ACSC100

Academic Communication in Science

S2 Day 2017

Dept of Linguistics

Contents

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General Information

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Credit points
3

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit is designed to support students in their transition to university by enabling them to understand and achieve standards of performance required in an academic environment. The unit provides a three-level focus which is initiated by facilitating the development of academic practices, behaviours and values. Secondly, it fosters a level of familiarity with the disciplinary language, texts and conventions used when studying in programs offered by the Faculty of Science. Finally, it raises an awareness of the impact of scientific knowledge and the role of scientists when they act to solve problems and implement innovations affecting contemporary society. Learning and assessment activities are designed to build the capacity for independent and collaborative approaches to learning. Students are guided to develop their capacity for reading, thinking and expressing ideas effectively and critically.

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:

Read efficiently to gather specific information and ideas from discipline-specific sources.

Demonstrate an ability to interpret and apply concepts from sources used in the discipline.

Analyse the purpose, language and features of academic, disciplinary and professional genres.

Critically evaluate information and ideas from academic, disciplinary and professional sources.

Express ideas using appropriate language and structure for academic and professional purposes in written and/or oral texts.

Apply academic referencing conventions accurately and appropriately.

Apply reasoning to formulate and support a position or argument.

Plan and produce texts to reflect academic and disciplinary standards.

Engage in independent and collaborative learning activities.

General Assessment Information

Assignment Submission

For all assessments, **you are expected to bring a completed first draft of the assignment to your tutorial**, usually one week before the final submission is due. The draft will be peer-reviewed and edited in the tutorial, following which you have a week to re-write the assignment and produce a final copy for submission and marking.

Peer review will take place in groups, so **you MUST bring a printed copy of your draft for each member of your group**. Please note that it is not sufficient to bring an electronic copy of your draft, nor is it appropriate to bring an incomplete version. **Peer review is a requirement of ACSC100. If you do not bring a draft copy of your assignment to the appropriate tutorial, your mark for that assignment may be reduced by 20%.** If you are unable to attend a tutorial in which peer-review is carried out, you MUST submit a formal request to be excused through the ask.mq.edu.au web portal. Supporting documentation (eg a medical certificate) must be provided.

All assignments (except the oral presentation) need to be submitted to Turnitin using the link available on the ACSC100 iLearn website:

Presentation of Assignments

Add a footer to each page of the assignment, with page numbering, student name and student number, and the unit code in the footer, for example:

Matt Smith   40112333   ACSC100

All assignments should be word-processed, double-spaced and printed using black ink. Turnitin will mark the assignment with submission time and date.

Please keep a copy of all assignments in case of misadventure.

Extensions

Extensions are granted only on grounds of illness or misadventure, and appropriate supporting documentation must be submitted.

If you need an extension, you MUST put in a request through ASK@mq before the due date for the assignment. You need to outline the reason for your request and suggest a new submission date. In suggesting an alternative date, you need to consider what is reasonable, both from your own point of view and from that of your tutor. A request for a two week extension is not likely to succeed!

Late Submission of Assignments

Assignments that are submitted after the due date (without an extension) **will attract a penalty of 5% for each day it is overdue** (i.e. -5% for 1 day late; -10% for 2 days late; - 15% for 3 days late). Work submitted after the return of marked assignments, and without an extension, will not be accepted.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Information report	30%	No	Various- see description
Group Oral Presentation	15%	No	02-10-2017 5pm
Formal Research report	40%	No	29-10-2017 5pm
Informative Brochure	15%	No	12-11-2017 5pm

Information report

Due: **Various- see description**
Weighting: **30%**

This assignment will be submitted in two parts:

- Part A: One or two paragraphs presenting an evaluation of a self-selected reading with reference to the 5 criteria of academic reliability. This source will be used as one of the references for Part B.
    - Length: 200 words.
    - Weight: 5%
    - Due date 5pm on Sunday 27-08-2017

- Part B: An information report for an academic audience outlining a major issue with

regard to a topic of social concern, indicating potential areas of further research. The report will make use of three tutor nominated readings, and one self-selected source (see Part A).

