



**MCAST**

**MQF Level 7**

**RI7-02-21**

**Master by Research**

**Course Specification**

## **Course Description**

The Master by Research (MRes) programme provides the learner with sound practical knowledge and experience in preparation for a research career, as well as with preparation and training for doctoral research. Learners will have demonstrated originality in the application of knowledge, and they will understand how the boundaries of knowledge are advanced through research. They will be able to deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, and they will show originality in tackling and solving applied research-related challenges.

## **Programme Learning Outcomes**

At the end of the programme the learner will be able to:

- 1. Identify the main concepts, issues and concerns relating to an identified research theme through secondary data;*
- 2. Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of chosen research methodology and its techniques and appropriate application;*
- 3. Develop and apply advanced research skills using specific tools and a select methodological approach;*
- 4. Apply and synthesis a comprehensive research endeavour according to an identified research objective;*
- 5. Constructively present and defend research outcomes towards an appropriate audience justifying unique contributions of research.*

## **Entry Requirements**

Relevant degree

MQF Level 5 qualification and adequate professional experience are also considered.

**Current Approved Programme Structure**

| <b>Unit Code</b>  | <b>Unit Title</b>                                         | <b>ECTS</b> |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| CDRSH-706-1803    | Basics of Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods   | 6           |
| CDRSH-706-1804    | Research Methodology related to the Chosen Research Topic | 6           |
| Research Project  |                                                           | 78          |
| <b>Total ECTS</b> |                                                           | <b>90</b>   |

MCAST

## Unit: CDRSH-706-1803- Basics of Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods

Unit level (MQF): 7

Credits : 6

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### Unit Description

This unit will give the candidate core research skills and insights into correct research practices and methods of data enquiry. It provides the student with the opportunity to understand and master excellently the main basic concepts in applied research and development methods. The processes learned will direct the student to collect and analyse data in quantitative and/or qualitative research. This course is linked to the student's design and piloting of the research project.

### Learning Outcomes

On completion of this unit the learner will be able to

1. *Identify a research theme;*
2. *Carry out an early literature review on existing research/knowledge on the theme;*
3. *Suggest research objective/s and possibly a research question;*
4. *Recommend a suitable research methodology and justify own choice.*

## **Unit: CDRSH-706-1804 - Research Methodology related to the Chosen Research Topic**

**Unit level (MQF):** 7

**Credits :** 6

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### **Unit Description**

This unit will give the candidate core research skills and insights into general research design, correct methods of data enquiry such as survey methodology or in depth-interviews and methods of data analysis such as multivariate analysis or grounded theory method. This unit provides the student with the opportunity to understand and master the main basic concepts in applied research methods. In particular, the student has to demonstrate deep reading into at least two of the three methodology domains: general research methods; method of enquiry; quantitative or qualitative research methodology. For this Module students will also be tasked with undertaking out a critical literature review on their selected research topic by reviewing a reaction of peer academic journals. Students shall be expected to be able to confidently interpret the rationale and applicability of the chosen research methodology in front of an audience.

### **Learning Outcomes**

**On completion of this unit the learner will be able to**

- 1. Identify and define essential issues for general research methods; method of data enquiry; quantitative or qualitative research methodology*
- 2. Evaluate methods of data enquiry for the constructivist/qualitative and positivist/quantitative research philosophies.*
- 3. Evaluate methods of data analysis for the constructivist/qualitative and positivist/quantitative research philosophies.*
- 4. Evaluate the suitability of secondary data for answering research question(s) and meeting objectives in terms of coverage, validity, reliability and measurement bias for the chosen (qualitative or quantitative) research methodology.*