



EDCN800

Introduction to Educational Research

S2 Evening 2015

Dept of Education

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Greg Robertson

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C3A 806

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MA in Education Studies or MEChild or PGDipEChild or PGCertEChild or MEd or MEdLead or PGDipEdLead or PGCertEdLead or PGDipEdS or PGCertEdS or MHEd or PGDipHEd or PGCertHEd or MSpecEd or PGDipSpecEd or PGCertSpEd or MTeach(Birth to Five Years) or GradCertEdS or GradCertHEd or MEnvEd or MIndigenousEd or PGDipIndigenousEd or PGCertIndigenousEd or GradDipIndigenousEd or GradCertEChild

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

By completing a series of modules, students extend their understanding of the research methods used to explore contemporary issues in a variety of education settings (eg, early childhood, school, workplace, technical and further, and higher education). Students are supported in their learning through guided reading and a series of face to face workshops. For those students who are unable to attend, audio recordings of the workshops are distributed via the unit's iLearn site.

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:

- can explore the literature relating to particular aspects of their professional practice
- can identify critical issues which warrant further investigation
- can generate researchable questions

can design rigorous and ethical studies, employing one or more methodologies, so as assemble evidence in relation to these issues

understands the limitations of this evidence

can effectively communicate the research and its results to the intended audience

understands how research evidence contributes to knowledge about education policy and practice

understands how to access existing stores of knowledge

understands the nature and characteristics of the various research methodologies that are typically employed in educational research

understands the methods of recruiting participants that can be employed by these methodologies

understands the data collection and analysis techniques that can be employed by these methodologies

understands aspects of design which provide rigor to the research process

understands the ethical principles which shape and guide the research process

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
Task 1	20%	19 August
Task 2	20%	9 September
Task 3	20%	30 September
Task 4	20%	21 October
Task 5	20%	11 November

Task 1

Due: **19 August**

Weighting: **20%**

This task enables students to develop ways of describing and classifying forms of educational research.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- can explore the literature relating to particular aspects of their professional practice
- can identify critical issues which warrant further investigation
- understands how research evidence contributes to knowledge about education policy

and practice

- understands how to access existing stores of knowledge
- understands the nature and characteristics of the various research methodologies that are typically employed in educational research
- understands the ethical principles which shape and guide the research process

Task 2

Due: **9 September**

Weighting: **20%**

This task introduces critical concepts in educational research that enables students to interpret and produce research designs which address critical issues in particular educational contexts.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- understands the methods of recruiting participants that can be employed by these methodologies
- understands the data collection and analysis techniques that can be employed by these methodologies
- understands aspects of design which provide rigor to the research process

Task 3

Due: **30 September**

Weighting: **20%**

This task enables student to explore the application of qualitative research methodologies to problems associated with their own professional practice.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- can explore the literature relating to particular aspects of their professional practice
- can identify critical issues which warrant further investigation
- can generate researchable questions
- can design rigorous and ethical studies, employing one or more methodologies, so as assemble evidence in relation to these issues
- understands the limitations of this evidence
- can effectively communicate the research and its results to the intended audience

Task 4

Due: **21 October**

Weighting: **20%**

This task enables student to explore the application of non-experimental research methodologies to problems associated with their own professional practice.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- can explore the literature relating to particular aspects of their professional practice
- can identify critical issues which warrant further investigation
- can generate researchable questions
- can design rigorous and ethical studies, employing one or more methodologies, so as assemble evidence in relation to these issues
- understands the limitations of this evidence
- can effectively communicate the research and its results to the intended audience

Task 5

Due: **11 November**

Weighting: **20%**

This task enables student to explore the application of experimental and quasi-experimental research methodologies to problems associated with their own professional practice.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- can explore the literature relating to particular aspects of their professional practice
- can identify critical issues which warrant further investigation
- can generate researchable questions
- can design rigorous and ethical studies, employing one or more methodologies, so as assemble evidence in relation to these issues
- understands the limitations of this evidence
- can effectively communicate the research and its results to the intended audience

Delivery and Resources

In order to satisfactorily complete this unit you are required to use the resources supplied to you (eg, readings, workshop podcasts, etc) to complete the five assessment tasks and submit them by their respective submission dates (NB unless an extension has been arranged). Each of these assessment tasks is worth 20% of your final grade for the Unit. There are no word limits on any assessment task.

