

Helpful information for studying the irecs modules

The irecs research ethics modules are designed to promote active learning, which means you won't find pages and pages of text to read. Instead, you will be prompted to engage actively with the learning materials through reading small amounts of text, watching videos, listening to audio, undertaking exercises, or reflective thinking, for example.

Each module begins with specification of the aim (what we hope to achieve) and the learning outcomes (what we hope you will learn). This should give you a good idea of whether the module is relevant to your learning needs.

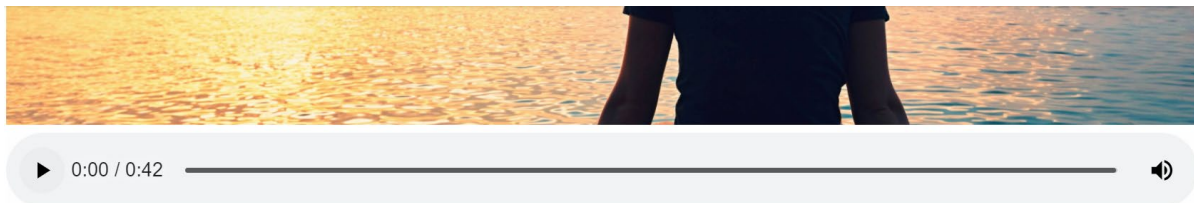
Additionally, you will see the module content listed in the menu on the left-hand side of the screen. You can move backwards and forwards through the materials by selecting a page from the content menu on the left.

OR

You can navigate your way through the module by clicking on the 'next page' button at the bottom of each screen:



Where you see text, there will normally also be an option to listen to an audio version:



Click here for audio version of the text below.



Videos look like this with the title clearly displayed:

Click on the arrow to start the video player.

Below each video you will see the option to reveal the transcript.

Click on the arrow to open the transcript.

▼ Video Transcript

According to Burbules and Berk (1999): Where our beliefs remain unexamined, we are not free; we act without thinking about why we act, and thus do not exercise control over our own destinies (p46).

An understanding of where our knowledge, beliefs and assumptions come from, and how we are positioned in relation to our research is vital for an ethical approach to research and analysis. Cultivating a habit of critical reflection is an important step towards gaining this understanding.

▼ Exercise Feedback

These phenomena are well known in research. For instance, being observed makes psychiatric patients a third less likely to require sedation (Damsa et al, 2006), or the famous double slit experiment in modern physics. But many people believe that what we see is never what 'really is', even in the most highly controlled experimental settings. What do you think?

Exercises are normally followed by feedback. Click on the 'Feedback' tab to reveal it.

At the end of the module, you will find four things:

Quiz: This is for your own benefit and intended to help you assess whether you have met the learning outcomes for the module.

Evaluation page: This is for our benefit and the benefit of future users. If you have time, please tell us how you found the learning materials.

Bibliography: You won't find many references embedded within the materials but all source materials and some suggestions for further reading are listed in the bibliography.

Glossary: Most of the modules have a glossary of terms that you might not be familiar with.

These modules do not involve the collection or processing of personal data.