



FOBE720

Qualitative Research Approaches in Business and Economics

S1 Day 2015

Business and Economics Faculty level units

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General Information

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Coordinator

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E4A Room 644

1.30-2.30 Monday during term time.

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MRes

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit provides students with an introduction to theoretical and empirical research approaches informed by qualitative methods of inquiry within the business and economics discipline. It seeks to develop students' understanding of the contexts in which qualitative research can be undertaken. Topics covered include grounded theory, hermeneutical analysis, discourse analysis, heuristic and narrative methods of investigation, typology, and participant observational. Students will also develop the ability to analyse, conduct, and evaluate qualitative forms of research.

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:

Understand commonly used qualitative research approaches in business and management research.

Discuss different forms of data and outline their differences

Demonstrate an awareness of the diversity of research methods and be able to make informed methodological choices;

Demonstrate an awareness of contemporary ethical issues in research and strategies for addressing them.

Do qualitative research by constructing problem oriented literature reviews, formalising meaningful research questions, handling and evaluating a range of evidence, and be able to deduce arguments on the basis of data.

General Assessment Information

There will be a deduction of 20% of the total available marks made from the total awarded mark for each 24 hour period or part thereof that the submission is late (for example, 25 hours late in submission – 40% penalty). This penalty does not apply for cases in which an application for special consideration is made and approved.

In order to pass this course you must:

1. achieve a composite mark of 50%.
2. make a satisfactory attempt at all assessment tasks.
3. attend at least 80% of classes and participate fully in class activities. .

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<u>Paradigm debates</u>	20%	16/3/2015
<u>Identifying gaps</u>	40%	27th April 2015
<u>Qualitative proposals</u>	40%	Week 12

Paradigm debates

Due: **16/3/2015**

Weighting: **20%**

Choose a research topic and critically analyse it from two out of four of Burrell and Morgan's sociological paradigms. Students will present their analysis during session 4. 10 minute presentations should focus on the application of the paradigms to their subject rather than describing the paradigms. Students should prepare a 1 page handout for class members. Feedback will be provided during the session. This assessment will be covered discussed in weeks 1, 2 and 3.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an awareness of the diversity of research methods and be able to make informed methodological choices;

- Demonstrate an awareness of contemporary ethical issues in research and strategies for addressing them.

Identifying gaps

Due: **27th April 2015**

Weighting: **40%**

Choose and critically appraise 10 qualitative methodology papers from a specific subject in your discipline. Prepare a 2,000 word critical review of these papers by first, conducting a literature review of their substantive contribution, and second, identify any methodological gaps that you envisage. Feedback will be discussed in class as well as written individual feedback.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand commonly used qualitative research approaches in business and management research.
- Discuss different forms of data and outline their differences
- Demonstrate an awareness of the diversity of research methods and be able to make informed methodological choices;
- Demonstrate an awareness of contemporary ethical issues in research and strategies for addressing them.
- Do qualitative research by constructing problem oriented literature reviews, formalising meaningful research questions, handling and evaluating a range of evidence, and be able to deduce arguments on the basis of data.

Qualitative proposals

Due: **Week 12**

Weighting: **40%**

Prepare a Research Proposal of 2,000 that contains a description of the topic and questions you will investigate as well as the qualitative methods and form of analysis you will use to address your research questions. The course will take you through these stages. Feedback will be provided in class as well as through written individual feedback.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand commonly used qualitative research approaches in business and management research.
- Discuss different forms of data and outline their differences
- Demonstrate an awareness of the diversity of research methods and be able to make

informed methodological choices;

- Demonstrate an awareness of contemporary ethical issues in research and strategies for addressing them.
- Do qualitative research by constructing problem oriented literature reviews, formalising meaningful research questions, handling and evaluating a range of evidence, and be able to deduce arguments on the basis of data.

Delivery and Resources

There will be no one textbook for this subject. You are encouraged to research the Qualitative Methodology texts and find appropriate sources that suits your discipline focus and research interests. Required weekly readings will be posted on iLearn.

Key research databases for your study include Ebsco host: Academic Search Elite and Business Source Premier.

To succeed in this unit, students are required to:

1. Attend classes and understand the material covered to be able to discuss this with their peers. Students are expected to participate in class.
 2. Critically analyse the material covered in relation to their own research interests. This is an essential requirement for all the assessment.
 3. Students are expected to work individually and with their peers throughout the course.
 4. Students must achieve an overall pass grade.
- Technology Used and Required

Students are required to use various technology tools including word processing, Power Point, Turnitin and iLearn. The latter is a software tool used by Macquarie to manage teaching and learning practices: <https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/>. To log on, you must first obtain a log on password from IT services or the library then click through to FOBE720. Please check this site each week for possible lecture slides and other announcements and material.

Timetable

https://iteach.mq.edu.au/unit_guides/32502/print_preview

Unit guide FOBE720 Qualitative Research Approaches in Business and Economics

The timetable for this unit can be accessed from this portal: <http://timetables.mq.edu.au> IT Help and IT Policy

coursework for approved units. Student ID cards must be displayed in the locations provided at all times. Students are expected to act responsibly when using University IT facilities.

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of Academic Student Support Services. Students with disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Support Unit who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies. University possesses vast online and human resources to help students learn:

- Online resources on Learning Skills • Workshops and other Learning Skills resources for

Postgraduate Students (ALPS) • Personal assistance with your learning & study related questions. • The Learning Help Desk is located in the Library foyer (level 2). • Online and on-campus orientation events run by Mentors@Macquarie.

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 outcome

- Demonstrate an awareness of the diversity of research methods and be able to make informed methodological choices;

Assessment task

- Identifying gaps

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

- Understand commonly used qualitative research approaches in business and management research.
- Discuss different forms of data and outline their differences
- Demonstrate an awareness of contemporary ethical issues in research and strategies for

addressing them.

- Do qualitative research by constructing problem oriented literature reviews, formalising meaningful research questions, handling and evaluating a range of evidence, and be able to deduce arguments on the basis of data.

Assessment tasks

- Paradigm debates
- Qualitative proposals

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

- Understand commonly used qualitative research approaches in business and management research.
- Demonstrate an awareness of the diversity of research methods and be able to make informed methodological choices;
- Demonstrate an awareness of contemporary ethical issues in research and strategies for addressing them.

Assessment tasks

- Paradigm debates
- Identifying gaps
- Qualitative proposals

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

- Discuss different forms of data and outline their differences

- Demonstrate an awareness of the diversity of research methods and be able to make informed methodological choices;
- Do qualitative research by constructing problem oriented literature reviews, formalising meaningful research questions, handling and evaluating a range of evidence, and be able to deduce arguments on the basis of data.

Assessment tasks

- Identifying gaps
- Qualitative proposals

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

- Discuss different forms of data and outline their differences
- Do qualitative research by constructing problem oriented literature reviews, formalising meaningful research questions, handling and evaluating a range of evidence, and be able to deduce arguments on the basis of data.

Assessment task

- Paradigm debates

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 outcome

- Demonstrate an awareness of contemporary ethical issues in research and strategies for addressing them.

Changes from Previous Offering

No substantive changes from last offering.

