

## **Research Proposal**

City and Guilds have suggested the following as a structure with which to plan your research project for Unit 543. If you think through these and use them to produce a proposal (as a guide, one side of A4) this, in itself, should enable you to fulfil the first learning outcome for this unit.

- Title
- Brief Introduction
- Background and statement of the problem (this in the light of a thorough literature review)
- Research question or hypothesis, aim and objectives
- Study design (type of study)
- Study population and sampling
- Data collection methods and instruments
- Data analysis methods – if applicable statistical planning must be fully addressed, or the candidate should provide evidence that statistics are not required.
- Mechanisms to assure the quality of the study – e.g. control of bias, safe storage of data
- Study period - Timetable for completion of the project
- Participants in the study – all people involved in the study, and the role they play, should be identified.(no breach of confidentiality)
- Ethical considerations
- Resources required for the study, including budget if applicable
- References
- Appendices (copy of questionnaire, consent forms, etc)

If you choose a topic which relates directly to specific service users you are going to need to take into account ethical considerations and state how you have done so.

## **Possible topics for Research Projects at Level 5**

You can choose to extend a topic covered in one of your chosen optional units. Alternatively, here are a range of possible topics which may help as a starting point: the list is, of course, endless.

- Addressing skills and performance challenges
- Supporting service users with...dementia, autism, learning disabilities or any other specialty
- Effective management of medication
- Implementing the Care Certificate (England),
- The impact of discrimination on service users
- Complaints and improvement,
- Staff training and development
- Staff recruitment
- Methods for involving service users in staff selection
- Improving Staff retention
- Restructuring the workforce,
- Setting up a Domiciliary Care Agency,

Think carefully about the scope of the project. You are aiming for 2500 to 3000 words and, in terms of credits, it represents only 1/9<sup>th</sup> of the diploma. Once you have decided upon a topic, narrow it down and aim to choose something with clear boundaries. Think carefully about how you are going to approach the research aspect and if you plan to use questionnaires or surveys take into account that the return rate is not always high.

Use the internet to see whether anyone else has undertaken a similar topic or one of a similar nature in a different field: are there parallels that can draw and valid comparisons that can be made without, of course, “borrowing” the material!