

HEP903 Designing Engaged Research

Unit Description

This unit teaches students to design engaged research projects that address challenges in their professional practice. Students learn the fundamentals of research practice methodology to develop evidence-based solutions in educational and organisational settings. The focus is on using empirical data and theory, rather than assumptions, to drive improvements in learning and teaching contexts.

The unit begins with an exploration of the conduct of applied research in a professional setting and considers the philosophical basis of conducting applied research, with a specific focus on critical realism. It further explores the process of reviewing best practice and theory (the present art) and the development of a practice or theoretical framework that provides structure to the research. The unit covers research design, qualitative and quantitative data collection, and data analysis. It concludes with a discussion of communicating research knowledge and a consideration of the practice of applied research.

Credit Points	12 credit points
Duration	12 weeks (10 teaching weeks and 2 revision and assessment weeks)

Unit Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, students will be able to:

1. Analyse an organisational opportunity or challenge against the principles of conducting applied research and development in a professional setting, including the identification of research and development problems, and the philosophical basis for conducting applied research and development.
2. Critically review academic or professional literature, identifying gaps in the knowledge and in practice, and develop applied research and development questions.
3. Develop a research and development design, including qualitative and quantitative research methods, development techniques, that are appropriate to answering identified applied research and development questions.
4. Plan the communication of research and development outcomes.