



SSCI301

Internships in Social Research

S2 Day 2016

Dept of Sociology

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Maria Amigo

maria.amigo@mq.edu.au

Contact via maria.amigo@mq.edu.au

By appointment

Lecturer

Jacqueline Mackaway

jacqueline.mackaway@mq.edu.au

Contact via jacqueline.mackaway@mq.edu.au

W6A 822

By appointment

Tutor

Chand Somaiah

chand.somaiah@mq.edu.au

Contact via email

TBA

By appointment

Jacqueline Mackaway

jacqueline.mackaway@mq.edu.au

Credit points

6

Prerequisites

39cp including (SOC224 or SOC234 or SSC200 or SOC350) and permission of Executive Dean of Faculty

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This internship unit is an exciting opportunity to gain practical experience undertaking applied or policy related research while working in a social research team or a community research setting. A supervised research placement, supported by on-campus workshops, will give you an opportunity to undertake social research first hand and gain valuable professional experience. As well, it encourages you to exercise creative thinking and problem solving, while developing personal confidence and professional contacts. The internship is usually undertaken two or more days a week over a semester, but may, in some cases, be undertaken as a block. Placements are organised for students in a community service agency, a commercial social research company, in state or local government, an academic research setting and may be done overseas with PACE International. Students in the Bachelor of Social Science cannot count SSCI301 as part of their Sociology Major. Please note a maximum of 50 students can enroll each semester and priority will be given to Bachelor of Social Science students for whom the unit is compulsory, and to those in their final semester. In order to enrol in this unit, please submit an enquiry via ask.mq.edu.au to request an application form prior to submission of a Special Approval request. Applications close two weeks prior to the start of session.

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:

Apply knowledge and research methodologies learned in other units (SOC 224, SSC300) to a real social research project. Produce a report that shows your ability to summarise, analyse, interpret and evaluate the information handled during the internship. Manage a research project following project management guidelines.

Participate meaningfully as a member of an organisation that engages in social, quality assurance, or policy related research. Develop a critically reflective practice on the experience of the work placement and the research process. Produce a reflective account of the work experience.

Demonstrate initiative and self-sufficiency during the placement.

Appraise ethical research practices and ethical conduct at the workplace. Engage in ethical practices during the internship.

Develop an awareness of current ethical, social and environmental challenges, and how these present themselves at the workplace. Develop an understanding of the importance of becoming an active and engaged citizen.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
Project Management Plan	20%	See description
Engagement	20%	ongoing
Supervisor's feedback report	20%	N/A
Final Report	40%	18 November by 5 PM

Project Management Plan

Due: **See description**

Weighting: **20%**

Produce a Project Management Plan (PMP) within the first 20 hours of placement. The PMP should have a title, should state the background, scope and purpose of the project, a detailed schedule of tasks to be completed, a plan for monitoring the project, and identification of stakeholders, milestones, risks and issues. The plan has to be discussed with the host supervisor. Specific information for this assignment, as well as a rubric that states the assessment criteria, are available on iLearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Participate meaningfully as a member of an organisation that engages in social, quality assurance, or policy related research. Develop a critically reflective practice on the experience of the work placement and the research process. Produce a reflective account of the work experience.
- Demonstrate initiative and self-sufficiency during the placement.

Engagement

Due: **ongoing**

Weighting: **20%**

Engagement throughout the semester will be assessed based on a) Online discussions (10%) d) Presentation to class and partners in workshop 4 (10%). Specific guidelines for forum questions and presentations, as well as a rubric that states the marking criteria, are available on iLearn. Class attendance and class participation in associated tasks will also impact on the final mark for engagement. Class attendance is compulsory. Please note that a minimum of 2 out of 3 forum questions need to be answered and that presentations are compulsory. Those students who can't attend presentation day will need to arrange an alternative date with the lecturer.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Participate meaningfully as a member of an organisation that engages in social, quality assurance, or policy related research. Develop a critically reflective practice on the experience of the work placement and the research process. Produce a reflective account of the work experience.
- Demonstrate initiative and self-sufficiency during the placement.
- Appraise ethical research practices and ethical conduct at the workplace. Engage in ethical practices during the internship.
- Develop an awareness of current ethical, social and environmental challenges, and how these present themselves at the workplace. Develop an understanding of the importance of becoming an active and engaged citizen.

