**Research Project**

The aim of this unit is to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills required to produce a research question and carry out independent research using appropriate research techniques. The learner will analyse and present their research findings, evaluate the research methodology and their personal learning.

**Indicative Content**

**1. Be able to consider appropriate research methodologies in preparation for conducting research**

Research proposal

* Possible questions or hypothesis; proposal identifies the purpose of the research and the objectives; the desired outcomes and scope.
* Research methods e.g. survey, questionnaire, observations; literature review. Application of Saunders’ Research Onion; ways to test reliability and validity; definitions of data e.g. primary and secondary sources, qualitative and quantitative; ways to reference sources. Research methods chosen are appropriate. They will enable purpose, objectives and outcomes of the research to be met.

**2. Be able to conduct research based on the research question or hypothesis and analyse the findings**

* Conduct research, for example; primary sources, secondary sources, sampling.
* Methods of collating information including electronic and paper-based for example; note taking, photographs, video recordings, mind mapping.
* Legal aspects of data collection including confidentiality, data protection, ethics.
* Analysis of data including trend analysis, coding or grouping of types.

**3. Be able to present findings from research investigations**

Presentation of research findings

* Appropriate report format so research findings are presented logically to aid understanding, for example; title, acknowledgements, contents page, introduction, summary of literature review, research methods used, findings, recommendations, references, bibliography, appendices including questionnaires, surveys, etc.
* Methods for statistical data for example graphs and charts.
* Research leads to realistic recommendations and evaluative conclusions linked to stated objectives of the research.
* Potential audience for example colleagues, external stakeholders and tutors.
* Oral responses need to be detailed, clear, logical and show understanding.

**4. Be able to review own personal learning**

Own performance

* Examples may include; reflection on methods used, challenges faced, new learning, skills and knowledge used to enable progress, skills and knowledge gap, personal learning and development.
* Use of feedback from others for example colleagues, audience for presentation, those who took part in primary research.
* Actions for improvement should be linked to personal reflection and feedback. They need to be specific, challenging but achievable with timescales and incorporated into future planning.