

Introduction to Qualitative Research (Core)

Credit Value: 10

Course Organiser: Professor Sarah Cunningham-Burley

Course Instructor(s): Professor Sarah Cunningham-Burley

Time: Semester 1 Weeks 1-11
Wednesday, 11:10-13:00

Short course description: The course provides an introduction to qualitative research methods. Underlying approaches will be examined and then different methods will be looked at in more detail. Practical components will be incorporated into the sessions and visiting lecturers who are actively involved in qualitative research will talk about their research experience. Students will be expected to carry out one in-depth interview, participate in class exercises and discussions and do background reading on the topics. Students will also learn how to analyse qualitative data, what some of the challenges of mixing methods are and how to appraise published qualitative research.

Course prerequisites: None

Aim: To provide an introduction to analyzing qualitative research.

Learning objectives:

- Understand the underlying approaches to qualitative research, the differences between quantitative and qualitative research and the challenges of mixing methods.
- Identify some of the different ways in which qualitative research may be used.
- Compare and contrast focus groups, individual interviews and participant observation. Understand techniques for making sense of unstructured data.
- Be confident about all aspects of the research process and be reflexive researchers.
- Be able to appraise critically published qualitative research.

Teaching methods: The course will consist of lectures and practical sessions.

Assessment: 3,000 word assignment