



# PICT809

## Research Project

FY2 External 2015

*Dept of Policing, Intelligence & Counter-Terrorism*

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### Disclaimer

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff Vincent Williams <a href="mailto:vince.williams@mq.edu.au">vince.williams@mq.edu.au</a>
Credit points 8
Prerequisites (Admission to MIntPubDip or (GPA of 3.0 (out of 4.0) and admission to MPICTMIntSecSt or MPICT or MIntSecStud)) and permission of the Executive Dean of Faculty
Corequisites
Co-badged status
Unit description A two session undertaking for students presenting with a Credit average, this unit presents the opportunity for exposure to sustained research methodologies and practice through the design, development and production of a 12,000-15,000-word mini-thesis. Mentored by a supervisor matched to your particular specialisation and interest, this unit offers students potentially interested in future higher degree research pathways an opportunity to engage in detailed methodologies and academic writing processes. Additionally, it provides an opportunity for those in relevant professional fields of practice to make a contribution to the academic understanding of their specialty, in line with personal professional development.

## 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:

- Identify and design research question(s) as a series of definable research tasks and critically evaluate data to test the research question(s) in line with a chosen theoretical or other research model.
- Develop detailed knowledge of a particular academic field as evidenced through a literature review and analysis of published academic sources.
- Develop independent research, time management and academic writing skills through a sustained and documented research process.

Develop a coherent academic argument in a thesis-type written project using appropriate research methodologies during the design, development and production of the thesis.

## **General Assessment Information**

### **SUBMITTING ASSESSMENT TASKS**

All assessment tasks are to be submitted, marked and returned electronically. This will only happen through the unit iLearn site. Assessment tasks must be submitted either as a PDF or MS word document by the due date. Most assessment tasks will be subject to a 'Turnitin' review as an automatic part of the submission process. The granting of extensions of up to one week are at the discretion of the unit convener. Any requests for extensions must be made in writing before the due date for the submission of the assessment task. Extensions beyond one week are subject to the university's Disruptions Policy ([http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption\\_studies/policy.html#purpose](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html#purpose)).

### **LATE SUBMISSION OF ASSESSMENT TASKS**

If an assignment is submitted late, 5% of the available mark will be deducted for each day (including weekends) the paper is late. For example, if a paper is worth 20 marks, 1 mark will be deducted from the grade given for each day that it is late (i.e. a student given 15/20 who submitted 4 days late will lose 4 marks = 11/20). The same principle applies if an extension is granted and the assignment is submitted later than the amended date.

### **WORD LIMITS FOR ASSESSMENT TASKS**

Stated word limits do not include references, bibliography, or title page. Word limits can generally deviate by 10% either over or under the stated figure. If the number of words exceeds the limit by more than 10%, then penalties will apply. These penalties are 5% of the awarded mark for every 100 words over the word limit. If a paper is 300 words over, for instance, it will lose  $3 \times 5\% = 15\%$  of the total mark awarded for the assignment. This percentage is taken off the total mark, i.e. if a paper was graded at a credit (65%) and was 300 words over, it would be reduced by 15 marks to a pass (50%). The application of this penalty is at the discretion of the course convener.

### **REASSESSMENT OF ASSIGNMENTS DURING THE SEMESTER**

Macquarie University operates a Grade Appeal Policy in cases where students feel their work was graded inappropriately (<http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>). This process involves all assignments submitted for that unit being reassessed. However, in exceptional cases students may request that a single piece of work is reassessed. The Department process for the reassessment of assignments for marking during the semester is as follows: You must consult with the unit convenor - A reassessment will only be granted if you have sought and received feedback about your performance on the assessment from the convenor. Apply to PICT's Director of Learning and Teaching (or delegated authority) for a reassessment - no more than 7 days after the unit convenor or class tutor has returned the assessment to you. You must make a

sound academic case, which demonstrates that you have consulted the unit convenor and as a result of this there is evidence that either the marking criteria were not provided, or there is insufficient feedback to justify the mark given. If appropriate, the Head of Department (or delegated authority) will organise the reassessment of work. The mark determined after reassessment will be the final mark in that assessment task, and this mark can be lower than the original.

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<u>Research Proposal</u>	15%	Week 2, Session 2, 2015
<u>Research Scaffold</u>	15%	Week 12, Session 2, 2015
<u>Research Essay/Dissertation</u>	70%	Week 12, Session 1, 2016

### Research Proposal

Due: **Week 2, Session 2, 2015**

Weighting: **15%**

Detailed information about this assessment task can be found on the iLearn site for this unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify and design research question(s) as a series of definable research tasks and critically evaluate data to test the research question(s) in line with a chosen theoretical or other research model.

