## Unit Description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit code</th>
<th>ED50326</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit title</td>
<td>Research Methods in Education</td>
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<td>Unit provider</td>
<td>Department of Education</td>
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### Aims & Learning Objectives

**Aims**
The aims of this unit are:

- to introduce a range of educational research methods available to those who are beginning an enquiry
- to examine the strengths and weaknesses of such methods
- to consider a number of different techniques for data collection (both quantitative and qualitative)
- to consider issues relating to validity and reliability in the context of educational research

**Objectives**
Having studied this unit, students will be able to:

- 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
- 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
- consider critically written accounts of pieces of research conducted by others
- plan and conduct a piece of small-scale research, and reflect upon its limitations

### Content

The unit will address a number of issues relating to educational research, including the following:

- Action research within the context of educational research
- Case study as an approach to educational research
- The scientific approach to educational research
- The use of questionnaires as a means of data-gathering in the context of educational research
- The use of interviews as a means of data-gathering in the context of educational research
- Observation as a means of data-gathering in the context of educational research
- The concepts of reliability, validity and triangulation
- Some basic statistics, and basic data analysis