Supervisor's feedback report

Due: **N/A**

Weighting: **20%**

Your workplace supervisor will be requested to complete a form at the end of your placement to provide detailed feedback on your performance based on a series of criteria. A sample of the form provided to host supervisors to assess your performance is available on iLearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply knowledge and research methodologies learned in other units (SOC 224, SSC300) to a real social research project. Produce a report that shows your ability to summarise, analyse, interpret and evaluate the information handled during the internship. Manage a research project following project management guidelines.
- Participate meaningfully as a member of an organisation that engages in social, quality assurance, or policy related research. Develop a critically reflective practice on the experience of the work placement and the research process. Produce a reflective account of the work experience.
- Demonstrate initiative and self-sufficiency during the placement.
- Appraise ethical research practices and ethical conduct at the workplace. Engage in ethical practices during the internship.
- Develop an awareness of current ethical, social and environmental challenges, and how these present themselves at the workplace. Develop an understanding of the importance of becoming an active and engaged citizen.

Final Report

Due: **18 November by 5 PM**

Weighting: **40%**

The final assignment will consist of a report on the internship which will include information about the organisation and your project, examples of work completed, and a section reflecting on the experience. Specific information for this assignment, as well as a rubric that states the assessment criteria, are available on iLearn. Some students working as part of a team may prepare a joint final report, however the reflection component which accounts for 50% of the mark is individual and assessed accordingly.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply knowledge and research methodologies learned in other units (SOC 224, SSC300) to a real social research project. Produce a report that shows your ability to summarise, analyse, interpret and evaluate the information handled during the internship. Manage a research project following project management guidelines.
- Participate meaningfully as a member of an organisation that engages in social, quality assurance, or policy related research. Develop a critically reflective practice on the experience of the work placement and the research process. Produce a reflective account of the work experience.
- Demonstrate initiative and self-sufficiency during the placement.
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Delivery and Resources

Delivery and Resources

Unit Requirements

The unit has an academic component (delivered through 5 workshops) and a practical component (students' research work for an organisation)

For the academic component students will be required to:

1. Submit the required assessment tasks in a timely manner.

2. Complete all the required readings for the unit.
3. Contribute to online discussions and activities.
4. Deliver a presentation to the rest of the classroom and other invitees including partner organisations in Workshop 4.

For the practical component students will be required to:

1. Define a work schedule with their host supervisors and commit to it.
2. Work on a research project according to the research plan they discuss with their supervisors.
3. Submit a final output of the research project to their organisations.

Assignment Submission and return of marked work

The Project Management Plan and Final Report are to be submitted via the Turnitin function inside the ilearn site. Likewise, marked work will be returned to students electronically via ilearn. Grademark will be used to mark students' work.

Online forum discussions will be rated within each forum. Students will get a mark out of 100 for each posting and can refer to the relevant rubric (Engagement rubric) to understand why they received that rating.

Late submissions, Special Consideration and Extensions

Please email the unit convenor if you find yourself unable to meet the submission dates for assessments. For all written assessment tasks, the Sociology Department applies the following penalties for late work (without an extension): 5% for the first day, then 1% for each subsequent day late. Online forum postings that are submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

Technology

SOC 301 iLearn Site. Learning and Teaching resources, assessment guidelines, and links to individual learning modules will be on SOC301's iLearn page. You will also use the discussion boards to keep in touch with other students and share your experiences of your internship placement. The video-conference online system Zoom can be used to discuss particular issues with the unit convenor and tutor remotely prior to making an appointment.

Academic Honesty Policy

Academic honesty is an integral part of the core values and principles contained in the Macquarie University Ethics Statement (<http://www.mq.edu.au/ethics/ethic-statement-final.html>). Its fundamental principle is that all staff and students act with integrity in the creation, development, application and use of ideas and information. This means that:

- All academic work claimed as original is the work of the author making the claim.
- All academic collaborations are acknowledged.
- Academic work is not falsified in any way

- When the ideas of others are used, these ideas are acknowledged appropriately.

The link below has more details about the policy, procedure and schedule of penalties that will apply to breaches of the Academic Honesty policy.

http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

University Grading Policy

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

The grade a student receives will signify the overall performance in meeting the learning outcomes of a unit of study. Grades will not be awarded by reference to the achievement of other students nor allocated to fit a predetermined distribution. In determining a grade, due weight will be given to the learning outcomes and level of a unit (ie 100, 200, 300, 800 etc). Graded units will use the following grades:

HD	High Distinction	85-100
D	Distinction	75-84
Cr	Credit	65-74
P	Pass	50-64
F	Fail	0-49

REQUIRED READINGS

The works listed below are required for specific workshops and online forum contributions. All readings will be available through e-Reserve.

Boud, D. (2001). Using journal writing to enhance reflective practice. *New directions for adult and continuing education*, 2001(90), 9-18.

CDRI (2013). "Conceptualising the Research Project" in *Research Project Development and Management: A Handbook* (pp 9-24). Phnom Penh, Cambodia CDRI. .

Guillemin, Marilys, and Lynn Gillam. "Ethics, reflexivity, and "ethically important moments" in research." *Qualitative inquiry* 10, no. 2 (2004): 261-280.

