

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE MODULAR SCHEME

Sheet updated: September 2010

Module code 4075	Module title Individual Research	Module leader Dr Richard Baines
School which owns module	School of Agriculture	
Programme(s) to which module belongs	MSc International Rural Development	
Module level 7	Module credits 60	Pre-requisites None
Minimum study time 600 hours	Contact hours within study time 35	Teaching period October – March: workshops
<p>Module content</p> <p>This module addresses the research process (formulation of enquiry, critical review, research hypothesis, research strategy and methodologies, reflection and report writing) through a series of research workshops on quantitative and qualitative methods. Thereafter the independent research programme is carried out with supervisory support.</p> <p>Note:- the independent research enquiry is defined by the following: The specialist pathway (focus modules) IRD scholarship award (if applicable).</p>		
<p>Module outcomes</p> <p>To achieve credit for this module, students must be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a research enquiry from initial objectives and a review paper, through the research phase to the final research paper. 2. Defend the research proposal, strategy and findings. 		
Assessment	Description	Weighting
Coursework	Data analysis and report writing exercise	Not formally assessed
	Defining research enquiry and review paper (6,000 words) with supporting strategy for research - defended in front of research panel	40%
	Research paper in specified journal format (6,000 words)	55%
	Synopsis of research (3 pages max. including author's declaration)	5%

Key Texts

Students should be familiar with the content of at least one of the following:

Thiessen, H. (1997). *Measuring the Real World. A Textbook of Applied Statistical Methods*. Wiley and Sons.

Denscombe, M. (1998). *The Good Research Guide – For Small-Scale Social Research Projects*. Oxford University Press.

Swetnam, D (2000). *Writing Your Dissertation: How to Plan, Prepare and Present Successful Work*. Oxford.

World Review of Science, Technology and Sustainable Development. Notes to Authors (used as model for research papers, www.inderscience.com)

Baines, R.N. *Postgraduate Workbook Guidance on the Technical Requirements and Structure of Research Papers*. Journals linked to research topic will be

identified along with guides to authors.