

What Is the Student Researcher's Toolkit?

This Toolkit is intended to help you to better understand the research process, and assist with designing, carrying out, and writing up a social science research project. It is full of practical advice and suggestions that will be particularly useful if you are expected to develop a research proposal or conduct a small scale study for your university or college course. The Toolkit is a collection of information and resources about research methodology, design, and methods. You may wish to consult these materials alongside the relevant chapters of *Social Research Methods* and the other parts of this Ancillary Resource Centre, including the multiple choice questions, web links, student experience podcasts, and guide to using Excel.

In this Toolkit, you will find answers to some of the “frequently asked questions” (FAQs) that students often ask as they begin a research proposal or project, such as how to come up with a research question, how to find existing literature on your topic, how to choose an appropriate method, and how to plan your time. There is also a list of “dos and don’ts” that summarizes practical tips and pitfalls, vignettes that illustrate problems you might encounter when doing a research project, examples of actual research materials, and a set of useful links to other related websites.

You can consult the Toolkit throughout the course of your proposal writing or research project, as different challenges or new questions arise. Or, if you are not sure where to begin, open up the Toolkit and have a look around. Select the piece of advice that is most relevant to your dilemma or question. We hope that this collection of resources will help you as you navigate the research process. But, make sure you are in regular contact with your supervisor or instructor, and that you listen to his or her advice!