



Australian Government

POLFOR034 Conduct applied research

Release: 1

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Modification History

Release	Comments
1	This unit was released in POL Police Training Package release 8.0

Application

This unit describes the skills required to conduct applied research in forensic crime scene investigation. It applies to specialist police personnel and forensic staff as part of their involvement in the forensic crime scene investigation discipline. The skills and knowledge described in this unit must be applied within the legislative, regulatory and policy environment in which they are carried out. Organisational policies and procedures must be consulted and adhered to, particularly those related to quality management, case management systems, forensic investigations and work health and safety (WHS). Candidates undertaking this unit would be required to work autonomously. They would demonstrate the ability to manage a research project.

No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to unit at the time of publication.

Pre-requisite Unit

Not applicable

Competency Field

Not applicable

Unit Sector

Not applicable

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENTS	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
Elements describe the essential outcomes of the unit	Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.

1. Evaluate scientific literature and research findings critically	1.1 Identify current gaps in empirical evidence to support techniques and disciplines. 1.2 Identify sources of contemporary information that may be relevant to the identified question. 1.3 Critically evaluate scientific literature and research findings. 1.4 Develop recommendations on necessary research and best practice based on contemporary research and literature.
2. Planning for applied research	2.1 Develop hypothesis to guide research proposal. 2.2 Conduct a literature review. 2.3 Evaluate advantages and disadvantages of data/information collection techniques. 2.4 Analyse research methodology in terms of suitability and potential limitations. 2.5 Develop research methodology to address research question. 2.6 Identify factors that may impact on reliability and validity of the results. 2.7 Identify resources for the research, taking into consideration cost, availability, and access. 2.8 Identify alternative resources or methodologies to ensure that the scope of the research project is met.
3. Conduct applied research	3.1 Apply research design including but not limited to considerations of efficacy, relevance, logistics and ethics. 3.2 Collect research data. 3.3 Analysis of the research data. 3.4 Evaluate results against the hypothesis. 3.5 Review data and research findings for accuracy.
4. Present applied research	4.1 Articulate the research aim (problem), hypothesis and questions. 4.2 Present the research methodology, analysis and evaluation and contextualisation of results. 4.3 Qualify the significance of the research and the theoretical, empirical and/or practical implications of the findings. 4.4 Report research findings to inform broader forensic community.

Foundation Skills

This section describes those language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential to performance. Foundation skills essential to performance in this unit, but not explicit in the performance criteria are listed in the table below.

The ability to interpret messages and text, record observations and evidence, communicate with purpose to different communities and audiences, plan and schedule tasks according to estimated timeframes, continuously seek to learn through on-the-job observations, solve problems, work with others in a team, plan and organise activities and self-manage behaviour are core foundation skills relevant to the policing context.

Skill	Description
Learning	Acknowledge limitations of the information/evidence when providing an expert opinion. Liaise with peers to review opinions of self and others.
Reading	Read and evaluate information relevant to the investigation critically to form an expert opinion. Review data and research findings for accuracy and compliance with legal requirements. Read and review information in a case file to determine quality, accuracy and completeness. Evaluate contemporary information to determine potential applicability and suitability within forensic investigations.
Writing	Developing research proposals, including hypotheses, jurisdictional context and research methodology. Use written means to report research findings to inform broader forensic community. Develop written recommendations on better practice.
Oral Communication	Communicate information that includes the description of a complex opinion/point of view/argument in a clear, concise manner to a wide range of audiences. Report expert opinion to others as required. Deliver expert opinion to aid judicial enquiry process.
Numeracy	Read and interpret mathematical concepts in complex forensic information.

Range of Conditions

Not applicable

Unit Mapping Information

This unit replaces but is not equivalent to *POLFOR004 Develop forensic crime scene expertise*.

Links

Companion Volume implementation guides are found in VETNet -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=98c3984e-2cf1-48a8-8ed1-85e4b92e7351>