C69RP Research Preparation in English (1)

COURSE DETAILS
Course Code: C69RP
Full Course Title: Research Preparation in English (1)
SCQF Level: 9
SCAF Credits: 15
Available as Elective: Yes

DELIVERY LEVEL
Undergraduate: Yes  Postgraduate Taught: Yes  Postgraduate Research: No
Additional Information:

COURSE AIMS

- To enable students to explore their intended research community
- To enable students to adopt a critical perspective as readers of academic texts
- To enable students to establish a rationale for doing their research
- To enable students to practise project management and communication skills at the start of a research project

LEARNING OUTCOMES – SUBJECT MASTERY

Students will gain knowledge of:

- the purpose, structure and style of a range of research genres such as annotated bibliographies, critical reviews, proposals & posters
- how a research community builds and communicates knowledge

Students will gain skills in the following:

- Identifying research topics the community views as relevant & important
- Accessing relevant sources & information.
- Critically evaluating published and unpublished literature
- Relating operational definitions to data collection and analysis
- Putting forward an argument in a literature review, research report, poster or presentation
- Designing and carrying out a small scale pilot study

LEARNING OUTCOMES – PERSONAL ABILITIES

The student will be able to:

- Transfer skills and techniques associated with academic research to professional and workplace contexts

The student will be able to:
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- Exercise autonomy and initiative in time management and project management related to the research process
- Take responsibility for their own work progress & record keeping
- Seek guidance where appropriate

The student will be able to:

- Evaluate and use published sources as evidence to support knowledge claims
- Evaluate and use research results as evidence to support knowledge claims

SYLLABUS

The syllabus will include but is not limited to the following topics relevant to the subject:

Scoping the research field

- comparing research interests in the department
- Investigating key journals and other publications which sustain research conversations

Finding resources for research

- Reading the literature critically and systematically to identify report structure, research purposes and contribution
- Compiling, categorising and prioritising relevant sources for an annotated bibliography

Establishing a rationale for doing research

- critically evaluating sources – finding limitations, problems and gaps
- identifying a real world context for data collection

Designing research

- Using sources to define concepts so that they can be measured (operationalising)
- Linking operational definitions to a rationale for using a particular research approach/methodology and data collection technique
- Writing research questions, aims and objectives
- Critically evaluating and writing research proposals?
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