

Unit Title:	Independent Academic Study
Unit Level:	Level 3
Unit Credit Value:	6
GLH:	6
LASER Unit Code:	WJH237
Ofqual Unit Code:	T/650/4307

This unit has 7 learning outcomes.

Learning Outcome (The Learner will):		Assessment Criteria (The Learner can):	
1.	Be able to identify a subject suitable for academic study.	1.1	Identify a researchable subject suitable for an independent academic study.
		1.2	Justify reasons for chosen independent academic study.
		1.3	Define the scope of chosen independent academic study.
		1.4	Produce a clear aim(s) for a chosen study.
2.	Be able to design an academic study.	2.1	Justify the research methodology for a chosen study.
		2.2	Produce a research plan for a chosen study.
3.	Be able to carry out primary and/or secondary research.	3.1	Critically review published sources relevant to a chosen study.
		3.2	Conduct primary or secondary research into chosen study subject.
		3.3	Apply ethical guidelines to chosen study.
4.	Be able to interpret information gained from an academic study.	4.1	Analyse the study findings with reference to any theoretical perspectives and own subject knowledge.
5.	Be able to evaluate the findings from an academic study.	5.1	Draw conclusions from an academic study which are supported by evidence.
		5.2	Explain and clarify the conclusions from an academic study.
6.	Be able to present research.	6.1	Present research in a format that follows academic conventions including: a) a critical application of skills and knowledge b) accurate and consistent referencing c) appropriate academic style and 'voice.'
7.	Be able to evaluate the research study process.	7.1	Evaluate the study, including the main strengths, weaknesses and/or limitations.
		7.2	Summarise how improvements could be made.
		7.3	Make recommendations for further study.

**Assessment Guidance:**

A small-scale project report is required for studies based on primary sources of evidence whereas a critical review of the literature would be expected for studies based solely on secondary sources.

Additional Information:

*LASER has exemplar assessment briefs for each type of study which centres can use or adapt for assessment.*