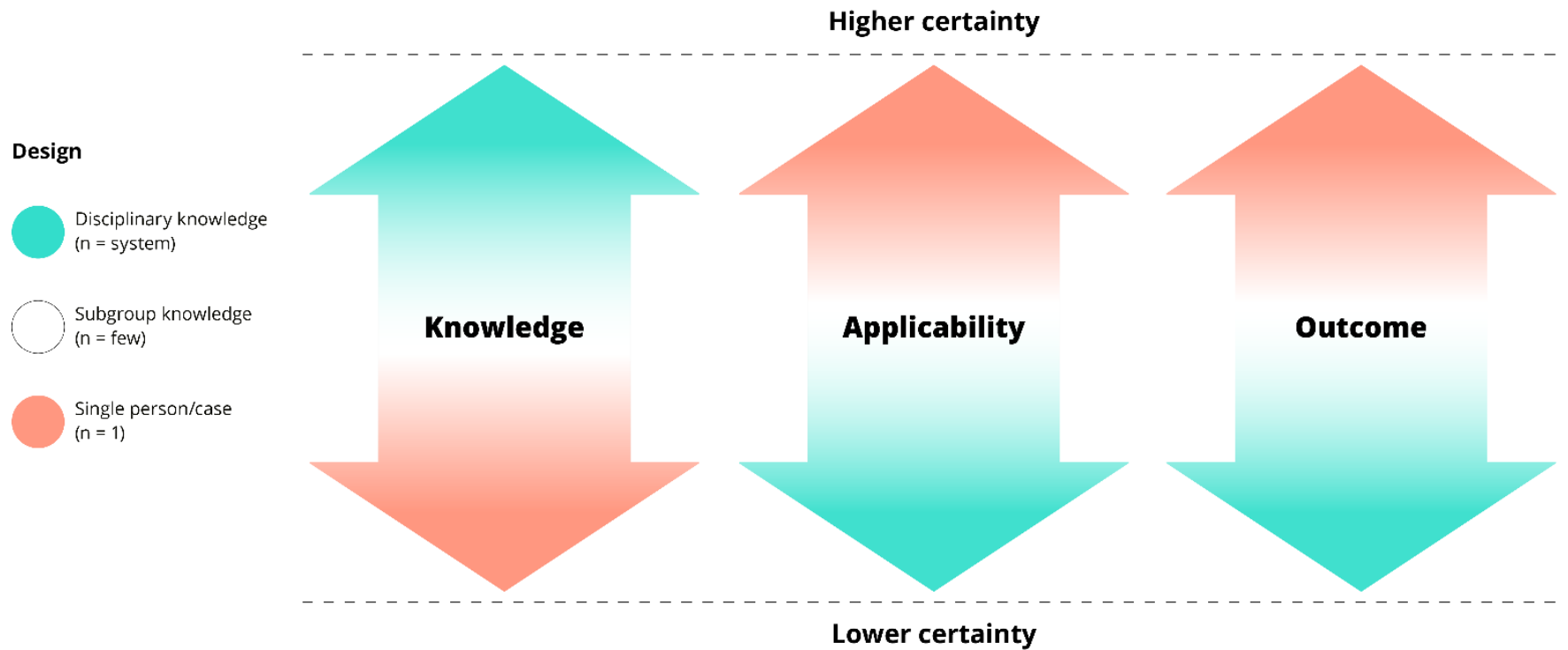


# Certainty and Risk of Research Instrument

Workshop guide





## Aim

This instrument can help you make clear and collective decisions about the purpose and related risk of research.



## Equipment

- Certainty and Risk of Research diagram (included in this workshop guide)



## Preparation

- Set diagram on table.
- Ask participants to read through instrument explanation



## Workshop

1. **Discuss area of research focus:** Ask a participant to highlight a research activity in their team. Examples could include an assignment for students to improve their research skills, an internship with a practice partner, or scientific research projects. For this activity, discuss in the team:
  - What is the main purpose of this research activity?
  - What is the typical research design here? (here it is important to focus on the scale and number of cases as well as the particular methods chosen):
  - How would you rate the certainty of knowledge, applicability and outcome for this research activity?
2. **Discuss other research activities:** continue the discussion with each area of research activity.
3. **Reflection:** Once you have discussed a few examples of research activities, you can use the following questions for reflection:
  - Did the certainty of knowledge, applicability and outcome align with your intended purpose of research?
  - Does your teams research design with these? If not, what changes could you make to the research design?



### Adapting the workshop

You can adapt the discussion for your target group, for example for discussions at the module level, curriculum level or at an organisational level. Below are three examples of how you can adapt the tool for your team.

#### At the single module level

Across a single module there may be several research activities. Questions for discussion might include:

- What area is the highest priority for the students in the module: certainty of knowledge, applicability or outcomes?
- Does the current research design of the activities reflect this?

#### At the curriculum or department level

This tool can help discussions about research activities that are specific to your discipline. Questions for discussion might include:

- Is there an adequate balance of research activities across the curriculum / department?
- How should research activities be organised throughout the programme?
- To what extent are certainties of research explained in the curriculum?

#### For your organisation (university or wider policy level)

This tool can help discussions about research activities at a wider level across the organisation. Questions for discussion might include:

- What area is the highest priority for graduating students, certainty of knowledge, applicability or outcomes?
- What area is the highest priority for research colleagues within the organisation?
- Does the current research design of the activities reflect this throughout the organisation?