



STRANMILLIS
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
A College of Queen's University Belfast

Short Project

SPS3024

Aims

The focus of this course is to provide students with the opportunity to engage in independent study and learning and to evaluate practice in schools/service learning organisations.

What is a Project?

This project will involve the supervised planning, research and writing of a project in a school or service learning environment. The topic area will be chosen in consultation with your tutor. The project is a piece of written work (approx. 2500 words), in which the student has an opportunity to explore a particular subject in a critical manner. Unlike a thesis, it is not necessarily meant to be original work; however, students are expected to demonstrate how the project reflects the development of their own thinking and ideas and also their application of research and evaluation skills. As such, it should make a positive contribution to the existing literature.

Learning outcomes

Students should demonstrate:

- knowledge and understanding of, and the ability to use, appropriate research methods, results and techniques in their chosen area of study;
- a sound knowledge and understanding of relevant and recent research in their chosen area and an ability to apply this research to their topic.

Teaching and Learning

Guidance and advice will be provided during consultation sessions with the project supervisor. Students may also be able to draw on knowledge acquired during taught modules and on observations and experiences during placement/practicum.

Transferable skills

Students should:

- have a practised ability to articulate arguments in speech and writing in a diverse range of relevant context showing confident use of specialist vocabulary;
- be competent users of ICT for personal study and related situations and be able to judge where its use is not appropriate;
- have a well-developed ability to articulate, actively manage and reflect on their own preferred learning strategies in the light of learning theories and to organise an effective work pattern, including meeting deadlines;
- have a well-developed ability to process theoretical data, to create new syntheses and to present and justify a chosen position, having drawn on relevant theoretical perspectives.

Submission

A printed copy of the project outcomes and associated materials, if applicable, should be submitted to Dr Barbara McDade by 12pm on Friday 6th May 2025.

Some Useful Sources

- Bell, J. (1999) *Doing your Research Project, a guide for first-time researchers in education* (3rd ed) Milton Keynes: Open University Press.
- Bell, J. & Opie, C. (2002) *Learning from research : getting more from data.* Buckingham : Open University Press.
- Benjamin, J.R. (1998) *A Student's Guide to History*, Boston: Bedford Books.
- Cohen, L., Manion, L. & Morrison, K. (2000) *Research Methods in Education*, London: Routledge
- Fawcett, M. (1996) *Learning Through Child Observation*, London: Jessica Kingsley.
- Gash, S. (2000) *Effective Literature Searching for Research*, Aldershot: Gower
- Greer, B. & Mulhern, G. (2002) *Making sense of data and statistics in psychology.* Basingstoke: Palgarve.
- Gilham, B. (2000) *Developing a Questionnaire* London: Continuum.
- Maney, A.S. & Smallwood, R.L. (eds) (1996, 5th edition) *Style Book: notes for authors, editors and writers of theses*, London: Modern Humanities Research Association.
- Munn, P. & Drever, E., (1990) *Using Questionnaires in Small Scale Research*, Edinburgh: SCRE.
- Parsons T. & Knight P. (1995) *How to do your Project in Geography and Related Disciplines* London: Chapman & Hall.
- Pears, R & Shields, G. (2004) *Cite them right: referencing made easy.* Newcastle-upon-Tyne: Northumbria University
- Wilson, Noel (1994) *Questionnaire Design: a practical introduction* Jordanstown: University of Ulster.

Requirements

Having identified and discussed your role (with placement supervisor and college tutor):

1. Identify an intervention, implement it and evaluate the outcomes and make recommendations.
2. Get written permission from the school/organisation to carry out the activity in question and to work with a class or group to evaluate the impact.
3. Carry out the activity/activities.
4. Indicate your reasons for choice and research in relation to the activity (lit review).
5. Evaluate the activity (questionnaire/interview).
6. Write up and present your findings.
7. Make recommendations in light of findings and literature research.

The project will be assessed in accordance with the University Conceptual Equivalents Scale.

Link below:

[Mark Schemes and Classifications | Academic & Student Affairs | Queen's University Belfast \(qub.ac.uk\)](https://www.qub.ac.uk/academic-and-student-affairs/mark-schemes-and-classifications/)

Academic Offences

The following is an extract from the QUB Study Regulations which you can read in full here:

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/AcademicStudentAffairs/AcademicAffairs/GeneralRegulations/>

It would also be useful to read the guidance for students on academic offences:

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/AcademicAffairs/AppealsComplaintsandMisconduct/AcademicOffences/Student-Guide/>

Plagiarism, Collusion and Fabrication

Definitions

1.17 (i) Plagiarism: It is an academic offence for students to plagiarise. Plagiarism is defined as the presentation of the work of others as the writer's own.

(ii) Duplication: It is an academic offence for a student to re-use significant, identical, or nearly identical portion(s) of his or her own work where such work has been previously submitted for credit within the University or at another institution.

1.18 It is also an academic offence for a student to permit another student to copy his/her work submitted for assessment. Both parties will be dealt with in accordance with these procedures.

1.19 Collusion: It is an academic offence for two or more students to work together on an assignment that is meant to be done individually. It is expected that the work being assessed, unless specifically designated as a group assessment, shall be the work solely of the student submitting it.

