

M713 Practice Based Research

Code	M713
Title	Practice Based Research
Tutor	Abi Maguire
School	Moorlands College
Owning Course	MA Applied Theology
Module Type	Independent Study
Brief description	<p>This module provides an opportunity for students to undertake a substantial research-led new initiative or project within an employment or volunteer setting that provides a service to the community (either within or outside a local church setting). The student researches a need, plans an activity, reflects on the activity, and reports on the activity to a specific group of stakeholders. For example, the student might plan and deliver a new training course based on their research into the needs of their community and reflect on its effectiveness. The module is designed to develop students' ability to reflect critically and theologically on their own practice. The student is responsible for initiating and organising the project. They will identify and address one or more complex issue(s) relating to Christian theology, ministry and/or practice within their setting. They will analyse and evaluate the appropriate use of strategies to support the successful management of the people, projects and/or programmes, and deliver outcomes that have the potential to transform personal or organisational practice in unpredictable situations.</p>
Level of study	Level 7
CATS points	60
Approved base location	Module validated for delivery at Moorlands College, Christchurch
Restrictions	None
Indicative syllabus	<p>This module comprises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research methods and skills appropriate to the nature of the module; • The nature of work-based learning; • Needs and gap analysis; • Identifying and setting personal and organisational goals and targets; • Implementation of projects, programmes, or initiatives to support change; • Assessment and appraisal of personal development; • Navigating complex issues relating to Christian ministry, theology and practice; • Evaluation and monitoring of progress; • Issues of ethics and positionality; • Management and analysis of self and others in relation to projects and community settings; • Detailed understanding and application of theological reflection, self-awareness and the ability to synthesise theory and practice
Learning outcomes	<p>A student passing this module should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. select and apply appropriate research methods and skills to systematically address a complex issue of Christian theology and practice;

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. design and develop specialist community-orientated projects, initiatives or programmes to enhance their own and others' learning, work and practice within unpredictably complex contexts; 3. critically analyse and evaluate their own and/or organisational practice, drawing upon practice-based experience and advanced academic scholarship relating to Christian theology and related disciplines; 4. communicate a summary of either their proposed intentions and rationale or a critical reflection on their project, initiative or programme to a selection of stakeholders, demonstrating professional values and responsibilities.
Learning and teaching activities	<p>Scheduled learning and teaching activities: 30 hours</p> <p>Guided independent study: 570 hours</p>
Mark Scheme	Postgraduate: Standard Assessment: Mark/Grade
Assessment	<p>A: 25% Assignment 4000 words</p> <p>B: 50% Major Project 8000 words</p> <p>C: 25% Presentation 30 mins</p>
Indicative resources	<p>Biblia, Stravroula, and Paula Nottingham. 'Planning Practitioner Projects' and 'Implementing Practitioner Research Projects' in <i>The Work-Based Learning Student Handbook</i>, edited by Ruth Helyer et al. 3rd ed.183-224. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2022</p> <p>Cameron, Helen, and Catherine Duce. <i>Researching Practice in Ministry and Mission: A Companion</i>. Norwich: SCM Press, 2013.</p> <p>Cameron, Helen, Deborah Bhatti, Catherine Dune, James Sweeny and Clare Watkins, eds. <i>Talking about God in Practice: Theological Action Research and Practice Theology</i>. London: SCM Press, 2010.</p> <p>Costley, Carol, Geoffrey Elliott and Paul Gibbs. <i>Doing Work Based Research: Approaches to Enquiry for Insider-Researchers</i>. London: SAGE, 2010.</p> <p>Fox, Mark, Peter Martin, and Gill Green, <i>Doing Practitioner Research</i>. London: Sage, 2007.</p> <p>Howell, Vincent. <i>Managing Projects in Ministry</i>. Valley Forge: Judson Press, 2017.</p> <p>McNiff, Jean. <i>Action Research: All You Need to Know</i>. London: Sage, 2017.</p> <p>Oliver, Paul. <i>The Student's Guide to Research Ethics</i>. 2nd ed. Maidenhead: Open University Press, 2010</p> <p>Year, Craig, ed. <i>The Routledge International Handbook of Practice-Based Research</i>, London: Routledge, 2021.</p> <p>Ward, Pete and Knut Tveitereid, eds. <i>The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Theology and Qualitative Research</i>, Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2022.</p>
Initial Intake Year	September 2025
Date of approval	November 2024?
Revision dates	
External Examiner	Dr Andrew Rogers