### Research Scaffold

Due: **Week 12, Session 2, 2015**

Weighting: **15%**

Detailed information about this assessment task can be found on the iLearn site for this unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify and design research question(s) as a series of definable research tasks and critically evaluate data to test the research question(s) in line with a chosen theoretical or other research model.
- Develop detailed knowledge of a particular academic field as evidenced through a literature review and analysis of published academic sources.
- Develop independent research, time management and academic writing skills through a sustained and documented research process.

## Research Essay/Dissertation

Due: **Week 12, Session 1, 2016**

Weighting: **70%**

Detailed information about this assessment task can be found on the iLearn site for this unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Develop detailed knowledge of a particular academic field as evidenced through a literature review and analysis of published academic sources.
- Develop independent research, time management and academic writing skills through a sustained and documented research process.
- Develop a coherent academic argument in a thesis-type written project using appropriate research methodologies during the design, development and production of the thesis.

## Delivery and Resources

### UNIT REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

You should spend an average of at least 12 hours per week on this unit.

Whilst there are no lectures or tutorials for this unit, students are expected to be in attendance at the Research Seminar Series throughout the year, and are highly encouraged to seek the opportunity to present their own research in the second session of their studies. As an independent research project, you are expected to initiate and request guidance and feedback from your academic mentor on a consistent basis throughout the year. The nature and frequency of these meetings should be negotiated by you and your supervisor at the outset of the Session. The unit convenor will be available, either via email, phone or in person to answer queries about the research process or assessment submission.

**REQUIRED READINGS** The citations for all the required readings for this unit are available to enrolled students through the unit iLearn site, and at Macquarie University's Library EReserve site. Electronic copies of required readings may be accessed at the EReserve site.

**TECHNOLOGY USED AND REQUIRED** Personal PC and internet access are essential for this unit. Basic computer skills and skills in word processing are also a requirement. This unit has an online presence. Login is via: <https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/> Students are required to have regular access to a computer and the internet. Mobile devices alone are not sufficient. For technical support go to: [http://mq.edu.au/about\\_us/offices\\_and\\_units/informatics/help](http://mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/informatics/help) For student quick guides on the use of iLearn go to: [http://mq.edu.au/iLearn/student\\_info/guides.htm](http://mq.edu.au/iLearn/student_info/guides.htm)

## Learning and Teaching Activities

### Attendance at Research Seminar Series

Students are expected to attend the Research Seminar Series throughout the year and contribute in an informed and professional manner as part of the PICT research cohort.

## 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](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](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](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/](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](http://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](http://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](http://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

- Identify and design research question(s) as a series of definable research tasks and critically evaluate data to test the research question(s) in line with a chosen theoretical or other research model.
- Develop independent research, time management and academic writing skills through a sustained and documented research process.
- Develop a coherent academic argument in a thesis-type written project using appropriate research methodologies during the design, development and production of the thesis.

#### Assessment tasks

- Research Proposal
- Research Scaffold
- Research Essay/Dissertation

### 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

- Identify and design research question(s) as a series of definable research tasks and critically evaluate data to test the research question(s) in line with a chosen theoretical or other research model.
- Develop detailed knowledge of a particular academic field as evidenced through a literature review and analysis of published academic sources.
- Develop a coherent academic argument in a thesis-type written project using appropriate research methodologies during the design, development and production of the thesis.

## Assessment tasks

- Research Proposal
- Research Scaffold
- Research Essay/Dissertation

## 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

- Develop detailed knowledge of a particular academic field as evidenced through a literature review and analysis of published academic sources.
- Develop a coherent academic argument in a thesis-type written project using appropriate research methodologies during the design, development and production of the thesis.

## Assessment tasks

- Research Scaffold
- Research Essay/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

- Identify and design research question(s) as a series of definable research tasks and critically evaluate data to test the research question(s) in line with a chosen theoretical or other research model.
- Develop detailed knowledge of a particular academic field as evidenced through a literature review and analysis of published academic sources.
- Develop a coherent academic argument in a thesis-type written project using appropriate research methodologies during the design, development and production of the thesis.

## Assessment tasks

- Research Proposal
- Research Scaffold
- Research Essay/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

- Identify and design research question(s) as a series of definable research tasks and critically evaluate data to test the research question(s) in line with a chosen theoretical or other research model.
- Develop detailed knowledge of a particular academic field as evidenced through a literature review and analysis of published academic sources.
- Develop independent research, time management and academic writing skills through a sustained and documented research process.
- Develop a coherent academic argument in a thesis-type written project using appropriate research methodologies during the design, development and production of the thesis.

## Assessment tasks

- Research Proposal
- Research Scaffold
- Research Essay/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

- Develop independent research, time management and academic writing skills through a sustained and documented research process.
- Develop a coherent academic argument in a thesis-type written project using appropriate research methodologies during the design, development and production of the thesis.

### Assessment tasks

- Research Scaffold
- Research Essay/Dissertation

## Changes since First Published

Date	Description
10/06/2015	The new unit guide reflects the Session 2 2015 and Session 1 2016 assessment submission dates.