

Guidelines for Directed Research Project

Written Report (required)

All students should follow the necessary steps of the research project, including submission of an application form, a formal research proposal, and a final report (appr. 8,000 words) by the deadlines to be specified each year.

Creative Component (optional)

If deemed appropriate by the supervisor and the student (for example, under Area of Concentration “Creativity and Media Studies” in the future 4-year programme, or in the case where the production project makes a significant contribution to the research and learning process), a student could opt to do a creative project either in the form of a video or a series of posters to complement their written report.

Duration (video): 30-60 mins.

Quantity (poster): 3-6 posters

In this case, the length of the written report should be no less than 6,000 words.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of the course, students will be able to achieve research skills such as to

- (1) define and formulate a researchable topic
- (2) organize a project within manageable scope and time frame
- (3) make and communicate cogent arguments through writing in academic style and through media production, if any
- (4) make use of appropriate research methods, creative genres and media languages, if applicable
- (5) be alert to various limitations and merits of each research method and creative genre
- (6) conceive, execute and complete a research project independently.

Through the learning process, students will be expected to

- (7) appreciate and criticize other research and media projects;
- (8) discuss and communicate with supervisor on matters related to the project;
- (9) reflect and learn from one’s research experience; meet challenges intellectually and creatively; make judgments and adjustments independently
- (10) be aware of the need to monitor one’s own progress

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

- (1) All works including the research proposal, interim written assignments, scripts, drafts, revisions, rough cuts, final report and the completed media project will be measured by the research skills demonstrated; in particular, students are required to

- i. Submit a formal research proposal soon after they have been assigned a supervisor. The proposal requires students to define and formulate the research topic clearly and lay out workable schedule of the project. The proposal should also include a description of research methods to be used and a brief bibliography.
- ii. Demonstrate research progress on schedule to the supervisor either by writing drafts, fieldwork notes, transcripts of interviews, raw footage, rough cuts, etc.
- iii. Supervisor will measure students' progress and give a mid-term tentative assessment and inform the students formally through the department's office;
- iv. At the end of the semester, students are required to submit the final report (together with the media production project, if any) which measures how well students can complete their research. Assessment is based both on the quality of the research finding and the standard and style of the report writing (and the media project, if any).

(2) The expected learning outcomes of the learning process will also be measured. Throughout the supervision period, behaviors of students will be recorded and assessed by the supervisor. Punctuality of attending scheduled supervision sessions, of handing in written assignments and project drafts; responsiveness shown in communication with the supervisor; attitudes shown in facing queries or criticisms; and all other behaviors during the long process of supervision will measure the degree of success of the learning process. Supervisors will give feedback to students, regarding all aspects of the expected outcomes, whenever appropriate, either through face-to-face contacts or emails.