

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Research Investigation in Sport

Unit code: DD2P 35

Unit purpose: This Unit is about developing the candidate's ability to access, analyse and evaluate information on a sports related topic, from a wide range of primary and secondary sources and to present results of a research investigation in an oral report.

On completion of the Unit, the candidate should be able to:

1. Define objectives for a research investigation on a sports related topic.
2. Apply research techniques to complex data from a range of sources.
3. Present an oral report on a research investigation on a sports related topic.

Credit value: 1 HN Credit at SCQF level 8: (8 SCOTCAT credit points at SCQF level 8*)

**SCOTCAT points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCOTCAT points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to doctorates.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: Access to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre. It would be beneficial if the candidate had competence in communication, and information technology, as well as an extensive overview of sports related issues.

Core skills: This unit gives automatic certification of core skills components Oral Communication at SCQF level 6.

Context for delivery: If this Unit is delivered as part of a group award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the group award to which it contributes. The Unit may be delivered as a stand-alone unit, but will most effectively be integrated with other coursework that requires the candidate to investigate and report on sports related issues and topics. This unit is included in the framework for the HND Sports Coaching with Development of Sport.

Assessment:

An Assessment Exemplar pack for this Unit has been produced to indicate the national standard of achievement required at SCQF level 8.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

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The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, knowledge and/or skills, and evidence requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the knowledge and/or skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

Outcome 1

Define objectives for a research investigation on a sports related topic.

Knowledge and/or skills

- Contribution of research studies to the sports industry
- Models of sports research
- Current local, national and international investigative initiatives on sport related areas
- Ethical and legal considerations affecting research into sports issues
- Research objectives
- Identification and accessing of resources
- Personal and practical project management skills

Evidence requirements

The candidate should present written and/or oral evidence and

- Define objectives for a research investigation on a sports related topic
- Outline potential research approaches

Assessment guidelines

Candidates should examine a range of topics and approaches to sports related research relevant to course or industry issues. Group discussion of aspects of underpinning knowledge, including case studies and current events, and personal interview with assessors may provide assessment opportunities. Although word length is not significant, a record of this stage of the investigation should be kept. The outcome evidence may stand alone or may be integrated with a detailed research plan as part of the integrative assessment Unit “Graded Research Investigation”.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Research Investigation in Sport

Outcome 2

Apply research techniques to complex data from a range of sources.

Knowledge and/or skills

- Library classification and cataloguing systems
- primary and secondary sources of information
- Electronic information access and retrieval
- Research techniques
- Statistical concepts
- Qualitative and quantitative data
- Sampling techniques
- Interview skills
- Survey methods
- Analytical and evaluative skills
- Accuracy and precision in recording data
- Efficient storage of notes and drafts

Evidence requirements

The candidate should produce a referenced record of research activity and materials, and

- Access a wide range of relevant sources
- Use appropriate research methods
- Analyse and evaluate information
- Collate information effectively
- Reference materials efficiently

Assessment guidelines

The assessment focus of Outcome 2 is on the research process and techniques. Assessment evidence could be an observation checklist completed by the assessor, and a portfolio or other record of the materials and information, which will also underpin and support the presentation for Outcome 3. The outcome could be integrated effectively with assessment for other units requiring the production of a complex written research report.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Research Investigation in Sport

Outcome 3

Present an oral report on a research investigation into a sports related topic.

Knowledge and/or skills

- Analytical and evaluative skills
- Selection of relevant accurate information
- Effective organisation of information and ideas
- Effective use of vocabulary, register and style
- Oral communication skills
- Effective use of non-verbal communication
- Production of supporting visual/non-visual materials
- Use of technical equipment
- Techniques for adapting and responding to the needs of an audience

Evidence requirements

The candidate should plan and deliver an oral report on a research investigation and

- select and present relevant information
- present accurate conclusions
- structure ideas for impact
- produce effective support materials
- use effective non-verbal communication
- adapt language and style to the needs of the audience
- use appropriate pace and tone
- use audio visual support confidently
- respond to in depth questioning confidently and accurately.

The presentation should last a minimum of 15 minutes, and be followed by questions from the audience. A detailed observation checklist and/or a video recording, and support materials should be retained as evidence of performance for each candidate.

