

CONCEPT NOTE

**Department of Demography
Faculty of Arts
University of Colombo**

Certificate Course in Research Methodology

The Need

The course appeals to those who need a better understanding of research methodology to deploy them in the studies or in professional fields. Prior knowledge or experience in research is not essential to enroll this course and this course is for everyone. This entire course will provide thorough knowledge through all steps of designing and conducting research from the formulation of the research problem to the final stage of writing a report.

Objectives

The objectives of this Certificate Course are as follows:

1. To give comprehensive understanding on all aspects of research.
2. To evaluate literature, from a variety of sources, relevant to the research objectives.
3. To provide in-depth understanding of data collection methods and data analysis tools.
4. To put forward a better guidance for writing research proposal.
5. To provide guidance in scientific report writing.

Target Groups

This certificate course is designed for local and international participants; A/L pass outs, undergraduates, graduates and professionals who are interested or obliged to gain knowledge to improve skills in research methodology.

Admission Requirements

To be admitted as a student of this course, a candidate should possess any one of the following qualifications:

- a) Completion of G.C.E. (A/L) Examination with certified work experience in a relevant field equivalent for minimum six months

OR

- b) Undergraduate/graduate from a state or private university

OR

c) Professionals with minimum of six months working experience in a relevant field
AND

d) Be at least 18 years of age

Medium of Instruction: English

Course Fee: Local participants: Rs. 30,000 per participant
International participants: USD 350

Course Duration: 15 Weeks (90 Hours)

Teaching Methodology

- Lectures – online/offline
- Discussions/ lab sessions
- Quizzes and activities
- Lecturer guided self-studies
- Extensive use of case studies

Evaluation

Method	Marks (Out of 100)
Assignments(Individual/Group)	40
Class Attendance	10
Final Examination	50
Total	100

Pass mark for the course: 50%

Syllabus

1. Introduction to Research and Research Process
2. Research Paradigms and Types of Research
3. Research Design
4. Methods of Data Collection – Quantitative vs Qualitative
5. Survey Methods and Sampling Surveys
6. Formulation of Research Proposal
7. Quantitative Data Analysis using SPSS
8. Qualitative Data Analysis using Nvivo
9. Presentation of Research Findings
10. Research ethics
11. Report writing