Potential Learning Outcomes for an Undergraduate Research Project

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|  |  | **Grading Criteria at different levels** |
| **Module learning outcomes** | **Assessment Criteria** | **Exceptional First** | **First** | **Upper Second** | **Lower Second** | **Third** | **Marginal Fail** | **Fail**  |
| Demonstrate a capacity for critical evaluation of new knowledge, concepts and evidence from a range of sources | * Locate appropriate sources for chosen topic
* Produce a coherent literature review with a critical perspective of sources relevant to the topic
* Appropriate research question/hypothesis and objectives
* Evaluative appreciation of the limitations of the study and/or data
 | Exceptional depth of knowledge illustrated in a coherent literature review that has been informed by a wide range of appropriate sourcesExceptional definition and full justification of research focus resulting in an appropriate and sustainable research questionExceptional level of critical insight into the limitations of the study informed through literature | Excellent depth of knowledge illustrated in a coherent literature review that has been informed by a wide range of appropriate sourcesExcellent definition and full justification of research focus resulting in an appropriate and sustainable research questionExcellent level of critical insight into the limitations of the study that is informed through literature | Very good insight into appropriate literature that results in a coherent and well- structured literature review/introductionVery good justification of research focus with a clear and researchable questionVery good level of insight into the limitations of the study which makes some pertinent connections back to literature | Good range of literature used to inform the study but tends to be descriptiveGood justification of research focus with a clear and researchable questionSome insight into the limitations of the study but tends to focus on practical issues rather than research-based issues | Adequate range of literature used to inform the study, but limited in scope and mainly descriptiveSome justification of the research focus although limited linkage to the literature evidentBasic insight into limitations of the study which focus solely on practical issues rather than research-based issues | Inadequate range of literature used to inform the study and very descriptive with issues of coherenceLittle justification of the research focus with no linkage to the literature evidentPoorly focused insight into the limitations of the study that bear limited relevance to the work undertaken | Insufficient range of literature used to inform the study and presented in a disjointed wayInappropriate research focus with no justification or rationale evidentThe limitations of the study have not been identified |
| Critically review, consolidate and extend a coherent body of knowledge in a systematic manner | * Justify the research design
* Coherent structure and maintenance of a clear focus throughout the dissertation
* Evidence of data analysis and justification of the analytical approach
* Demonstrates integration of findings with issues raised in the literature section
 | Exceptional and full justification of the research design which clearly outlines relevance of studyExceptional level of coherence achieved across the study which sustains a clear focus and returns to key issues raised from literature section in the discussion sectionExceptional use and justification of data analysis tools evidenced in the clarity of the findings and exploration of the impact of the tool onto interpretation | Excellent justification of the research design which outlines the relevance of the studyExcellent level of coherence achieved and sustained across the study which re-visits many issues raised from the literature section in the discussion sectionExcellent use and justification of analysis tools evidenced in a well-structured and focused findings section with some detail provided the impact of the tool onto interpretation | Very good justification of the research design which has some explanation of the relevance of the studyVery good level of coherence across the study with clear connections between each section including the integration of literature into the findings sectionVery good justification of analysis tools evidenced in clearly defined findings with some generic critique of the tool used  | Good justification of the research design although limited to generic statements rather than focusing on the study itselfGood level of coherence across the study with some links made to literature in the findings sectionGood justification of analysis tools although focused on generic statements rather than the application to own study | Adequate justification of the research design although limited in focusSome coherence evidenced, although this is not sustained across the entire study resulting in some disjointed sectionsJustification of analysis is limited to generic statements with no critique evident | Inadequate justification of the research designLimited coherence across the dissertation evident with sections being disjointed Inadequate justification of the analytical approach with little attention to the relevance to own study | No justification of the research designSections are disjointed which results in a dissertation that lacks coherenceNo justification of the analytical approach evident) |
| Develop and justify methodology and methods used to construct a substantial and critical thesis, based upon personal research alongside research supervision | * Creation of research methodology alongside philosophical understanding of the nature or methodology
* Justify the research tools used
* Evidence of appropriateness of research methods adopted
* Consideration of ethical guidelines (as appropriate)
* Analysis and interpretation of data
 | Exceptional and full understanding of methodology alongside justification of the appropriateness of research tools outlined which is supported by key research literature and contributes to the coherence of the workExceptional attention paid to ethical considerations which is fully integrated across the dissertation that goes beyond the completion of the NTU ethics formExceptional analysis of data that makes sense of the question and responds to the objectives by synthesising and making sense of findings | Excellent justification of methodologyThe appropriateness of the research tools identified and informed by key research literature that contributes to the coherence of the workExcellent integration of ethical considerations made in the piece of work that goes beyond the completion of the NTU ethics formExcellent analysis of data that synthesises findings, answers the research question and objectives and makes notable conclusions | Very good methodology and justification of the appropriateness of the research tools which is informed by key research textsEthical considerations are addressed through the completion of the NTU ethics form with some attention paid to broader ethical issues pertinent to the studyVery good analysis of data that brings together primary and secondary research to identify some key conclusions | Good methodology and justification of the appropriateness of the research tools although mainly through generic statements rather than applicability to own studyEthical consideration has been addressed through the completion of the NTU ethics form Good analysis of data bringing together primary and secondary research to answer the research objectives | Adequate methodology and justification of the research tools, although limited in focus and descriptiveEthical consideration has been addressed through the completion of the NTU ethics formAdequate analysis of data with some attempt to answer the research question | Inadequate methodology and justification of the research tools which is based on own perspective and omits reference to research literatureEthical considerations have been omitted from the dissertation although a completed ethics form is provided in the appendicesInadequate analysis and synthesis of data that makes few, if any, findings | No methodology or justification of the research tools is providedThere is no evidence that ethical considerations have been addressedNo real attempt to analyse the data has been made |
| Work independently and take responsibility for outcomes | * Make judgments in relation to the planning and completion of the research project
* Evidence of effective organising and sequencing of work
 | Exceptional ability to plan, make decisions and take responsibility for own project evidenced by engagement with university resources and an independent approach in which problems have been identified and solved | Excellent ability to plan, make decisions and organise own project in conjunction with university resources that has led to the successful solution to problems  | Very good ability to plan, make decisions and organise own project with reference to university resources which has resulted in work being completed independently with appropriate levels of supervisor support | Good ability to plan, make decisions and organise own project with some reference to university resources which has resulted in work being completed independently with some level of supervisor support  | Adequate evidence that the project has been planned and that decisions have been made about its construction, although limited use of university resources which has resulted in work being completed independently with minimal level of supervisor support | There is limited evidence that appropriate levels of planning and preparation have taken place as well as minimal engagement with university resources as evidenced by limited contact with supervisor and the limited coherence of the piece of work | There is no evidence to indicate that university resources have been used to guide the preparation of the dissertation as evidenced by no contact with the dissertation and the lack of coherence across the piece of work |