- ◦ Length 1000 words
- ◦ Weight: 25%
- ◦ Due date 5pm on Sunday 10-09-2017

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Read efficiently to gather specific information and ideas from discipline-specific sources.
- Demonstrate an ability to interpret and apply concepts from sources used in the discipline.
- Analyse the purpose, language and features of academic, disciplinary and professional genres.
- Critically evaluate information and ideas from academic, disciplinary and professional sources.
- Express ideas using appropriate language and structure for academic and professional purposes in written and/or oral texts.
- Apply academic referencing conventions accurately and appropriately.
- Apply reasoning to formulate and support a position or argument.
- Plan and produce texts to reflect academic and disciplinary standards.
- Engage in independent and collaborative learning activities.

Group Oral Presentation

Due: **02-10-2017 5pm**
Weighting: **15%**

Group oral presentation on scientific information regarding a social issue.

Length: Individual contributions of 5 minutes each as part of a group presentation

Note that the presentation PowerPoint must be submitted by 5pm 02-10-2017, with presentations to be delivered in tutorials in Week 8.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Read efficiently to gather specific information and ideas from discipline-specific sources.
- Demonstrate an ability to interpret and apply concepts from sources used in the discipline.
- Analyse the purpose, language and features of academic, disciplinary and professional

genres.

- Critically evaluate information and ideas from academic, disciplinary and professional sources.
- Express ideas using appropriate language and structure for academic and professional purposes in written and/or oral texts.
- Apply academic referencing conventions accurately and appropriately.
- Apply reasoning to formulate and support a position or argument.
- Plan and produce texts to reflect academic and disciplinary standards.
- Engage in independent and collaborative learning activities.

Formal Research report

Due: **29-10-2017 5pm**
Weighting: **40%**

In this task, you will introduce and discuss your analysis of a set of data relevant to your group topic.

Length: 1400 words

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Read efficiently to gather specific information and ideas from discipline-specific sources.
- Demonstrate an ability to interpret and apply concepts from sources used in the discipline.
- Analyse the purpose, language and features of academic, disciplinary and professional genres.
- Critically evaluate information and ideas from academic, disciplinary and professional sources.
- Express ideas using appropriate language and structure for academic and professional purposes in written and/or oral texts.
- Apply academic referencing conventions accurately and appropriately.
- Apply reasoning to formulate and support a position or argument.
- Plan and produce texts to reflect academic and disciplinary standards.
- Engage in independent and collaborative learning activities.

Informative Brochure

Due: **12-11-2017 5pm**
Weighting: **15%**

In this task, you will transform your formal research report into a popular brochure.

Length: 400 words

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Read efficiently to gather specific information and ideas from discipline-specific sources.
- Demonstrate an ability to interpret and apply concepts from sources used in the discipline.
- Apply reasoning to formulate and support a position or argument.
- Engage in independent and collaborative learning activities.

Delivery and Resources

Attendance

ACSC100 incorporates 2 weekly one hour lectures and a 2 hour tutorial. Students are expected to attend all lectures and tutorials, as failure to do so is likely to impact on assignment marks. In particular, students should attend all draft submission tutorials (see schedule), which will involve peer review of draft assignments, and student group oral presentations dates.

Expectations

Students are expected to submit all assignments. They are also expected carry out extensive reading and to bring draft copies of assignments to tutorials for evaluation, editing and feedback. **Failure to bring a draft copy of each assignment to the relevant tutorial for peer review may result in a 20% reduction in the final mark for the assignment.**

Text book

ACSC100 has a set text book: Brick, J, Herke, M & Wong, D 2016, *Academic Culture: A student's guide to studying at university*, 3rd edn, Melbourne: Palgrave Macmillan

iLearn and Echo

Lecture notes and tutorial worksheets will be posted on the iLearn site for ACSC100 (https://ilearn.mq.edu.au)

Lectures will be recorded on Echo.

