



# FOBE800

## Contemporary Business Issues

S1 Evening 2016

*Dept of Accounting & Corporate Governance*

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## General Information

### Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

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TBC

Lecturer

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### Credit points

4

### Prerequisites

(Admission to MCom or MAcc(Prof)MCom or MBioBus) and 48cp

### Corequisites

### Co-badged status

### Unit description

This is a program-wide capstone unit and must be taken by students in their final session of study. The unit will broaden students' understanding of the importance of strategic business issues in the organisation's planning, operations, control and leadership, ethics and industry relationship, and broader economic & global developments. The unit is not only reflective and integrative, but also future-focused, offering opportunities for "real world" preparatory experience. Students will work individually and collaboratively with peers to understand "real world" business issues and challenges requiring cross-disciplinary insights and knowledge. While the unit aims at giving students an opportunity to explore strategic business issues within the context of a business environment, students will be exposed to comprehensive case studies, which will give them the opportunity to learn about the practical implications of business issues and challenges. Students will also work in self-managing teams to prepare group reports and complete a session long individual research-based project that will be assessed by the academic staff.

## 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:

Integrate discipline-specific knowledge and skills and apply subject knowledge critically, analytically and creatively to different bodies of knowledge or practice.

Synthesise knowledge from alternative perspectives and generate critical thinking and problem-solving skills in formulating and implementing strategy.

Apply knowledge to complex ethical and global issues and understand its impact on organisations and/or in simulated situations.

Research and critically analyse recent or developing business issues, appraise the outcomes of proposed solutions and defend propositions.

Demonstrate professional written and interpersonal competencies, including critical reflection on personal, social and practical issues in a team environment.

Appraise the quality of business judgements to formulate improved decision-making or problem-solving processes.

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<a href="#"><u>Reflection A</u></a>	10%	Week 3
<a href="#"><u>Capstone simulation (Capsim®)</u></a>	15%	concludes Week 10
<a href="#"><u>Reflection B</u></a>	10%	Week 8
<a href="#"><u>Business project</u></a>	40%	Week 11
<a href="#"><u>Capsim evaluation presentation</u></a>	25%	Week 13

### Reflection A

Due: **Week 3**

Weighting: **10%**

#### Individual

Estimated student workload - 3 hours

Submission - via iLearn

Extensions - No extension will be granted unless a 'Disruption to Studies' application has been approved.

Penalties - Late submission will not be accepted for marking, i.e., a mark of ZERO will be

assigned accordingly.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Integrate discipline-specific knowledge and skills and apply subject knowledge critically, analytically and creatively to different bodies of knowledge or practice.
- Demonstrate professional written and interpersonal competencies, including critical reflection on personal, social and practical issues in a team environment.

## Capstone simulation (Capsim®)

Due: **concludes Week 10**

Weighting: **15%**

**Individual (5%) + Teamwork (10%)**

Estimated student workload: 14 hours (2 hours per week on average for 7 weeks).

Submission - Online via capsim.com

Extensions: No extension will be granted unless a 'Disruption to Studies' application has been approved.

Penalties: Late submission will not be accepted for marking, i.e., a mark of ZERO will be assigned accordingly.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Integrate discipline-specific knowledge and skills and apply subject knowledge critically, analytically and creatively to different bodies of knowledge or practice.
- Synthesise knowledge from alternative perspectives and generate critical thinking and problem-solving skills in formulating and implementing strategy.
- Appraise the quality of business judgements to formulate improved decision-making or problem-solving processes.

## Reflection B

Due: **Week 8**

Weighting: **10%**

**Individual**

Estimated student workload - 3 hours

Submission - via iLearn

Extensions - No extension will be granted unless a 'Disruption to Studies' application has been approved.

Penalties - Late submission will not be accepted for marking, i.e., a mark of ZERO will be

assigned accordingly.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Synthesise knowledge from alternative perspectives and generate critical thinking and problem-solving skills in formulating and implementing strategy.
- Demonstrate professional written and interpersonal competencies, including critical reflection on personal, social and practical issues in a team environment.

## Business project

Due: **Week 11**

Weighting: **40%**

### Individual

Estimated student workload - 25 hours

Submission - via iLearn

Extensions - No extension will be granted unless a 'Disruption to Studies' application has been approved.

Penalties - Late submission will not be accepted for marking, i.e., a mark of ZERO will be assigned accordingly.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Integrate discipline-specific knowledge and skills and apply subject knowledge critically, analytically and creatively to different bodies of knowledge or practice.
- Synthesise knowledge from alternative perspectives and generate critical thinking and problem-solving skills in formulating and implementing strategy.
- Apply knowledge to complex ethical and global issues and understand its impact on organisations and/or in simulated situations.
- Research and critically analyse recent or developing business issues, appraise the outcomes of proposed solutions and defend propositions.
- Demonstrate professional written and interpersonal competencies, including critical reflection on personal, social and practical issues in a team environment.

