



Enhancing Learning and Building Networks: The Qualitative Research Methods Group (QRMG) for Postgraduate Research Students at the University of Aberdeen.

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Background and Purpose

The Qualitative Research Methods Group (QRMG) was started in 2013 by a postgraduate research student and a research assistant, with the intention of providing informal training in qualitative methods, and connecting qualitative researchers across the university.

The group provides postgraduate research students and staff with an opportunity to share resources and expertise, network with other qualitative researchers across the university, and enhance their own qualitative research skills.



What do we do?

Monthly Meetings

We deliver a variety of workshops, seminars, and lectures covering:

- ❖ Qualitative methods (qualitative interviewing, ethnography, action research)
- ❖ Data analysis (tools and techniques)
- ❖ Ethics
- ❖ Challenges to conducting qualitative research
- ❖ Dissemination (presentations and publications).

PhD students are offered the chance to present their research at the group meetings. and gain feedback and advice from their peers.

Qualitative Research Methods Spring School

- ❖ 3-day event for PhD students and research staff across the University of Aberdeen.
- ❖ Facilitated by Dr Liz Spencer, in collaboration with co-leaders of QRMG, existing research staff and the Researcher Development Unit (RDU).

Student Engagement

Our membership includes a large cohort of postgraduate research students (PhD students and Master's students) from across the University, as well as research staff.

We have a group page on My Aberdeen and a Facebook page to encourage students to network, share ideas/ask questions, and access resources.

We aim to be responsive to the needs of students who access our group. Students provide suggestions for group meetings, and identify their own training needs.

Future Development

Continuation of QRMG meetings with greater student involvement in leading and facilitating the meetings, and in setting the future agenda of the group.

Opportunity for collaborative paper writing.

Application to the Scottish Graduate School of Arts and Humanities for funding to run a Qualitative Research Summer School for PhD students across Scotland, hosted in Aberdeen. Members of the QRMG will have the opportunity to participate in the school as students and/or facilitators.

Building a cohort of qualitative researchers across Scotland.



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