

## Unit Description

<b>Unit code</b>	ED50326
<b>Unit title</b>	Research Methods in Education
<b>Unit provider</b>	Department of Education
<b>Aims &amp; Learning Objectives</b>	<p><b>Aims</b> The aims of this unit are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to introduce a range of educational research methods available to those who are beginning an enquiry</li> <li>• to examine the strengths and weaknesses of such methods</li> <li>• to consider a number of different techniques for data collection (both quantitative and qualitative)</li> <li>• to consider issues relating to validity and reliability in the context of educational research</li> </ul> <p><b>Objectives</b> Having studied this unit, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• consider a range of different approaches to educational research and make judgements about the strengths and weaknesses of each, as well as the likely validity and reliability of each in a particular context</li> <li>• consider a number of different data-gathering techniques and make judgements about the strengths and weaknesses of each, as well as the likely validity and reliability of each for research conducted in a particular context</li> <li>• consider critically written accounts of pieces of research conducted by others</li> <li>• plan and conduct a piece of small-scale research, and reflect upon its limitations</li> </ul>
<b>Content</b>	<p><b>Content</b> The unit will address a number of issues relating to educational research, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Action research within the context of educational research</li> <li>• Case study as an approach to educational research</li> <li>• The scientific approach to educational research</li> <li>• The use of questionnaires as a means of data-gathering in the context of educational research</li> <li>• The use of interviews as a means of data-gathering in the context of educational research</li> <li>• Observation as a means of data-gathering in the context of educational research</li> <li>• The concepts of reliability, validity and triangulation</li> <li>• Some basic statistics, and basic data analysis</li> </ul>