1.20 Fabrication: It is an academic offence for a student to claim to have carried out experiments, interviews or any form of research which he/she has not in fact carried out, or where he/she invents or falsifies data, evidence or experimental results. It is also an academic offence for a student knowingly to make use of falsified data as described above.

Guidelines for the Production of Projects

Format

Projects should be in Times New Roman Font, size 12 on one side only of A4 paper, in double spacing with a left-hand margin of not less than three centimetres. Photographs and diagrams should be included where appropriate.

Order of Contents

All projects must include the following:

(a) Title

This should be as specific as possible; try to avoid lengthy titles (approx. 15 words should be sufficient). This page must also contain the author's name, the statement 'Project presented in part fulfilment of the requirements for the degree for Bachelor of Education (Hons), Queen's University, Belfast', the name of the candidate's subject area, the month and year of submission and the student number.

(b) Rationale for topic chosen (900 words)

You should discuss why this topic interests you, and you must include relevant recent literature on the area in question.

(c) Methods or organisation (800 words)

By providing exact details on how the study was conducted, the researcher enables others to repeat the research and to confirm or refute the reported findings. Where survey instruments are used, a reference to the original author(s) may be warranted.

- **Design:** Briefly inform the reader about the type of approach adopted. e.g. a qualitative/quantitative approach or both was used to gather data. This section should not become an essay on the advantages and disadvantages of methodological procedures.
- **Participants:** This subsection includes, where appropriate, the identifying features of the subject group, e.g. age, age range, sex, key stage or other relevant information.
- **Materials:** Where relevant, describe all the materials used, e.g. how a questionnaire was constructed, whether it was informed by other research, whether it was scored on a Likert scale, or did it contain dichotomous (Yes/No) responses? Was it a postal survey or did you hand it out to a group? How was it returned to you, and was it piloted first? This section should also include examples of the type of questions constructed for the interview or questionnaire tool. Examples of all instruments used should be included in an appendix section
- **Procedure:** Bearing in mind the need to maintain anonymity and confidentiality, you should inform the reader about how, where, when and what was done. Give sufficient details about the procedures involved for future replication. For example, if interviews were conducted, how were the responses recorded and how were they analysed?

(d) Results and Analysis (550 words)

The results section analyses and reports the findings. It also includes, where appropriate, graphs and tables. Graphs and tables must be accompanied by a description of the results. In some subject areas (eg Science) statistical analysis may be used as appropriate.

(e) Conclusions & recommendations (250 words)

It is not normal practice to introduce new information in the concluding section. In the final section of the report, you should highlight why the study was considered important, identify the key findings and who will benefit from the findings. You should try to maintain a critical dimension to your own work by pointing out the limitations of the study. This section should also make recommendations for the implementation of future research projects.

(g) References and bibliography

All references included in the body of the text should be fully referenced here. The Harvard style of referencing is most commonly used in the University College, but some subject areas may prefer the footnote style. It is important that your chosen style is used consistently throughout the project and that your referencing is complete

(h) Appendices

This section should include:

- If used, a sample of the:
 - Letters to schools/organisations, parents/ guardians;
 - Participant permission form;
 - Observation schedule;
 - Questionnaire survey;
 - Interview questions.Examples are provided at the back of this guide.

Each has a separate Appendix number and should be referenced in the body of the text.

The appendices may also include samples of key resources used, where appropriate.

Pagination

The pages should be numbered in a single sequence starting on the first page of the text proper.

Sample Consent Form

Dear Parent,

Further to the above letter, I would like your permission to include your child in the this small scale research study into **Name Research Project** which I am completing as part of my undergraduate degree at Stranmillis University College.

Please circle as appropriate

I **do/ do not** agree to my child participating in this research project.

Please enter your child's name:

Please enter your name:

Please indicate your relationship to the above named child: Mother/ Father
Other:

Please complete the following sections:

I understand that all details concerning my child's name and school will be removed prior to reporting.

No

Yes

In a few instances, high quality student dissertations are published as research articles. All details concerning your child's name, school and area will be removed prior to publication. Should this work be deemed worthy of publication, would you agree to publication?

No

Yes

(Must be completed by student and signed by supervisor)

Permission/Ethics Form

Student Name:

The above has been granted permission to conduct research in part fulfillment of the B.Ed.

The proposed topic of research is:

The proposed methods of research are:

The proposed sample will comprise:

Signed:

Supervisor Dated:

Research Setting (if applicable)

Student Name:

Has been granted permission to conduct research in this setting

Position in setting:

Signed:

Dated:

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Student

I confirm that information gathered in the course of this study will be used only for this research and that all names and identifying features will be removed prior to reporting.

I have discussed the ethical implications of this research with my supervisor.

Signed

Dated:

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Short Project Feedback Form

Student Name:	
Project Title:	
1st Marker:	
2nd Marker:	
Agreed Mark:	

**Literature Review: Breadth, Depth, Criticality
Research Design/ Methodology
Presentation of Results**

**Discussion/Conclusion: Coherence of Argument, Reflection, Awareness of Limitations,
Recommendations**

Quality of Writing, Referencing, Presentation

Signature First Marker:

Date:

Signature Second Marker:

Date: