

Qualification Unit

This unit forms part of a regulated qualification.

Unit Title: Independent Research Project

Unit Reference Number: R/651/9012

Level: Six (6)

Credit Value: 30

Minimum Guided Learning Hours: 30

The primary aims of this unit are:

- to encourage learners to further develop an autonomous approach to the studies whilst introducing a valid and relevant investigative project
- to encourage learners to identify data and information sources and devise robust and appropriate methods of collecting and presenting information and data
- to promote strategic planning and effective time management skills.
- to allow the learner to explore and evaluate scientific evidence relevant to the field of equine physiotherapy

Assessment Guidance

All learners are required to submit a project proposal which must be approved prior to the learner commencing any primary research. Once approved, the learner will begin their dissertation research project and will be expected to work closely with their project supervisor on a needs-led basis.

All learners will have the opportunity to submit a draft version of their dissertation one month prior to the final submission date. Feed-forward guidance will be provided by the project supervisor, and learners will be able to make any required changes prior to the final submission deadline.

The dissertation thesis word limit will be 8000 words excluding appendices.

Learning Outcome (The Learner will):	Assessment Criterion (The Learner can):
1. Be able to plan a research project	1.1 Develop a research question
	1.2 Plan a research and data/information collection schedule
	1.3 Plan a writing up schedule

2. Be able to select and apply appropriate research techniques to the area of investigation	2.1	Conduct a review of primary literature
	2.2	Collect and synthesise information using research techniques
	2.3	Evaluate findings of the review of literature
	2.4	Discuss any evident conflicts or limitations in relation to information/data gathered
	2.5	Manage progress to meet set milestones and deadlines as outlined in the planned schedule
	2.6	Review progress against planned schedule
3. Be able to communicate information clearly and accurately using appropriate methods	3.1	Write up a research project using appropriate presentation methods
	3.2	Present data analysis in a form suitable for inclusion in a research project

Indicative Content	
LO1	<p>AC 1.1 Could include develop and design: research proposal, rationale, search strategy or hypothesis and null hypothesis.</p> <p>AC 1.2 Could include a plan: summarise intended aims, identify tasks and their timings, contingency planning, resources required, resource limitations, data/information collection methods, potential risks, and errors in data and/or information collection, health and safety considerations appropriate.</p> <p>AC 1.3 Could include timescales for writing up all sections of project showing logical and sequential organised approach.</p>
LO2	<p>AC 2.1, AC 2.2 Could include research: information gathering, comparison of potential topics, appropriate sources of information, internet searches, books, journals, using other library resources, judging validity of information gathered, reasons for choice of topic, scope and purpose of investigation, use of appropriate research techniques/methodology to gather primary data, legitimacy, suitability. Adherence to recognised reporting guidelines.</p> <p>AC2.2 Could include assessing the quality of included studies or analyse data using appropriate research techniques/methodology.</p> <p>AC2.3 Could include analysis and evaluation: of literature reviewed, discussion and evaluation of key findings.</p> <p>AC2.4 Could include recognition of perceived limitations or conflicts observed with the information/data gathered as part of the research process.</p> <p>The learner could implement reviewing primary literature, collection of information/data.</p>

	<p>AC 2.5 Could include progress against schedule - daily, weekly, monthly. Deadlines for completion of information/data collection.</p>
LO3	<p>AC 3.1 The learner could write up a research project, and present information and findings according to academic conventions.</p> <p>AC 3.1, AC 3.2 Could include appropriate format and structure of written report; inclusion of sections relevant to chosen report. Appropriate content to be included within named sections of the investigative report.</p> <p>AC 3.2 Could include presentation of data using a range of formats as appropriate within research projects.</p>