



Module 2: GRSC6104/6105/6106/6107 Introduction to Qualitative/Quantitative Research Methods (Humanities/Sciences) (3 hours)

Aims/Objectives

The aim of this module is to provide research postgraduate (RPg) students with the methodological underpinnings of qualitative/quantitative research and a basic training in qualitative/quantitative research methods, based on the rationale that all researchers should have a basic awareness of a range of methodologies and the ability to critically review statistical research analyses.

Content

This module introduces RPg students to sufficient statistical concepts and basic research methods to enable them to make good sense of the statistical figures and numbers they are exposed to and critically review fundamental qualitative/quantitative analyses. It is run in two streams: (i) *humanities and related disciplines* and (ii) *sciences and related disciplines*, covering the following topics:

Quantitative Research Methods

- Basic concept of “quantitative research”
- Hypothesis, variables, and measurements
- Overview of data collection and analysis in quantitative research

Qualitative Research Methods

- Research and research paradigm
- Nature of qualitative research
- Types of qualitative research methodology
- Data collection and analysis in qualitative research
- Transferability in qualitative research

Enrolment

There are no prerequisites for this module. Students are expected to have no, or a very limited, background in statistics.

Assessment

Students’ completion of the module is assessed on a pass/fail basis by coursework assessment; there is no examination for this module. Students are expected to attend all classes, and attendance will be recorded by Attendance@HKU (or other means).

Learning Outcomes

On completion of the module, students will be able to:

- explain the characteristics of qualitative/quantitative research in terms of value and rationale;

- identify the main qualitative/quantitative methods, their strengths and challenges;
- analyse data using strategies appropriate to their fields; and
- evaluate potential qualitative/quantitative research methods for their own research projects.

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