Research Project Preparation

This module aims to assist you in developing essential skills to design and complete clinical research. This module is essential in the planning and preparation for your final MSc thesis if you propose to undertake clinical research.

Dates: This module is delivered in both Semester 1 & 2
Credits: 15 credit points at level 7 - (masters level)
Programme outline
The module will be delivered fully online via Blackboard Learn, the University’s online distance learning medium. This will involve screencast lectures, resources and activities supported by online discussion sessions. The total number of student effort hours for the module is 150. You will therefore be required to study for at least two evenings, or a full day, each week.

Each week a different topic is presented for you to work through remotely in your own time. During the module you will also be allocated an academic supervisor from the University who will offer support on the development of your research proposal, as you apply the learning to your specific question of interest.

Professional body accreditation
The following professional bodies have endorsed the module: Society of Radiographers; College of Occupational Therapists.

Introduction
There is an emphasis throughout healthcare on an evidence-based approach to clinical practice. Practice should be underpinned by sound evidence in order to ensure that the interventions used are the most effective and safest options. Healthcare professionals make a significant contribution to Clinical Practice in Health and Social Care. They are therefore well placed clinically to identify where gaps are in the research evidence that would be useful clinically and what are the questions that they could answer.

The aim of this module is to help healthcare professionals develop skills and knowledge required to develop research protocols. These protocols are used to succinctly outline and describe your research idea and proposal to a range of stakeholders. These stakeholders could include colleagues who are keen to support you, funders, your professional body and sponsors of your work for example key personnel who lead on ethical governance. This research protocol is the clear outline and method for undertaking clinically based research.

Who should attend?
Health professionals who want to develop skills in developing research protocols to undertake clinical research.

Course content
The topic areas covered will ensure that you will be able to formulate a structured research questions, with associated research protocol. Following the introduction, the module content will be delivered online via Blackboard Learn. The range of topics will include (subject to change and not full range):

- How to design a research project and generate a question
- Patient and public involvement in research
- Quantitative research methods: an introduction
- Qualitative research methods: an introduction
- Ethics and research governance
- Applying for funding

Assessment
The assessment for this module is 100% coursework (research protocol).

Further information
Module/Course Co-ordinator: Professor Suzanne Martin, s.martin@ulster.ac.uk
Module Code; OTH812 CRN:6051

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