

# RESEARCH METHODS IN COMPUTING (COMP09092)

## TUTORIAL 4

### PLANNING FOR PRIMARY RESEARCH

<p><b>Write down a list of possible key themes issues / research questions derived from your initial review of the relevant literature that you think may be relevant to your area of research</b></p>	
<p><b>What kind of research method might be relevant to your area of research?</b></p> <p><b>Qualitative research?</b> <b>Quantitative research?</b> <b>Mixed Methods?</b></p> <p><b>Give reasons why</b></p>	
<p><b>Write down the key stakeholders and/or end users that you think might be relevant to your research proposal</b></p> <p><b>How will you engage them in your research?</b></p>	

<p><b>Is your research area concerned with getting the views / opinions / feedback from numerous people (e.g. 30+) i.e. breadth?</b></p> <p><b>Or is your research area concerned with getting the views / opinions feedback from a few number of people (e.g. less than 10) i.e. depth?</b></p> <p><b>Or is it both?</b></p> <p><b>How does this influence your choice of research method?</b></p>	
<p><b>If you are developing a prototype how do you plan to acquire any user needs and requirements?</b></p>	
<p><b>If you are developing a prototype what design and development approaches might be appropriate and how do you plan to use them?</b></p>	

## **Some Further Points to Consider**

### **Producing Aims and Objectives:**

- Your aims and objectives should be clear, succinct and unambiguous. They should also be brief and concise.
- Your aims and objectives must be realistic in terms of what you can achieve within the context of an Hons Project (for example, available resources, time, access to participants etc).
- Your objectives should relate to your aim and you should ensure that each objective is distinct and they do not merely repeat another using different terms. Number of objectives so that they are clear and distinct.

### **Developing Research Question(s):**

- Should be relevant.
- Should be workable and allow for collection of the required data over the time period of an Hons Project.
- Should be well formulated, credible and easy to understand.
- Should be specific and defensible.
- Should lead to research that extends or adds to existing knowledge.
- Should be consistent with the requirements of your programme and module.

### **Justifying your Research Proposal:**

- What is the reason for choosing your topic? Is this reason valid, reliable and justifiable?
- Does the topic provide enough scope to work at a suitable academic level?
- Why is research on this topic needed?
- How can you add to existing knowledge?
- Why is the proposed research useful and worthwhile?