Unit Schedule

Please note that this schedule may change between the time of publication and the delivery dates. Please make sure you check iLearn regularly.

W	#	Lecture Topic	Tutorial Focus	Assessment Due Date
1	1	Introduction	Introduction and Group Topics	

	2	Evaluating Academic Sources		
2	3	Developing Effective Reading and Critical Thinking Skills	Evaluating Sources and Reading strategies	
	4	From Reading to Writing- the Basics		
3	5	The Writing Process	Paragraph Writing/ Ass1 Part A Draft Submission	Assessment 1A Draft Submissions, Week 3 Tutorials
	6	Writing Summaries		
4	7	Writing Information Reports	Writing to inform; Referencing basics	Assessment 1A Due 27-08-2017, 5pm
	8	Writer's Voice and Referencing (1)		
5	9	Writer's Voice and Referencing (2)	Writer's Voice/ Ass1 Part B Draft Submission	Assessment 1B Draft Submissions, Week 5 Tutorials
	10	Visuals in Science And Data Commentaries		
6	11	Academic Presentations	Data Commentaries/ Referencing	Assessment 1B Due 10-09-2017, 5pm
	12	Planning an Oral Presentation		
7	13	Writing a Research Report- Overview	Developing Oral Presentations/ Ass2 Draft Submission	Assessment 2 Draft Submissions, Week 7 Tutorials
	14	Writing a Research Report- Structure		
Mid-semester break				
8	15	The Grammar of Scientific English	Group Presentations	Assessment 2 PowerPoint Submissions Due 02-10-2017, 5pm, Presentations during Week 8 Tutorials
	16	Nominal Groups		
9	17	Nominalisation and Technical Language	Research Reports: Their structure and language	
	18	Hedging, Attitude Markers, and Boosters		
10	19	Cohesion, Coherence Topic Sentences	Managing complex ideas in research reports/ Ass3 Draft Submission	Assessment 3 draft submissions, Week 10 Tutorials

	20	Developing Cohesive Paragraphs		
11	21	Pronouns Directives, Questions and Shared Knowledge	Scientific Language: technical to popular	Assessment 3 Due 29-10-2017, 5pm
	22	Writing for a Popular Audience- Organisation And Language		
12	23	Deconstructing Popular Texts	Brochure structure/ Ass4 Draft Submission	Assessment 4 Draft Submissions, Week 12 Tutorials
	24	Communicating Science to a General Audience		
13	25	Unit Summary	No tutorials	Assessment 4 Due 12-11-2017, 5pm

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_2016.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 (in effect until Dec 4th, 2017): http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html

Special Consideration Policy (in effect from Dec 4th, 2017): https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/special-consideration

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.m

q.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 outcomes

- Critically evaluate information and ideas from academic, disciplinary and professional sources.
- Express ideas using appropriate language and structure for academic and professional purposes in written and/or oral texts.

- Apply reasoning to formulate and support a position or argument.

- Plan and produce texts to reflect academic and disciplinary standards.

- Engage in independent and collaborative learning activities.

Assessment tasks

- Group Oral Presentation

- Informative Brochure

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 outcomes

- Demonstrate an ability to interpret and apply concepts from sources used in the discipline.

- Analyse the purpose, language and features of academic, disciplinary and professional genres.

- Critically evaluate information and ideas from academic, disciplinary and professional sources.

- Express ideas using appropriate language and structure for academic and professional purposes in written and/or oral texts.

- Apply academic referencing conventions accurately and appropriately.

- Apply reasoning to formulate and support a position or argument.

- Plan and produce texts to reflect academic and disciplinary standards.

- Engage in independent and collaborative learning activities.

