

## Research designs

Qualitative approaches include:

Approach	Description	Further information links
Action Research	A strategy that is focused on creating change and evaluating its impact. This process is often repeated in a cyclical manner, the evaluation of each action informing subsequent planning for change.	<a href="http://www.nefstem.org/teacher_guide/intro/index.htm">http://www.nefstem.org/teacher_guide/intro/index.htm</a>  <a href="http://www.ecs.org/html/educationissues/research/primer/appendixa.asp#sub4">http://www.ecs.org/html/educationissues/research/primer/appendixa.asp#sub4</a>  Somekh, B. and Zeichner, K. (2009) 'Action research for educational reform: remodelling action research theories and practices in local contexts', <i>Educational Action Research</i> , 17 (1), 5-21. [Online at: <a href="http://eppl751socofed.wmwikis.net/file/view/Action.Research.H.Educational.Reform.pdf">http://eppl751socofed.wmwikis.net/file/view/Action.Research.H.Educational.Reform.pdf</a> ; accessed: 12.1.12]
Ethnographic Study	The researcher is a participant within a culture (community, organisation, group, etc) and seeks to describe and explain the customs and behaviour of that culture to make sense of their experiences.	<a href="http://cira.med.yale.edu/events/mbseminars/mbs070705.pdf">http://cira.med.yale.edu/events/mbseminars/mbs070705.pdf</a>  <a href="http://faculty.chass.ncsu.edu/garson/PA765/ethno.htm">http://faculty.chass.ncsu.edu/garson/PA765/ethno.htm</a>
Case Study	In-depth analysis of a case (or a number of related cases) within its natural context. The 'case' may be an individual, a group of people, an organisation or institution, an event, a situation, etc.	<a href="http://www.nova.edu/ssss/QR/QR3-2/tellis1.html">http://www.nova.edu/ssss/QR/QR3-2/tellis1.html</a>  <a href="http://www.gslis.utexas.edu/~ssoy/usesusers/l391d1b.htm">http://www.gslis.utexas.edu/~ssoy/usesusers/l391d1b.htm</a>
Grounded Theory	A research approach that aims to construct a theory to explain the subject from the research data, rather than propose a theory and then test its validity.	<a href="http://www.analytictech.com/mb870/introtoGT.htm">http://www.analytictech.com/mb870/introtoGT.htm</a>  <a href="http://www.scu.edu.au/schools/gcm/ar/arp/grounded.html">http://www.scu.edu.au/schools/gcm/ar/arp/grounded.html</a>

Approaches associated with quantitative research include:

Approach	Description	Further information links
Survey	Gathering information from	<a href="http://www.whatisasurvey.info/">http://www.whatisasurvey.info/</a>

Research	a sample of individuals in relation to a particular subject. Typically by questionnaire or interview.	<a href="http://www.wpi.edu/Academics/GPP/Students/ch10.html">http://www.wpi.edu/Academics/GPP/Students/ch10.html</a>
Experiment	A strategy in which aspects of the study are purposefully manipulated. Participants are randomly selected to be either exposed to the experimental conditions (experimental group ) or not (control group). Any change in one group compared to the other is then analysed to determine the impact of the experimental condition.	<a href="http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/desexper.htm">http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/desexper.htm</a> <a href="http://www.nber.org/reporter/summer03/angrist.html">http://www.nber.org/reporter/summer03/angrist.html</a>
Quasi-experiment	As with an experiment, but without the random allocation of participants.	<a href="http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/quasiexp.php">http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/quasiexp.php</a>