MAGNA SKILLS DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

Capacity Building • Professional Training • Organisational Development

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Course Profile Document

NGO Management and Policy Development

Research Methods for Social Policy

Prepared as a professional course profile for delegate review, sponsorship approval and organisational training planning.

COURSE CODE	DELIVERY	DURATION	PREPARED FOR
MSD2742	**Online / Face-to-Face**	**Flexible**	**Organisation Approval**

Register for this Course

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Course Overview

The main objective of the module is to provide delegates with an overview of methodological issues and perspectives of high relevance to social work and social policy research. This will enhance delegates knowledge of key concepts and research paradigms and of the comparative perspective. The delegates will acquire a reflective knowledge of the research process and the use of critical perspectives, both in examining a research text and in carrying out their own research.

They will look at specific ethical dilemmas and will obtain the skills in using different research methods and different research frameworks while doing social work and policy research

Course Outcomes

- The course will offer a variety of social sciences and social work research methodologies, build on the doctoral delegates previous knowledge. Specifically the course will offer an interdisciplinary overview of key issues in qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods methodologies.
- It will help the delegates to design, develop and successfully complete the methodological part of the doctorate thesis, making them competent for future scientific research work in social work and social policy.
- The course will alert delegates and their supervisory team to further work needed on a specific issue related directly to their thesis and will offer opportunities for discussion with peers and course facilitators.

Course Outline / Curriculum

Research philosophy and values in social work and social policy research.

- The stakeholders in the research process;
- Ethical issues in research
- Disciplinary and interdisciplinary discourses;
- Dominant research paradigms, their underlying assumption on
- knowledge, history and development:
- Critical theories.

Research frameworks, methods and perspectives.

- Comparative perspectives;
- Critical perspective in social work and social policy research;
- Historical perspective in social work research;
- Theory (hypothesis) testing approach
- Action Research: Participatory Action Research and Collaborative
- Inquiry;
- Case study: single case vs. multiple embedded case study;
- Quasi experimental designs;
- Phenomenological research;
- Ethnographic research;
- Grounded theory;
- Memory theories;
- Realistic evaluation;
- Validity and reliability, Trustworthiness and conformability

Research methods and specific methodological tools:

- General frameworks: Quantitative, Qualitative and Mixed methods;
- Questionnaires;
- Surveys;
- Interviews (problem oriented interview);
- Biographical methods (narratives; oral histories);
- Self report and diaries;
- Focus groups;
- Use of documentary data .

Implementing knowledge and theories into the research process.

- Key stages in the research process:
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Formulating research questions;

- Literature review;
- Creating a conceptual framework/ hypothesis formulation ;
- Establishing the research design;
- Applying for ethical approval;
- Data collection;
- Data analysis (per quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods);
- Writing up the thesis;
- Dissemination of the research results.

Target Audience

Participants who want to understand Research Design, Practice and Ethics, Philosophy of Social Sciences, Qualitative and Quantitative Methods, as well as specialist modules in Social Policy

Key Course Benefits

Work-Ready Skills

Delegates leave with practical tools, templates and methods they can apply immediately at work.

Better Institutional Results

The programme supports stronger planning, reporting, compliance, accountability and service delivery.

Sponsor-Friendly

This document is designed to help supervisors, HR units and sponsors approve delegate participation quickly.

Professional Recognition

Delegates receive training documentation and a certificate of completion after successful participation.

Our Training Centres & Delivery Options

Magna Skills offers flexible delivery through face-to-face training centres across Africa and beyond, plus Online / E-Learning for delegates who prefer remote participation.

Southern Africa

Practical training destinations with strong travel access and delegate support.

- Pretoria, South Africa
- Vic Falls, Zimbabwe
- Livingstone, Zambia

East Africa

Popular regional centres for government, NGO and donor-funded project teams.

- Kigali, Rwanda
- Kampala, Uganda
- Nairobi,
- Zanzibar, Tanzania

West Africa & Islands

Strategic locations for regional networking and executive capacity building.

- Accra, Ghana
- Port Louis, Mauritius

International Executive Venue

Premium destination training for senior teams and international delegates.

- Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Online / E-Learning

Attend from anywhere through live online, blended or self-paced learning options.

- Online, E-Learning
- Remote Teams
- Flexib

Organisation-Based Training

Magna Skills can also arrange dedicated in-house training for ministries, NGOs and companies.

- Onsite
- Custom Dates
- Group Training

Ready to Nominate Delegates?

Use the links below to register, review the live course page or contact Magna Skills for organisation-based training support.

Register / Apply Online | **View Full Course Page**

About Magna Skills

Magna Skills Development Institute provides practical capacity building programmes for government departments, NGOs, public institutions, donor-funded projects and private sector professionals across Africa. Our training approach combines expert facilitation, real workplace case studies, practical tools, post-training support and professional documentation that helps organisations strengthen staff performance and service delivery.

Government Training | NGO Capacity Building | Corporate Workshops | Online Learning | Face-to-Face Training | Certifica

Approval & Authorisation Form

This section may be completed by the organisation, department, HR office, finance office or sponsor approving delegate participation. It can be attached to an internal memo, procurement request or training approval submission.

Organisation / Department	
Delegate Name(s)	
Approved Course	Research Methods for Social Policy
Preferred Delivery Mode	☐ Online ☐ Face-to-Face ☐ Organisation-Based Training
Preferred Training Venue / Date	
Estimated Number of Delegates	
Budget / Vote Number	
Contact Person	
Email / Mobile	

Authorised Name _____ Signature / Stamp _____ Date _____