Assessment task

- Formal Research 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

- Read efficiently to gather specific information and ideas from discipline-specific sources.
- Demonstrate an ability to interpret and apply concepts from sources used in the discipline.
- Analyse the purpose, language and features of academic, disciplinary and professional genres.
- Critically evaluate information and ideas from academic, disciplinary and professional sources.
- Express ideas using appropriate language and structure for academic and professional purposes in written and/or oral texts.
- Apply academic referencing conventions accurately and appropriately.
- Apply reasoning to formulate and support a position or argument.
- Plan and produce texts to reflect academic and disciplinary standards.
- Engage in independent and collaborative learning activities.

Assessment task

- Informative Brochure

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 outcomes

- Read efficiently to gather specific information and ideas from discipline-specific sources.
- Demonstrate an ability to interpret and apply concepts from sources used in the discipline.
- Analyse the purpose, language and features of academic, disciplinary and professional genres.
- Critically evaluate information and ideas from academic, disciplinary and professional sources.
- Express ideas using appropriate language and structure for academic and professional

purposes in written and/or oral texts.

- Apply academic referencing conventions accurately and appropriately.

- Apply reasoning to formulate and support a position or argument.

- Plan and produce texts to reflect academic and disciplinary standards.

- Engage in independent and collaborative learning activities.

Assessment tasks

- Information report

- Group Oral Presentation

- Formal Research 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 outcomes

- Read efficiently to gather specific information and ideas from discipline-specific sources.

- Demonstrate an ability to interpret and apply concepts from sources used in the discipline.

- Analyse the purpose, language and features of academic, disciplinary and professional genres.

- Critically evaluate information and ideas from academic, disciplinary and professional sources.

- Express ideas using appropriate language and structure for academic and professional purposes in written and/or oral texts.

- Apply academic referencing conventions accurately and appropriately.

- Apply reasoning to formulate and support a position or argument.

- Plan and produce texts to reflect academic and disciplinary standards.

- Engage in independent and collaborative learning activities.

Assessment tasks

- Information report

- Group Oral Presentation

- Formal Research 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:

Learning outcomes

- Read efficiently to gather specific information and ideas from discipline-specific sources.
- Demonstrate an ability to interpret and apply concepts from sources used in the discipline.
- Analyse the purpose, language and features of academic, disciplinary and professional genres.
- Critically evaluate information and ideas from academic, disciplinary and professional sources.
- Express ideas using appropriate language and structure for academic and professional purposes in written and/or oral texts.
- Apply academic referencing conventions accurately and appropriately.
- Apply reasoning to formulate and support a position or argument.
- Plan and produce texts to reflect academic and disciplinary standards.
- Engage in independent and collaborative learning activities.

Assessment task

- Formal Research 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 outcomes

- Demonstrate an ability to interpret and apply concepts from sources used in the discipline.
- Express ideas using appropriate language and structure for academic and professional

purposes in written and/or oral texts.

- Apply academic referencing conventions accurately and appropriately.

- Apply reasoning to formulate and support a position or argument.

- Plan and produce texts to reflect academic and disciplinary standards.

- Engage in independent and collaborative learning activities.

Assessment tasks

- Information report

- Group Oral Presentation

- Formal Research report

- Informative Brochure

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 outcomes

- Critically evaluate information and ideas from academic, disciplinary and professional sources.

- Express ideas using appropriate language and structure for academic and professional purposes in written and/or oral texts.

- Apply academic referencing conventions accurately and appropriately.

- Plan and produce texts to reflect academic and disciplinary standards.

- Engage in independent and collaborative learning activities.

Assessment tasks

- Information report

- Group Oral Presentation

- Formal Research 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 outcomes

- Critically evaluate information and ideas from academic, disciplinary and professional sources.
- Express ideas using appropriate language and structure for academic and professional purposes in written and/or oral texts.
- Engage in independent and collaborative learning activities.

Assessment tasks

- Information report
- Group Oral Presentation
- Formal Research report