**Learning Outcomes**

LO1 – Gather record and describe evidence from a range of sources relevant to the area of interest.

LO2 – Demonstrate a detailed knowledge and critical analysis of the chosen topic of study.

LO3 – Critically evaluate of the information collected in terms of reliability and validity.

LO4 – Justify recommendations for practice from the analysis of the chosen topic area

**Intended Learning Outcomes for the Dissertation and Poster**

LO A1: Demonstrate a critical insight into the key debates, social and

educational theories, policies and/or practices relevant to the

chosen area of study.

LO A2: Apply a critical understanding of research methodology,

including issues of philosophy, ethics, method and good

practice.

LO B1: Analyse visual, textual and/or numerical data in a critical and

theoretically informed way and represent it clearly and

appropriately in a narrative format as befits the nature of the

study.

LO C1: Act autonomously with limited supervision or direction within

agreed guidelines to plan and complete an agreed project.

LO C2: Organise and articulate opinions and arguments in writing, in

an appropriately academic manner, showing confident use of

specialist vocabulary.

LO D1: Make justified choices appropriate to the topic (chosen in

negotiation with the Tutor) for a literature review in an aspect

of education.

LO D2: Engage effectively in academic discussion and present arguments in a professional manner.

**Individual Project - Literature Review Guidance**

Dissertation – Literature Review) 100% 5,000 words

**Literature Review (5000 words)**

What is A Literature Review?

A literature review summarises, critically analyses and evaluates previous research available on the subject, presenting this in an organised way. It should address a clearly articulated question or series of questions

**It is NOT:**

A descriptive list of books/articles etc

An exhaustive bibliography on everything ever written on the topic- you need to make a decision about what to include

* Why Do We Do a Literature Review?

-Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of your topic area including key concepts, terminology, theories and definitions

-Identify who the major thinkers are

-Identify what research has been done in that area

-Find gaps in the research or current areas of interest to help you formulate your own research question

-Identify the main research methodologies in your subject area

-Identify main areas of agreement or controversy

-Convince the reader that your research questions are significant, important and interesting

-Convince the reader that your thesis will make an original contribution to the area being investigated.”

(Info above taken from University of Leeds: skills@library)

**Suggested Structure for the Literature Review**

|  |
| --- |
| **A front cover stating: student name, module title, module code, Title of project module leader and word count.**  **Abstract**  This should be a concise and clear overview of the study. Write enough to enable readers to grasp the context of your work and the key findings (write no more than 300 words and only write this once your Literature Review has been completed)  **A contents page**  **Acknowledgements (optional)** |
| **Section 1 – Introduction and Context**  ***Assessment Guidance***  **Have you:**  Provided an introduction which sets the scene and outlines the general aim of the individual project (what you are researching and why)   * Provided the researchers context (why are you doing it? Why is it topical? etc.) * Explained what you hope to achieve from your research * Provided a national context * Briefly explained some of the contrasting opinions/perceptions of your topic of study   Suggested word count 400-500 |
| **Section 2 - Literature Review**  ***Assessment Guidance***  **Have you:**   * Focused on themes that are relevant to the research aims * Stayed sufficiently focused and kept the literature review to manageable proportions (2 - 4 themes, where appropriate) * Successfully managed the different theoretical perspectives within the chosen theme/s.( E.g. the theme of ‘children learning new material’ may include Chomsky’s and Piaget’s theoretical perspectives on this) * Demonstrated the ability to analyse and evaluate different theoretical perspectives (i.e. have you considered differing academic opinion within the selected sources) * Demonstrated the ability of critical thought and analysis by debating the commonalities/similarities and differences between the theoretical perspectives, with suggestions for what this might mean. * Given an account the reliability and validity of the research paradigm, methodological approaches used, sampling (where appropriate for existing research and may consider issues of data collection, ethics etc.), credibility and authenticity of author/source. * Used referencing appropriately throughout   Indicative word count 2,00 -2500 |
| **Section 3– Critical Summary of your Chosen Themes**  ***Assessment Guidance***  **Have you:**   * Summarised the key arguments and findings from each of your chosen themes * Evaluated how each theme compares/contrasts and contributes to the overall findings within your research for the topic * Provided an appropriate conclusion based upon the evaluation of the data and the literature (have the initial intentions from the intro been met?) * Included recommendations for future practice e.g. if you were to conduct your own primary research on the topic what direction would you take, what decisions would you make and why?)   Indicative word count – 1800-2000 |
| **List of References**  **Appendices** (Where appropriate) |