Thomas, D. R., & Hodges, I. D. (2010). "Managing a Research Project" in *Designing and Managing Your Research Project: Core Skills for Social and Health Research* (pp. 131-148). London SAGE Publications.

Thomas, D. R., & Hodges, I. D. (2010). "Communicating Research Findings" in *Designing and Managing Your Research Project: Core Skills for Social and Health Research* (175-189). London SAGE Publications.

RECOMMENDED READINGS

The following readings will enhance your understanding of the topics that underpin this unit. Except for the first resource listed which will be made available on iLearn, all readings can be obtained via e-Reserve.

CDRI (2013). *Research Project Development and Management: A Handbook*. Phnom Penh, Cambodia CDRI.

Ghaye, T. (2010). "In what ways can reflective practices enhance human flourishing?" *Reflective Practice* 11(1): 1-7.

Jordi, Richard. "Reframing the concept of reflection: Consciousness, experiential learning, and reflective learning practices." *Adult Education Quarterly* (2010): 0741713610380439.

Kolb, Alice Y., and David A. Kolb. "Learning styles and learning spaces: Enhancing experiential learning in higher education." *Academy of management learning & education* 4, no. 2 (2005): 193-212.

Moon, Jennifer A. *A handbook of reflective and experiential learning: Theory and practice*. Psychology Press, 2004.

Rarieya, Jane. "Promoting and investigating students' uptake of reflective practice: A Pakistan case." *Reflective practice* 6, no. 2 (2005): 285-294.

Thorpe, Karran. "Reflective learning journals: From concept to practice." *Reflective practice* 5, no. 3 (2004): 327-343.

Unit Schedule

This unit is a participation (PACE) participation unit, and you will be working between 100 and 150 hours for an organisation. Some students will be based at the host organisations, others will be able to complete part or most of their work from home or campus.

The internship is supported by 5 compulsory on-campus two-hour workshops (Weeks 31-33, 44-45). Please check the online timetable (<https://timetables.mq.edu.au>). This component of the internship is as important as the professional work-based component.

There are two workshops you can choose from, Tuesdays from 11 AM-1 PM, and Thursdays from 10 PM-12 PM. A maximum of 25 students will be allowed for each workshop. The dates, times and locations are listed below.

WED 11 AM-1 PM WORKSHOPS: E3A 244 Seminar Rm

THU 10 AM-12 PM WORKSHOPS: E3A 244 Seminar Rm

Workshop 1	2/4 Aug	Managing a Research Project
Workshop 2	9/11 Aug	Reflective Practice
Workshop 3	16/18 Aug	Professional and Research Ethics
Workshop 4	1/3 Nov	Communicating Research
Workshop 5	8/10 Nov	Pursuing a Career in Social Research

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

New Assessment Policy in effect from Session 2 2016 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/

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

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://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

Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Demonstrate initiative and self-sufficiency during the placement.

Assessment tasks

- Project Management Plan
- Engagement
- Supervisor's feedback report
- Final Report

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Demonstrate initiative and self-sufficiency during the placement.

Assessment tasks

- Engagement
- Supervisor's feedback report
- Final Report

Commitment to Continuous Learning

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Apply knowledge and research methodologies learned in other units (SOC 224, SSC300) to a real social research project. Produce a report that shows your ability to summarise, analyse, interpret and evaluate the information handled during the internship. Manage a research project following project management guidelines.

- Demonstrate initiative and self-sufficiency during the placement.

Assessment tasks

- Engagement
- Supervisor's feedback report
- Final Report

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Apply knowledge and research methodologies learned in other units (SOC 224, SSC300) to a real social research project. Produce a report that shows your ability to summarise, analyse, interpret and evaluate the information handled during the internship. Manage a research project following project management guidelines.

Assessment tasks

- Project Management Plan
- Engagement
- Supervisor's feedback report
- Final Report

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Participate meaningfully as a member of an organisation that engages in social, quality assurance, or policy related research. Develop a critically reflective practice on the

experience of the work placement and the research process. Produce a reflective account of the work experience.

Assessment tasks

- Project Management Plan
- Engagement
- Supervisor's feedback report
- Final Report

Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Assessment tasks

- Project Management Plan
- Supervisor's feedback report
- Final Report

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Demonstrate initiative and self-sufficiency during the placement.

Assessment tasks

- Project Management Plan
- Engagement
- Supervisor's feedback report
- Final Report

Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Appraise ethical research practices and ethical conduct at the workplace. Engage in ethical practices during the internship.

Assessment tasks

- Engagement
- Supervisor's feedback report
- Final Report

Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Develop an awareness of current ethical, social and environmental challenges, and how these present themselves at the workplace. Develop an understanding of the importance of becoming an active and engaged citizen.

Assessment tasks

- Engagement
- Final Report