

ELEMENT NINE



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PHD INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Theory and research

1. You are drawing together counselling psychology and social psychology here. Can you explain how you came to this idea?
2. How will this research contribute to theoretical understanding?
3. What makes this study original and sufficient for a PhD?
4. As you are examining the counselling setting, what practical applications will the research have?

Design

1. Can you explain the different measures that you will use and how they relate to the regression?
2. You are also suggesting a longitudinal approach, where there would be an initial measure of first impressions?
3. Would you use the three measures stated at the two subsequent intervals?
4. You also suggest linear regression alongside multiple regression. Why do you think this is necessary?
5. Can you specify the measures that you will be using, and why? What research are they based on?
6. Did you consider any other measures? What criteria did you use to determine the most appropriate measures?
7. Is there a need to develop more current/appropriate measures?
8. Have you considered a mixed-methods approach to support the statistical approach?

Sample

1. You have mentioned testing for power, based on the measures that you have identified, have you any initial ideas as to the sample size?
2. How would you allow for attrition of sample?
3. How would you determine between those no longer taking part in the study and those no longer in therapy ethically?
4. How would you deal with participants either dropping out of the study or therapy? How would you account for different explanations? For example, if someone moves to a different location, would this be seen as 'dropping out' of counselling? How would that affect your results?
5. How will you practically deal with contacting participants at the beginning of their therapeutic journey? This would mean dealing with participants beginning at different times, how have you factored that into your timeline?
6. What organisations will you use to capture your sample? Are you aware of their ethical processes? Have you considered this in your planning?

Ethics

1. As this is a sensitive subject area, and you have discussed the need for robust ethics, what potential ethical concerns do you foresee?
2. Are you considering any remuneration for participants taking part in the study? If not, why not? If so, what form will these take to ensure that the study is ethical?

Output

1. You have identified different measures, based on your initial plans, what key outputs do you envisage from your thesis (journal articles)?
2. Are there any publications that you would be looking towards for publication?
3. What other outputs would you undertake? For example, conferences?

Training

1. What are your long-term career goals?
2. What training would you need to help you be successful on the PhD, but also your career goals (hint: disseminating research, different methodologies for teaching, funding etc)?