Administrative Information

Unit code: DD2P 35

Unit title: Research Investigation in Sport

Superclass category: MA

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Research Investigation in Sport

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

Generally this unit will be delivered in the Second Year of a HND Sports Coaching programme, although it may be delivered as a stand alone unit for candidates who have knowledge and/or experience of sport related industries and who wish to develop skills in researching and oral presentation. There will a high level of commitment and personal initiative expected of the candidate.

There will be some whole class-based delivery of knowledge and skills, but a less structured approach may be more appropriate as the unit develops, and one-to-one tutorials may provide a useful opportunity to discuss and authenticate work undertaken.

Integration with assessment of the Graded Research Investigation for the HND course is strongly recommended, although the unit may stand alone at an early stage of the course and provide a focus for skills development.

Outcome 1

An understanding of the value of analytical research and scientific reporting in sport may be linked with, or extend, other course unit work, and an integrated approach may be helpful. The assessment for the planning section of the Graded Unit may overtake achievement of this outcome, as similar considerations will be needed, although the outcome may stand alone, with discussion of examples, and develop an understanding of the need to set objectives in negotiating a research proposal. Objectives should be measurable, and appropriate to existing resources and personal skills. The importance of proper time allocation and working to deadlines should be recognised. A personal interview with the assessor may be helpful, with a record of agreements made.

Outcome 2

Sources of information are likely to include:

- Primary information, which may be generated through the use of a survey, observation, interviews, or experiment results.
- Secondary information, such as books, magazines, research reports, and information accessed electronically, (e.g. Internet, newspaper archives).

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Research Investigation in Sport

This Outcome involves the practicalities of carrying out the research to meet the stated objectives and of collating and analysing all relevant data.

Candidates should be familiar with library classification systems such as Dewey Decimal or US Library of Congress and also be able to access electronic sources such as Internet sites and DVD/CD based databases as well as newspaper archives. Criteria to evaluate information could include currency, authority, accuracy, and balance.

Note taking and summarising skills are essential, and will be useful in the production of materials to support Outcome 3.

Candidates may be introduced to questionnaire design, sampling procedures and interview skills. Different types of sampling may be useful including Random, Quota, Stratified and Systematic. Production of graphic materials to summarise results may be helpful and also may be used to enhance the presentation in Outcome 3.

The need to develop efficient systems of recording, coding and storing information for ease of reference, such as log books, diaries, folders or computerised records, is important, and will contribute to product evidence.

Although candidates must operate with a high level of independence, assessor involvement with all stages of the research process, including checking draft materials should provide an opportunity to meet deadlines, discuss the validity of conclusions reached as a result of research studies, and evidence of authenticity.

Outcome 3

The focus of the Outcome is on oral reporting, an essential skill in sport activity and the industry. Candidates would be expected to have technical competence, and should have access to appropriate audiovisual equipment to support their presentation. Although all candidates may not have access to sophisticated computer aided technology, and should not be penalized for using basic equipment, a professional standard of performance should be expected.

Open learning

As this Unit involves individual research it is suitable for delivery by some form of open or online learning in conditions where arrangements have been put in place to be satisfied of the authenticity of the candidate's work.

For further information and advice, please see *Assessment and Quality Assurance for Open and Distance Learning* (SQA, February 2001 – publication code A1030).

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Special needs

This Unit specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. Special needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments or considering special alternative Outcomes for Units. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Special Assessment Arrangements* (SQA, 2001).

General information for candidates

Unit title: Research Investigation in Sport

This Unit is about developing the skills to access, analyse and evaluate information from a variety of sources and to use this ability in the planning, carrying out and oral reporting of a research investigation.

You will look at how to gain and use information from a variety of print and electronic sources, such as libraries and the Internet. You will then carry out and report on the results of all your research in an oral presentation.

Assessment will be on the research report, and you will have ample opportunity to:

- discuss your plan with your assessor
- decide on a research topic relevant to your course of study and personal interests
- access and analyse a range of complex written and electronic materials
- carry out all the research needed
- analyse the significance of the results
- discuss your conclusions with your assessor
- prepare audio visual and other support materials
- practise oral presentations

Assessment Evidence

You will be required to plan and carry out a research investigation on a sports related topic. You will organise and evaluate the information and present your conclusions in an Oral Report to a group of others, who will ask you questions about your research.

On completion of the Unit you should be able to:

1. Define objectives for a research investigation on a sports related topic.
2. Apply research techniques to complex data from a range of sources.
3. Present an oral report on a research investigation on a sports related topic.