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| <b>Title</b>              | <b>Dissertation</b> |
| <b>Location in course</b> | Final year of MA    |
| <b>Credit rating</b>      | 60                  |
| <b>Level of Study</b>     | 7                   |
| <b>Contact Hours</b>      | 25                  |

### **Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this unit you will be able to:

1. Define an academic practice research question or problem, specifying its context and contribution to a field of study. [**Enquiry**]
2. Justify selection of particular conceptual and practical approaches. [**Knowledge**]
3. Apply and analyse selected concepts and techniques. [**Process**]
4. Demonstrate an independent and creative approach to research. [**Realisation**]
5. Communicate research elements and outputs to a specialist and non-specialist audience. [**Communication**]

### **Indicative Content**

During the early stages of the unit, you will be encouraged to revisit and refine the research proposal that you submitted for either the Research through Practice unit or the Research Methods for Arts Higher Education unit. Your proposal will be reviewed to ensure that your project is feasible, and used as the basis for allocating a supervisor who will provide you with individual guidance and formative feedback throughout the research process.

Independent study and supervisory support will be supplemented by monthly seminar meetings at which you will be able to share progress with peers and address the various challenges of researching at an advanced level. Seminars will give you an opportunity to rehearse aspects of your research including ethical considerations, constructing literature reviews, justifying theoretical and epistemological perspectives, and communicating findings in accessible ways.

### **Teaching and Learning Methods**

The teaching and learning methods used on this unit include:

- Independent and/or collaborative study
- Supervision tutorials
- Tutor-led seminars
- Peer presentations

### **Assessment Requirements**

The unit will be assessed holistically through:

- A written dissertation following the conventions of a selected research approach (15,000 words)

**or**

- A body of practice-based work in a negotiated form of presentation together with a written commentary. (7500 words)

### **Essential Reading**

Hart, C. (1999) *Doing a Literature Review: Releasing the Social Science Research Imagination (SAGE Study Skills Series)*. SAGE Publications Ltd.

Hart, C. (2005) *Doing your Masters Dissertation: SAGE Essential Study Skills*. SAGE Publications Ltd.

Thomas, G. (2013) *How to do your Research Project*. SAGE Publications Ltd.

Further recommended reading and resources are provided in the course reading list.