

Module 3 Handout – Checklist of Principles of Research Quality – Single Study

Principles of quality	Associated questions
Conceptual framing	Does the study acknowledge existing research?
	Does the study construct a conceptual framework? <i>Conceptual framework</i> refers to a visual or written product that “explains, either graphically or in narrative form, the main things to be studied—the key factors, concepts, or variables—and the presumed relationships among them.” -Source: Miles, M., & Huberman, A. (1994). <i>Qualitative data analysis: An expanded source book (2nd ed.)</i> .
	Does the study pose a research question or outline a hypothesis?
Transparency	Does the study present or link to the raw data it analyses? <i>Raw data</i> aka primary data; not been subjected to processing yet
	What is the geography/context in which the study was conducted?
	Does the study declare sources of support/funding?
Appropriateness	Does the study identify a research design?
	Does the study identify a research method?
	Does the study demonstrate why the chosen design and method are well suited to the research question?
Cultural sensitivity	Does the study explicitly consider any context-specific cultural factors that may bias the analysis/findings?
Validity	To what extent does the study demonstrate measurement validity? <i>Measurement validity</i> is the degree to which a measurement measures what it purports to measure.
	To what extent is the study internally valid? <i>Internal validity</i> is the degree to which conclusions about causal relationships can be made (e.g. cause and effect), based on the measures used, the research setting, and the whole research design. Good experimental designs usually allow for higher degrees of internal validity than, for example, single-case designs.
	To what extent is the study externally valid? <i>External validity</i> concerns the extent to which the results of a study can be held to be true for other cases, e.g., to different people, places or times. It is about whether findings can be validly generalized.
	To what extent is the study ecologically valid? <i>Ecological validity</i> is the extent to which research results can be applied to real-

	life situations outside of research settings.
Reliability	To what extent are the measures used in the study stable? <i>Measurement stability</i> represents the total variation in measurements of the same part measured over time. This variation over time is called drift.
	To what extent are the measures used in the study internally reliable? <i>Internally reliable</i> is a measure of how well the items on the test measure the same construct or idea. It refers to the extent to which a measure is consistent within itself.
	To what extent are the findings likely to be sensitive/changeable depending on the analytical technique used?
Cogency	Does the author ‘signpost’ the reader throughout? <i>Signposting</i> is adding a few connecting words to make writing more readable.
	To what extent does the author consider the study’s limitations and/or alternative interpretations of the analysis?
	Are the conclusions clearly based on the study’s results?

Source: DFID (2014). *How To Note: Assessing the Strength of Evidence*.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/291982/HTN-strength-evidence-march2014.pdf