Case Studies

# Chapter 4: Quantitative methodologies: An overview

The students have been asked to discuss their views of quantitative research. They remind themselves of the principles and key characteristics of quantitative research (see Table 4.1) and the examples of quantitative research methods identified in chapter four of the book.

Blessing and Rachel feel comfortable with quantitative approaches to research. Blessing likes the organised and structured approach and the fact that large samples are used. She feels that large-scale studies are more likely to produce accurate findings. Rachel is familiar with quantitative studies from her psychology degree. She thinks there is less chance of quantitative research being biased and she values the facility to generalise the findings to the wider population.

Consider the following questions, you may wish to refer to chapter four.

* What do you think are the advantages and benefits associated with quantitative research?
* Which characteristics of quantitative research do you think are particularly important and why?
* What do you think are the drawbacks or disadvantages associated with quantitative research and why might these be problematic?
* How do Rachel and Blessing’s opinions about quantitative research compare with your thoughts and feelings about and your experiences of this approach to research?
* Write a short summary that explains your opinion of quantitative research. In doing this refer to the points raised in the previous questions. Try also to relate this explanation to the research that you have seen being undertaken in clinical practice, the research that you have seen being used to underpin clinical practice and the research papers that you have read.