

Curriculum Outline Liverpool

In the practice at Liverpool a 30 credit double module in applied social research is offered to final year undergraduates (seniors), as an alternative to a dissertation. This double module runs across two semesters, from late September to early May and accounts for one quarter of the students' assessed coursework for the year. Students must have achieved good grades in their second year (sophomore) research methods courses, and this serves as a quality threshold to ensure that the external community partners (and supervising tutors) can have confidence in the students' research abilities. The applied social research module involves classroom-based advanced research training and supervision on a weekly basis from tutors as well as fieldwork experience amounting to around one day per week...

There are four specific issues in the management of the applied research projects which distinguish them from dissertations.

- The intermediary agency (Interchange) is used to provide the contact and information for students, staff and organisations about research projects.
- A research agreement is negotiated between the voluntary organization, student and supervisor at the start of the project
- Students may work in small teams of between two and four, as well as on their own
- The written end of project assessment, equivalent to a dissertation, comprises two elements; the client report on the research and its findings (for the voluntary organization), and the reflective report on how the research was done and what the student learned from it (for the academic department).

(from David Hall, Irene Hall: *Collaborative Action Research at Interchange: a UK model* in *Pedagogies of Practice* (2006) editors Hofman & Rosing, Anker Press)