## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Information</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Outcomes</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Assessment Information</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment Tasks</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delivery and Resources</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Schedule</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policies and Procedures</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Capabilities</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**General Information**

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Unit Convenor
Geoffrey Hawker
geoffrey.hawker@mq.edu.au
Contact via geoffrey.hawker@mq.edu.au
W6A 428
Friday 12noon - 1pm or by appointment

Credit points
4

Prerequisites
16cp in IRPG units and GPA of 3.5 and permission of Executive Dean of Faculty

Corequisites
IRPG850

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit, together with IRPG850, requires the completion of a dissertation of approximately 15,000 words. The research topic is chosen by the student but must be approved by the convenor as suitable for an MIR dissertation and for which supervision is available. The unit cannot be undertaken until at least four units in the MIR program have been completed, and entry is conditional on the achievement of a High Credit or Distinction average in these units. Applications for enrolment are made through the MIR office and are assessed individually.

**Important Academic Dates**
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at [http://students.mq.edu.au/student_admin/enrolmentguide/academicdates/](http://students.mq.edu.au/student_admin/enrolmentguide/academicdates/)

**Learning Outcomes**

1. Demonstrate research skills of an advanced character
2. Demonstrate extended ability to write from a research base and to explicate argument
3. Demonstrate self-management in complex tasks of research and writing

**General Assessment Information**

Note that this unit is 'twinned' with IRPG 850 and that the two units, valued at 4cp, are taken in sequence across a two-semester period, giving an equivalence to IRPG846 (8cp). The twinned
units are suitable for those unable to take the 8cp unit within a single semester. Successful completion of the first of the units in the sequence (whether IRPG850 or IRPG851) results in a "K" for "Continuing" grade, and the final assessment comes with the completion of the second unit.

The assessment criteria and learning outcomes shown in this source are identical to those for IRPG846 but must be read as applying within the context of the explanation here of the linked units.

**Assessment Tasks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>5 June 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervision</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>5 June 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>not applicable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Dissertation**

Due: 5 June 2015  
Weighting: 100%

A thesis of approximately 15,000 words showing a capacity to frame an important question in international relations, an ability to cast a relevant research strategy and management to achieve a timely outcome.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Demonstrate research skills of an advanced character
- Demonstrate extended ability to write from a research base and to explicate argument
- Demonstrate self-management in complex tasks of research and writing

**Supervision**

Due: 5 June 2015  
Weighting: 0%

Attendance as needed in meetings with supervisor(s): no specific marks but required for final completion and grade.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Demonstrate research skills of an advanced character
- Demonstrate extended ability to write from a research base and to explicate argument
- Demonstrate self-management in complex tasks of research and writing
Participation
Due: not applicable
Weighting: 0%
Candidates may be required to attend seminars or other events related to their research if agreed with the supervisor as necessary; the idea is to extend the research experience in suitable cases.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
- Demonstrate research skills of an advanced character

Delivery and Resources
The department will assist with the choice of supervisor at an early stage, before semester begins in most cases, and candidates will be advised of any special requirements relating to their thesis.

Unit Schedule
A series of meetings will be agreed between supervisor and candidate and attendance at work in progress seminars and possibly other occasions for learning may also be agreed.

Policies and Procedures
Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central. Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:
- Disruption to Studies Policy: http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the Learning and Teaching Category of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct
Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/
Results

Results shown in iLearn, 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.

Student Support

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

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module for Students
- Ask a Learning Adviser

Student Enquiry Service

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

Equity Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Service who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

IT Help

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

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

Graduate Capabilities

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:
**Learning outcome**

- Demonstrate research skills of an advanced character

**Assessment task**

- Dissertation

**PG - Effective Communication**

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Demonstrate research skills of an advanced character
- Demonstrate extended ability to write from a research base and to explicate argument

**Assessment tasks**

- Dissertation
- Supervision
- Participation

**PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking**

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Demonstrate research skills of an advanced character
- Demonstrate extended ability to write from a research base and to explicate argument

**Assessment task**

- Dissertation

**PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability**

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or
practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Demonstrate research skills of an advanced character
- Demonstrate extended ability to write from a research base and to explicate argument
- Demonstrate self-management in complex tasks of research and writing

**Assessment task**

- Dissertation

PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Demonstrate extended ability to write from a research base and to explicate argument
- Demonstrate self-management in complex tasks of research and writing

**Assessment tasks**

- Dissertation
- Supervision
- Participation

PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Demonstrate research skills of an advanced character
- Demonstrate extended ability to write from a research base and to explicate argument
- Demonstrate self-management in complex tasks of research and writing
Assessment tasks

- Dissertation
- Supervision
- Participation