

Outcomes for 480/490 papers

A possible set of outcomes based around the research process follows. Variations in the research process between fields of study may necessitate addition to or amendment of the set. Course coordinators will identify ways in which a particular project paper can be limited. Two main areas of delimitation are the field of study and the scope of the work.

In addition, course coordinators may like to add the following statement at the beginning of the Form 3 section “Learning Aims and Objectives”. The text is largely drawn from the CUAP definition of research at the Honours level.

Research in the context of a postgraduate 480 or 490 project or dissertation develops a student’s ability to design and undertake a project under supervision, and to report on this in an appropriate form. It sharpens the student’s analytical and communication skills and provides a supported introduction to planning, conducting and reporting on the type of independent research that may be undertaken at higher levels.

Outcomes statement

Satisfactory completion of this paper will be shown by presentation of a report or dissertation which demonstrates that the student is able to

- Develop an appropriate research problem and plan and conduct an investigation within ethical guidelines (set out by)
- Employ effective information search strategies (utilising....)
- Undertake a literature review that places the topic within a wider field of knowledge
- Critically analyse a body of knowledge relevant to the research problem (across a range of research methodologies and/or within a particular field of interest)
- Select, justify and apply appropriate research method(s) to the research problem
- Analyse, present, and discuss findings meaningfully (within the field of ...)
- Prepare a written report on the project(in ways appropriate to a particular audience)

Examples of delimited outcomes are:

Satisfactory completion of this paper will be shown by presentation of a report or dissertation which demonstrates that the student is able to:

Critically analyse a body of knowledge relevant to the research problem *in the biomaterial field OR the field of educational assessment... OR...*

And

Select, justify and apply appropriate research method *for use in single case study research OR multisite case study research...OR...*

Etc.

Assessment

The outcomes set out above are not specific in that they do not specify criterion statements that support the assessment process. It has been assumed that assessment will be primarily qualitative and judgements made will be supported by rigorous and robust moderated assessment procedures to ensure appropriate professional and academic judgements about the standard of the work.