

Professional Doctorates Project Summaries

Improving outcomes of international knowledge exchange among road transport professionals

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I pursue a doctorate in the context of my work within international cooperation in the road transport sector, more particularly within knowledge exchange between countries. The research project is a 240-credit project that is based on a 120-credit RAL. I have a perception that there is a potential for getting more out of the learning and development opportunities that cross-border knowledge exchange offers, and this is my motivation for undertaking the research.

The project's aim is explore how to improve outcomes of the participation in international knowledge exchange. The objectives are to explore experience and views of participants in international knowledge exchange with regard to: methods used in the knowledge exchange; impact of the knowledge exchange on the participants and their workplace; problems and barriers in the knowledge exchange; and changes or actions that can yield better outcomes of the knowledge exchange.

The project includes a review of knowledge and information that locates the research topic in a theoretical and operational context. It is designed as a qualitative study within the research paradigm of constructivism. It takes the form of an exploratory investigation of the experience and views on knowledge exchange among participants in my organisation. I will use semi-structured interviews as data collection method. The data will be analysed using thematic analysis which is a suitable form of analysis for questions related to people's experience, views and perceptions. The interview data will be triangulated by using data from focus groups, information sessions and informal discussions with peers and professionals having relevant experience.

I will use the research findings to develop a model that can guide policies and practices of international knowledge exchange. While the project will primarily add value to my organisation and its participants, it is also likely to have relevance to other nations' road transport organisations.

Developing a Standardized Tool for Interpretation of Radiology Diagnostic Accuracy Trials

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The Royal College of Radiology recommends that radiologists rely on the results of published clinical trials within the literature as a guide to achieving standards of accuracy. Although the STARD tool was developed in 2003 to improve the quality of reporting diagnostic accuracy studies, its use has been slowly adopted whereby revisions may be necessary. The rationale for this project is based on the fact that the current STARD tool is not being optimally utilized for diagnostic accuracy trials specific to radiology. The goal of this project is to develop a standardized tool that is specific to radiology diagnostic accuracy trials for radiologists to interpret studies with confidence. This action research project will be done in collaboration with the radiologists, residents and Fellows within my workplace setting.

1) The main aim of my project is to develop a diagnostic accuracy tool that is specific to radiology trials so that future diagnostic accuracy study results can be interpreted by radiologists with the assurance that diagnostic standards were met as per the recommended guidelines.

2) To determine if the new revised tool will be advantageous to radiologists by providing a distinct contribution to the field of radiology research.

3) To determine if the revised tool benefited radiologists and trainees of all levels in their interpretation of the published diagnostic accuracy trial results.

4) To disseminate the results.

This project will be conducted in two phases whereby ethical ramifications for this proposal have been considered on the following grounds:

1. **Consenting:** Eight radiological experts selected to participate in Phase 1 will be invited in confidence via email. Upon agreement to participate, they will initially participate in a needs assessment to determine which items they believe should be included when reporting the results of diagnostic accuracy study results. Then a revised tool specific to radiology will be created in Delphi fashion with the radiological experts.

Phase 2: the radiology residents and Fellows will be asked to participate by completing questionnaires upon utilizing the two tools and comparing them. Their participation will be anonymous.

2. All data collected will be password protected and securely stored whereby anonymity of all participants will be ensured.

3. The proposal is approved by Middlesex University and local regulatory authorities.

The methodology chosen for this project is participatory action research as it concerned with a collaborative scientific inquiry whereby participants have a vested interest as it deemed applicable to practice and is context specific. Pending recommendations by the radiological experts, a revised version of the STARD tool will be piloted to the radiology

residents and Fellows to determine if the revisions increased their confidence when interpreting the results of radiology diagnostic accuracy trials.