

RHE Module – Issues from workshop on research proposals (June 2008)

RESEARCH TOPICS	METHODS	RELIABILITY & VALIDITY	ETHICAL ISSUES	RESOURCE NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective assessment of Strategic Management modules (LD) • Evaluating a “personalised learning” approach to short placements (in health care field) (SM) • Evaluating the effectiveness of a “writing-modelling” approach for culturally and linguistically diverse students (HW) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • focus groups • questionnaires - open-ended (for small groups), quantitative (for wide survey) • semi-structured interviews – face to face, telephone • observations (of learning sessions) • analysis of student work (e.g. reflective reports) • finding ways to compare “old” and “new” approaches to teaching 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tutor involvement (too much subjectivity?) • using focus groups to illuminate anonymous questionnaires • obtaining authentic responses from students • voluntary factor (i.e. how either being forced to participate, or volunteering, might skew reliability of student input) • [R] selection of interviewees (similar issue to the one above) • [R] facilitation of focus groups (e.g. by the teacher-research or by an independent person) – similar to first issue? • [V] questionnaire design based on issues identified in focus group • [R] observation protocol (to enable replication of the research process) • [V] analysis of qualitative data (using themes, metaphors etc) • [V] “structured” vs “open” analysis of the research data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • role of the teacher-researcher • need to clarify the purpose of the research (clear, truthful, reportable) • need to reassure students that participation won’t influence their grades • permission/informed consent – verbal briefing (as well as/rather than a signed form) • need to ensure anonymity of participants • using assessed work as research evidence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access to literature on research methods - see RHE module bibliography and use online Library Catalogue to check books in our HE Resource Collection • see suggested websites and online resources