All required readings, other than those in the text, can be downloaded directly from within each module (NB to read them you will need Adobe Acrobat installed). The textbook for this Unit is;

Johnson, B., and Christensen, L. (2014). Educational Research: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Approaches. (5th Edition). Thousand Oaks California: Sage.

Copies are available from the Macquarie University Co-operative Bookshop. It is strongly

recommend that you buy a copy.

There are two “workshops” scheduled for each module. The first is a face to face session (W6B357) in which the content of the module will be reviewed and the assessment tasks discussed. Attendance is recommended but not compulsory. These sessions will be recorded and distributed via the Unit’s ilearn site for those unable to attend (ie Podcast). The second “workshop” is a pre-recorded session (ie Podcast only) in which researchers from the across the University discuss their work. Please see the Schedule of Activities (below) for the timing of these “workshops”.

Unit Schedule

Week	Week Begins	Workshops	Module – Assessment task due date
1	27 July	Workshop 1 – Wednesday 29 July W6B357/Podcast Greg Robertson	Module 1 Introduction to research Task 1 – due Wednesday 19 August
2	3 August	Workshop 2 – Podcast only John Elias	
3	10 August	No workshop	
4	17 August	Workshop 3 – Wednesday 19 August W6B357/Podcast Greg Robertson	Module 2 Foundation concepts Task 2 – Wednesday 9 September
5	24 August	Workshop 4 - Podcast only Alma Fleet and George Coone	
6	31 August	No workshop	
7	7 September	Workshop 5 – Wednesday 9 September W6B357/Podcast Greg Robertson	Module 3 Qualitative approaches Task 3 – Wednesday 30 September

8 *	14 September	Workshop 6 - Podcast only Ian Gibson	
9 *	21 September	No workshop	
10	28 September	Workshop 7 – Wednesday 30 September W6B357/Podcast Greg Robertson	
11	5 October	Workshop 8 - Podcast only Jennifer Bowes and John Hedberg	Module 4 Nonexperimental Quantitative and Mixed Designs Task 4 – due Wednesday 21 October
12	12 October	No workshop	
13	19 October	Workshop 9 – Wednesday 21 October W6B357/Podcast Greg Robertson	
14	26 October	Workshop 10 - Podcast only Mike Mitchelmore and Joanne Mulligan	
15	2 November	No workshop	
			Module 5 Experimental, Quasi-Experimental and Single Case Designs Task 5 – due Wednesday 11 November

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:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html

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 Services and 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.

Student Enquiries

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

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 - 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

- can explore the literature relating to particular aspects of their professional practice
- can identify critical issues which warrant further investigation
- can generate researchable questions
- understands the limitations of this evidence
- understands the ethical principles which shape and guide the research process

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 outcomes

- understands how research evidence contributes to knowledge about education policy and practice
- understands how to access existing stores of knowledge
- understands the nature and characteristics of the various research methodologies that are typically employed in educational research
- understands the methods of recruiting participants that can be employed by these methodologies
- understands the data collection and analysis techniques that can be employed by these methodologies
- understands aspects of design which provide rigor to the research process
- understands the ethical principles which shape and guide the research process

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

- can explore the literature relating to particular aspects of their professional practice
- can identify critical issues which warrant further investigation
- can generate researchable questions

- understands the limitations of this evidence
- understands aspects of design which provide rigor to the research process
- understands the ethical principles which shape and guide the research process

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

- can explore the literature relating to particular aspects of their professional practice
- can identify critical issues which warrant further investigation
- can generate researchable questions
- can design rigorous and ethical studies, employing one or more methodologies, so as assemble evidence in relation to these issues
- understands the limitations of this evidence
- can effectively communicate the research and its results to the intended audience
- understands how research evidence contributes to knowledge about education policy and practice
- understands how to access existing stores of knowledge
- understands the nature and characteristics of the various research methodologies that are typically employed in educational research
- understands the methods of recruiting participants that can be employed by these methodologies
- understands the data collection and analysis techniques that can be employed by these methodologies
- understands aspects of design which provide rigor to the research process
- understands the ethical principles which shape and guide the research process

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 outcome

- can effectively communicate the research and its results to the intended audience

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

- can explore the literature relating to particular aspects of their professional practice
- can identify critical issues which warrant further investigation
- understands the ethical principles which shape and guide the research process