## Capsim evaluation presentation

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **25%**

### Individual (5%) + Team (20%)

Estimated student workload - 10 hours

Submission - In weekly seminar

Extensions - No extension will be granted unless a 'Disruption to Studies' application has been approved.

Penalties - Late submission will not be accepted for marking, i.e., a mark of ZERO will be assigned accordingly.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Synthesise knowledge from alternative perspectives and generate critical thinking and problem-solving skills in formulating and implementing strategy.
- Research and critically analyse recent or developing business issues, appraise the outcomes of proposed solutions and defend propositions.
- Demonstrate professional written and interpersonal competencies, including critical reflection on personal, social and practical issues in a team environment.
- Appraise the quality of business judgements to formulate improved decision-making or problem-solving processes.

## **Delivery and Resources**

### **Classes**

- This unit includes thirteen three-hour weekly seminars (classes) as detailed in this unit guide.
- The timetable for classes can be found on the University web site at: <http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au/>
- Class attendance for this unit is compulsory.
- Students are expected to get involved in class discussion and debate including in-class completion of simulations and case studies.

### **Required and Recommended Texts and/or Materials**

#### **Compulsory text:**

Johnson, G. Whittington, R. Scholes, K. Angwin, D. and Regner, P. 2014. Exploring Strategy: Text and Cases 10th ed, Pearson.

You must have read the relevant materials before coming to class and in completing the assessment tasks as well as undertaking your own further research. Direction will be provided by the lecturer on additional research materials.

### **Unit Web Page**

You are required to access a computer and the internet at various times in completing this unit, to download course material available on the learning management system (iLearn) and to complete assessment tasks.

## 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)

**New Assessment Policy in effect from Session 2 2016** [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy\\_2016.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy_2016.html). For more information visit [http://students.mq.edu.au/events/2016/07/19/new\\_assessment\\_policy\\_in\\_place\\_from\\_session\\_2/](http://students.mq.edu.au/events/2016/07/19/new_assessment_policy_in_place_from_session_2/)

Assessment Policy prior to Session 2 2016 <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy prior to Session 2 2016 <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

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

Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint\\_management/procedure.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint_management/procedure.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://www.mq.edu.au/about\\_us/offices\\_and\\_units/information\\_technology/help/](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.

## 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

- Appraise the quality of business judgements to formulate improved decision-making or problem-solving processes.

#### Assessment tasks

- Capstone simulation (Capsim®)
- Business project
- Capsim evaluation presentation

### 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

- Integrate discipline-specific knowledge and skills and apply subject knowledge critically, analytically and creatively to different bodies of knowledge or practice.
- Synthesise knowledge from alternative perspectives and generate critical thinking and problem-solving skills in formulating and implementing strategy.

## Assessment tasks

- Reflection A
- Capstone simulation (Capsim®)
- Reflection B
- Business project
- Capsim evaluation presentation

## 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

- Synthesise knowledge from alternative perspectives and generate critical thinking and problem-solving skills in formulating and implementing strategy.
- Research and critically analyse recent or developing business issues, appraise the outcomes of proposed solutions and defend propositions.

## Assessment tasks

- Capstone simulation (Capsim®)
- Business project
- Capsim evaluation presentation

## 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

- Demonstrate professional written and interpersonal competencies, including critical reflection on personal, social and practical issues in a team environment.

## Assessment tasks

- Reflection A
- Reflection B
- Business project
- Capsim evaluation presentation

## 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

- Apply knowledge to complex ethical and global issues and understand its impact on organisations and/or in simulated situations.
- Demonstrate professional written and interpersonal competencies, including critical reflection on personal, social and practical issues in a team environment.
- Appraise the quality of business judgements to formulate improved decision-making or problem-solving processes.

## Assessment tasks

- Capstone simulation (Capsim®)
- Business project
- Capsim evaluation presentation

## Research & Practice, Global & Sustainability

This unit also addresses global and sustainability issues as direct areas of study and as necessary implications arising from the materials, assessment and academic discussion and debate in classes/seminars. We promote sustainability by developing ability in students to research and locate information within accounting discipline. We aim to provide students with an opportunity to obtain skills which will benefit them throughout their career.

This unit also gives you opportunities to conduct your own research and gives you practice in applying research findings in your assessment tasks. Students will be required to use library

resources to research beyond these materials in undertaking research necessary to complete their tasks. The unit encourages students to read journals of interest and publications in these journals have a reference list at the end of each article containing all references cited by the author. These provide some guidance to references that could be used to research particular issues.