

## COURSE SYLLABUS

# DIRECTED RESEARCH

Manipal, India

**US semester credit hours:** 3

**Contact hours:** 150

**IFSA Course Code:** DIRR 380

**Delivery method:** Face to Face

**Host institution affiliation:** Manipal University

**Course length:** Semester

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students who choose to pursue directed research as their field component are paired with a faculty guide appropriate to their academic area of interest, provided with a choice of topics and are expected to produce a formal research paper. Research students have regular meetings with faculty guides in their subject area to discuss the formation and execution of their research plans.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

As students conduct directed research, they will learn:

- ❑ To frame research hypothesis on the basis of topic finalized
- ❑ To organize and devise a research project keeping in mind cultural sensitivities
- ❑ To conduct research using appropriate and feasible methodologies, considering capacity, time, and resources resulting in valid and verifiable research outcomes
- ❑ To gather, organize and communicate data collected through fieldwork
- ❑ To write a research paper and make a presentation based on analysis of the collected data

## GUIDELINES AND EXPECTATIONS

### Things to keep in mind while opting for Directed Research

#### Selecting the topic

Keep cultural sensitivities in mind while you are selecting your topic. Your guide will familiarize you about the cultural barriers while finalizing your research topics.

For example: Topics related to Contraception, Sex workers, HIV- AIDS would allow you to do secondary research but you might not be able to do field research that includes meet and interview people for insights or deeper understanding.

#### What to expect

DR is a combination of literature reviews, policy mapping, thematic analysis and fieldwork. This combination will vary depending on the requirements of your research objective.

## **COURSE SYLLABUS**

In most cases, DR is a structured short qualitative independent research. In a very few cases it is a quantitative research. Quantitative research needs time and most often times 1 term is not sufficient.

### **What DR is not?**

It is not an existing research that you will be continuing. This is your research from start to finish.

### **Guides and Mentoring**

Students are appointed an academic faculty guide who serves as subject area expert resource. Your Faculty guide offers guidance on the development of your research proposal, data collection tools, oral presentation and academic paper, and evaluates your performance in the course.

Students are expected to meet their appointed guide for a minimum of 2 hours per week. The schedule should be decided at the beginning of the term.

Your Alliance Resident Director helps match students and Faculty Guide and provide with any support needed.

### **Ethical clearances**

#### **Preparation of ethical clearance documents**

In order to be able to conduct a research on the program, students need to obtain ethical clearance from the ethical committee of Manipal University.

To get the clearance, students need to prepare a proposal with the help of their guide. Forms and proposal format will be provided by the directed research faculty in the first week of classes. Once the proposal is ready, it will be submitted to the ethical committee.

The entire process from proposal to receiving approval may take up to a month.

The formal research (which is data collection) will start after the approval process. The time between the submission and the approval should be used to meet with the guide and continue with background/secondary research and begin the review process. Data collection process will start only after the student has received approval from the committee.

#### **Ethical practices submission dates**

The last date for submission of the ethical practices documents is the last Tuesday of the month. Ideally, students should submit a week before to keep room for any changes, suggestions mentioned by the committee.

Students are free to approach resident staff with any queries related to ethical practices submission.

#### **Preparing for research protocol**

During the approval period, in order to help students plan and prepare for the Directed Research, a Theoretical Class will be conducted at the beginning of the program. The class will cover the topics mentioned below

- Rationale, Objectives
- Methodology
- Data collection instruments, consents and translations
- Fieldwork plans and approvals

## COURSE SYLLABUS

- Data collection and analysis plans
- Preparation of a limited literature review

All through the period, students are expected to go through readings, articles and conduct online research on the topic selected to help prepare themselves to understand the topic in depth. Students must seek their guides' help in identifying readings and also use this period to discuss their findings.

### Field visits and data collection

Once the ethical approval certificate is obtained, students will be expected to go in the field to collect data based on the topic at hand. For interviews which require translation, adequate arrangements will be made by the coordinators to facilitate the same by appointing someone to help communicate with the locals in Kannada or Tulu (language).

Points to keep in mind for field visits:

- Field visit plans-The students should plan their field visit for data collection in consultation with their guide
- Identification of places to visit (student and guide)-The guide and study abroad staff from Department of Public health will assist the students in identification of places for field visit
- Field work plan – Students should maintain a log book of their activities during data collection
- Students must return the signed informed consent form of their research to IFSA - Resident Director
- The closure report of the research should be submitted to ethics committee immediately after the completion of the research
- Students should bear the expenses related to travel and logistics

### Assignments and Evaluation

At the end of the semester, students will be expected to prepare a report and make a presentation on the selected topic and the findings which will be part of their evaluation process.

#### Evaluation

**Oral presentation** **50%**

Organization of Presentation

Presentation skills

Questions - Answer

Process of directed research

**Final paper** **45%**

**Attendance and engagement at faculty advisor meetings** **5%**

#### Deliverables

##### Research Paper

- The directed research report could be in the form of a bound document of around of 3,000 words, (15 to 30 pages) consist of the following sub-headings:
- Title page: Title of the research; Name of the student; Name of the guides and co-guides, year
- Acknowledgement

## COURSE SYLLABUS

- Contents: Chapters and page numbers; List of tables and Appendices, if any Introduction, rationale, literature review, Aims and objectives of the study; hypothesis tested
- Research Methodology
  - Study area, study settings (eg: community based, school based, institution based, laboratory based, etc.),
  - Study design, duration of the study, operational definitions (if any), inclusion and exclusions of study participants,
  - Sampling/sample size if any; number of qualitative interviews, group discussions with different population groups,
  - Development of study tools/check-lists and the information covered; process of data collection
  - Data analysis
  - Ethical clearances
  - Study results/finding on analysis
  - Logic and reasoning behind the results (with help of literature and other observations),
  - Summary and conclusions of the study
  - Limitations, if any
  - Recommendations based on your objectives and results
  - References: Vancouver style

*Late papers will be marked down one step (B- to C+, e.g.) for each day they are late.*

### **Presentation**

Each student's presentation will be of maximum 15 minutes duration - about 10 minutes of presentation followed by Q&A/explanations (please find the revised Evaluation principles).

The contents of the Presentation:

- Title page
- Background
- Selected literature reviews and rationale
- Aim/Objectives and hypothesis if any
- Methodology
- Results
- Limitations
- Summary and conclusions

**Note-**Students must submit the closure report to the IEC committee and all the informed consent form one day prior of the presentation under the supervision of the Public Health coordinator

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Any academic endeavor must be based upon a foundation of honesty and integrity. Students are expected to abide by principles of academic integrity and must be willing to bear individual responsibility for their work while studying abroad. Any academic work (written or otherwise) submitted to fulfill an academic requirement must represent a student's original work. Any act of academic

## COURSE SYLLABUS

misconduct, such as cheating, fabrication, forgery, plagiarism, or facilitating academic dishonesty, will subject a student to disciplinary action.

IFSA-Butler takes academic integrity very seriously. Students must not accept outside assistance without permission from the instructor. Additionally, students must document all sources according to the instructions of the professor. Should your instructor suspect you of plagiarism, cheating, or other forms of academic dishonesty, you may receive a failing grade for the course and disciplinary action may result. The incident will be reported to the IFSA-Butler resident director as well as your home institution.