on children; maternal death in childbirth; teenage parenting)
- 4) Chronic Illness and Lifestyle (e.g. coronary heart disease and exercise; alcohol addiction)

Whatever your chosen topic area, you need to choose a particular **aspect** that will be researched, for example, prevention, risk reduction, patient safety, care, access to treatment, quality assurance, factors affecting programme implementation, or evaluation of effectiveness.

The proposal should include the following:-

- Introduction to the research question (including brief literature review; explanation of why your research question is timely/relevant /potentially useful; a clearly defined research question; appropriate aims and objectives).
- The theory behind your approach including the outline and justification of research design/methodology (NB: in order to demonstrate your understanding of the module materials, you are asked to use a **mixed methods approach** in your design).
- Plan of investigation (including sampling, procedure, method/s of data collection (eg interviews, questionnaires) and method/s of analysis (eg appropriate statistical tests; type of thematic analysis)).
- Anticipated impact on potential beneficiaries of the research.
- Ethical concerns (over and above the requirement to apply to an ethics committee).
- Potential difficulties/risks of carrying out the research.
- Methods of dissemination.
- Timetable with project milestones. (There is no set time limit for your proposal but you are expected to produce something that is sensible and realistic).
- References (using Harvard or Vancouver system): (NB: references are **not** included in the word count).

NB: Sections on staffing and requested research budget are **not** required.

Assignment hand-in details

All information about the hand-in procedure, including the deadline, will be made available on MOLE.

Dr Sarah Barnes
School of Health and Related Research
University of Sheffield
Regent Court
30 Regent Street
Sheffield S1 4DA

s.barnes@sheffield.ac.uk

Tel: 0114 2220727