

**SKILLS FRAMEWORK FOR SOCIAL SERVICE
TECHNICAL SKILLS & COMPETENCIES (TSC) REFERENCE DOCUMENT**

TSC Category	Research Practice					
TSC	Research Design					
TSC Description	Evaluate existing research literature to understand the existing body of knowledge, identify gaps or issues, translate them into research questions and design research studies to investigate and test hypotheses					
TSC Proficiency Description	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6
			SSC-RND-3015-1.1	SSC-RND-4015-1.1	SSC-RND-5015-1.1	SSC-RND-6015-1.1
			Undertake activities to support the development of research studies	Develop research studies and support the development of research funding proposals	Lead the development of research programmes, studies and research funding proposals	Drive the completion of research proposals and development of larger and/or more complex research proposals
Knowledge			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethical practice guidelines and processes for researchers Ethical issues or concerns related to different participant groups Publications and journals relevant to professional field of research Key academic databases and academic search engines Current trends and issues in professional field of research Steps for conducting systematic literature reviews Types of qualitative and quantitative research designs Methods to determine sample size, power and confidence intervals Constraints and regulations surrounding intellectual property, copyrights and patents Social sector characteristics and limitations of research design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interfaces between legal and ethical requirements concerning proper research conduct and its implications Strengths and weaknesses of different qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods research designs Steps for conducting different types of literature reviews Strengths and weaknesses of different types of analytical methods Areas of interest to the organisation Other ongoing research initiatives and/or studies in the areas that are relevant to the proposed research Criteria and requirements for respective research funds and funding organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Latest advancements in topics or areas relevant to professional field of research Other researchers or organisations working in areas relevant to professional field of research Plans of analysis for different research designs Emerging trends and developments on ethics, data protection and confidentiality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principles behind different research paradigms Emerging priorities of the organisation Latest advancements in topics or areas relevant to one's field of research and how they relate to organisational, sector, cross-sector, national or international interests Emerging trends and developments on research governance, ethics, data protection and confidentiality Roles and responsibilities of an ethics review board Process of ethics reviews

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<p>Abilities</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct systematic literature reviews • Analyse peer-reviewed articles to identify issues or gaps in current knowledge • Develop research questions based on research aims • Develop research designs for testing of research hypotheses • Determine participant profiles and sample size required for representative data and findings • Identify approaches, and potential tools, instruments or test batteries, that can be used to measure variables and/or collect required data • Identify analytical methods required for data analysis • Identify measures to mitigate potential ethical issues or concerns related to the research design or target participants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify potential collaborators for investigating research questions • Develop research questions based on the research aims, current issues or areas of interest to the organisation or sector • Evaluate approaches, and potential tools, instruments or test batteries for suitability of use in measuring variables and/or data collection • Identify cultural or contextual adaptations that need to be made to potential tools, instruments or test batteries for use locally • Draft research funding proposals that articulate the research questions, methodology, expected findings and expected benefits, and tailor them to the research objectives and requirements of research funders • Develop preventive measures to mitigate potential ethical issues or concerns related to the research design or target participants • Monitor the progress of the development of research proposals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create collaborations to investigate research questions at a national or regional level • Supervise conceptualisation and development of multiple lines of research • Lead the development of research questions and research hypotheses based on current issues or areas of interest to the organisation, sector or nation to inform policy making • Evaluate proposed research designs to determine appropriateness for investigating the desired research questions and in the context of organisational priorities and constraints • Evaluate proposed analytical methods to be used for data analyses • Lead in the development of research funding proposals and establish budget and resource requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create collaborations to investigate research questions regionally or internationally, and requiring large amounts of data or specialised expertise Assess feasibility and appropriateness of a research study against organisational, sector, cross-sector or national priorities or constraints as part of an ethics board • Assess quality of proposed research designs as part of an ethics board • Assess suitability of proposed analytical methods as part of an ethics board • Evaluate adherence of proposed research studies to ethical guidelines
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