GEOP4070

Social Impact Assessment

Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2024

Macquarie School of Social Sciences

Contents

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Convenor and lecturer
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Marker
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Credit points
10

Prerequisites
130cp

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
Social impact assessment (SIA) is an important assessment tool with wide application in land use planning. This unit provides an introduction to and broad overview of SIA in urban and regional environments, and addresses both the processes needed to accomplish a diligent assessment and the resources available to inform the assessment process. Through the use of current case studies, the unit provides an insight into practical difficulties, common mistakes and ethical issues that are frequently encountered. Students will learn how to recognise and respond to these problems, apply social science research methods to impact assessment and present impact issues to non-specialist audiences.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: Explain the practice and requirements of SIA in planning systems

ULO2: Recognise key social impact issues that occur in planning practice

ULO3: Apply knowledge and key concepts from social impact assessment to critical

evaluation of planning decisions

ULO4: Identify and discuss ways of integrating social issues into planning discourse and planning decisions

ULO5: Research and discuss complex ideas about social change, social process and assessment of social impacts

ULO6: Recognise ethical issues and risks in impact assessment

General Assessment Information

All assignments are in written form and must be submitted via Turn-it-In.

Relevant readings and other source materials, detailed assessment descriptions and assessment criteria are provided.

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a mark of '0' (zero) will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue. This late penalty will apply to non-time sensitive assessment (incl. essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings etc). Late submission of time sensitive tasks (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs etc) will only be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special Consideration application. Special Consideration outcome may result in a new question or topic.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Social impact issues	30%	No	22/03/24
Critique of case study	40%	No	03/05/24
Presentation of key SIA issue	30%	No	30/05/24

Social impact issues

Assessment Type [1]: Report
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 30 hours
Due: **22/03/24**
Weighting: **30%**

1000 word report identifying social impact issues raised by a proposed project

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain the practice and requirements of SIA in planning systems
- Recognise key social impact issues that occur in planning practice

Critique of case study

Assessment Type [1]: Case study/analysis
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 40 hours
Due: **03/05/24**
Weighting: **40%**

2000 word review of a social impact assessment or similar document

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply knowledge and key concepts from social impact assessment to critical evaluation of planning decisions
- Identify and discuss ways of integrating social issues into planning discourse and planning decisions
- Research and discuss complex ideas about social change, social process and assessment of social impacts
- Recognise ethical issues and risks in impact assessment

Presentation of key SIA issue

Assessment Type [1]: Practice-based task
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 20 hours
Due: **30/05/24**
Weighting: **30%**

Presentation of social impact issues in a form suited to an identified audience plus 600 word written commentary

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify and discuss ways of integrating social issues into planning discourse and planning decisions
- Research and discuss complex ideas about social change, social process and

assessment of social impacts

- Recognise ethical issues and risks in impact assessment

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[1] If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the Writing Centre for academic skills support.

[2] Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

This unit is delivered via classroom lectures with accompanying tutorial activities. Lecture recordings may be accessed via the Echo system. Online students are encouraged to undertake the practice activites associated with each lecture.

A weekly reading list is provided.

Unit Schedule

Date	Theme	Topic
22 Feb	**Foundation issues for SIA: Language**	Spin and substantiation.
29 Feb	**Foundation issues for SIA: Scope**	Public health; the foundation issue for SIA (and planning).
7 March	**Foundation issues for SIA: Space**	Spatiality. Defining locality.
14 March	**Methodological issues for SIA: Avoidance strategies 1**	The method. The focus on process.
21 March	**Methodological issues for SIA: Avoidance strategies 2**	Consultation as scam.
28 March	**Methodological issues for SIA: Avoidance strategies 3**	Questionnaire design basics.
4 April	**SIA and public policy 1:**	Liquor licensing.
11 April	**SIA and public policy 2:**	Resource extraction.
	Recess 15-28 April	

2 May	**Methodological issues for SIA: Avoidance strategies 4**	Errors which have become so common or garden that they seem normal and OK
9 May	**Methodological issues for SIA: Avoidance strategies 5**	SIMPS and conditions of consent.
16 May	**SIA and public policy 3:**	Social infrastructure for small areas.
23 May	**SIA and public policy 4 :**	Failures of foresight. Undue influence and regulatory capture.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (https://policies.mq.edu.au). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- Academic Appeals Policy
- Academic Integrity Policy
- Academic Progression Policy
- Assessment Policy
- Fitness to Practice Procedure
- Assessment Procedure
- Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public
- Special Consideration Policy

Students seeking more policy resources can visit Student Policies (https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit Policy Central (https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the search tool.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct

Results

Results published on platform other than eStudent, (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in eStudent. For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe academic integrity – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and

courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free online writing and maths support, academic skills development and wellbeing consultations.

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit http://students.mq.edu.au/support/

The Writing Centre

The Writing Centre provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- Workshops
- Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader
- Access StudyWISE
- Upload an assignment to Studiosity
- Complete the Academic Integrity Module

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- Subject and Research Guides
- Ask a Librarian

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of Student Support Services including:

- IT Support
- Accessibility and disability support with study
- Mental health support
- Safety support to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues
- Student Advocacy provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via AskMQ, or contact Service Connect.

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/

offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
06/02/ 2024	I had to correct the dates of the first two lectures on the schedule no other change

Unit information based on version 2024.01R of the Handbook