

Unit Title: **Counselling Research Dissertation**



Unit Credit Value:	39
Unit Level:	Six
Unit Guided Learning Hours:	20
Ofqual Unit Reference Number:	M/506/3131
Unit Review Date:	31/07/2019
Unit Sector:	1.3 Health and Social Care

Unit Summary

The purpose of this unit is to allow learners to conduct some empirical research into an area of counselling practice. The research will be conducted and communicated in the form of an academic dissertation that will add to knowledge and understanding in the field of professional counselling practice. It is intended that the final piece of work should communicate to other practitioners useful and in depth knowledge and understandings of a limited area of specialised practice.

Unit Information

It is expected that before the unit is delivered, the tutor will have read the Qualification Specification to ensure all conditions regarding Rules of Combination, delivery, assessment and internal quality assurance are fulfilled. Additional guidance is available below as Assessment Guidance for Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria in **bold**.

This unit has 4 learning outcomes

LEARNING OUTCOMES	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
The learner will:	The learner can:
1. Understand the field of counselling research	1.1. Review and evaluate key aspects of counselling research relevant to a specific topic of interest 1.2. Critically compare research studies on the specific topic of interest
2. Understand the contribution of research literature to an intended research project	2.1. Identify, as an intended research project, a specific topic of interest 2.2. Conduct a literature search on the specific topic of interest 2.3. Develop a literature review demonstrating the current body of knowledge on the specific topic of interest

LEARNING OUTCOMES	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
The learner will:	The learner can:
3. Understand the contribution of research methodologies to an intended research project	3.1. Identify research methodologies relevant to the specific topic of interest 3.2. Select research methodologies relevant to the specific topic of interest 3.3. Conduct data collection and analysis relevant to the specific topic of interest 3.4. Review and discuss the outcomes of the data collected
4. Understand the ethical implications of the intended research project	4.1. Identify relevant ethical guidelines 4.2. Clarify the ethical implications of the intended research project 4.3. Identify researcher reflexivities and potential sources of bias

Assessment Guidance

Indicative Content

Learners must:

- identify and contract with academic supervisor/s
- prepare final research proposal and submit to external assessor
- know about the ethics application process
- attend Research Workshops e.g. Referencing, Writing a Literature Review, Ethics, Writing workshops
- develop Participant Information Sheets (PIS) and Consent Forms
- present to peers some aspect of the research process;
- keep a research journal
- keep a log of both academic and clinical supervision processes, including benefits and challenges and the application of learning.

Learning outcome 4

4.3 Researcher reflexivities: the role of reflexivity in research.

Evidence Requirements

Evidence of practical ability must be demonstrated.

Reading List

Required reading

Hanley, T., Lennie, C., & West, W. (2013). **Introducing counselling & psychotherapy research**. London: Sage.

McLeod, J. (2013). **An introduction to research in counselling and psychotherapy**. London: Sage.

Rudestam, K. E., & Newton, R. R. (2007). **Surviving your dissertation: A comprehensive guide to content and process** (3rd Ed). London: Sage.

Sanders, P., & Wilkins, P. (2010). **First steps in practitioner research: A guide to understanding and doing research in counselling and health and social care**. Ross-on-Wye: PCCS Books.

Recommended Reading

Bager-Charleson, S. (2010). **Reflective practice in counselling and psychotherapy**. Exeter: Learning Matters.

Cooper, M. (2008). **Essential research findings in counseling and psychotherapy**. London: Sage.

Danchev, D., & Ross, A. (2013). **Research ethics for counsellors, nurses and social workers**. London: Sage.

Etherington, K. (2004). **Becoming a reflexive researcher: Using our selves in research**. London: Jessica Kingsley.

Hanley, T., Lennie, C., & West, W. (2013). **Introducing counselling & psychotherapy research** London: Sage.

Loewenthal, D. (2007). **Case studies in relational research: Qualitative research methods in counselling and psychotherapy**. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

McLeod, J. (2010). **Case study research in counselling and psychotherapy**. London: Sage.

McLeod, J. (2011). **Qualitative research in counselling and psychotherapy** (2nd ed.). London: SAGE'

Walliman, N. (2004). **Your undergraduate dissertation: The essential guide to success**. London: Sage.

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Wright, J., & Bolton, G. (2012). **Reflective writing in counselling and psychotherapy**. London: Sage.