



# PSYC992

## Clinical Psychology Research Dissertation Part 2

S2 Day 2019

*Department of Psychology*

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#### Disclaimer

Macquarie University has taken all reasonable measures to ensure the information in this publication is accurate and up-to-date. However, the information may change or become out-dated as a result of change in University policies, procedures or rules. The University reserves the right to make changes to any information in this publication without notice. Users of this publication are advised to check the website version of this publication [or the relevant faculty or department] before acting on any information in this publication.

## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff Maria Kangas <a href="mailto:maria.kangas@mq.edu.au">maria.kangas@mq.edu.au</a>
Credit points 4
Prerequisites PSYC990 and PSYC991
Corequisites
Co-badged status
Unit description This unit covers the completion of the Empirical thesis paper for which the design and ethics application were completed as part of PSY990. This will be completed for on time submission under the direct supervision of their appointed Research supervisor from PSYC990.

## 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:

Designing and conducting an empirical research project which has direct relevance for clinical psychology.

Writing an empirical paper in journal format suitable for a psychology journal.

## General Assessment Information

### DISSERTATION EXAMINATION:

Your supervisor will arrange for two examiners (one must be external to the university - preferably both). At least 4 weeks prior to your submission of the project (by at least 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2019) you should remind your supervisor of the due date so that sufficient time is available to make examination arrangements. Complete the student section of the examiner nomination form (See Unit Learn page) and send to your supervisor. This is particularly important because your dissertation is to be marked during the busy times of the year, notably late in second semester when the Honours theses are also being marked. Most theses are marked by

one internal and one external examiner, but occasionally, two internal or two external examiners may be used.

***Please carefully note the following process pertaining to the thesis examination***— if there is any delay in assigning examiners for your thesis (which is the Research Supervisor's responsibility to arrange), then this could likely lead to delays in receiving examiners reports back in a timely manner (i.e. – it is common in such cases for examiners reports to not be available until sometime in January if students submitted their thesis by the October due date). This will have ramifications for applying for full registration if the thesis mark/grade is the final unit that needs to be finalized (i.e. you have completed all other course requirements for the MClInPsych degree). Unfortunately, even if examiners are assigned by the thesis submission date – it is beyond the MClInPsych staff's control (inclusive of Research Supervisor) to guarantee that examiners reports will be ready before the end of the year (if students submit by the October due date). Although all efforts are made to remind examiners that reports are due within 1 month of receipt of thesis, unfortunately some examiners do take longer to examine the thesis – and sometimes are not available until 2-4 months later.

For the abovementioned reasons, students are NOT to assume - a) Examiners will automatically Pass the thesis; b) Thesis marks/grades will be ratified by December if they are submitting by the October due date; and c) Guarantee future employers that they will have met all course work requirements and are eligible for registration by the end of the year in which they submit the thesis for marking. Students cannot apply for full registration with the Psychology Board of Australia until they have met ALL coursework requirements inclusive of the thesis – this means both the examiners reports must have been returned to the university, the thesis has been assessed at minimum Pass level, and all outstanding unit marks/grades have been ratified by the university.

- An electronic copy of the the journal paper submitted for examination must be uploaded to Turnitin on the PSYC992 Ilearn page for 2019.
- Turnitin is an anti-plagiarism detection software program. Your thesis – the two papers will each be individually and automatically compared to work of your classmates, previous students from Macquarie and other universities, with material available on the Internet, both freely available and subscription-based electronic journals and book chapters (e.g., the articles you will be citing). You will be given feedback on the overlap between each of your papers and other sources. You will have the opportunity to revise and resubmit your assignment up until the due date in order to reduce the overlap. Please make sure your overall similarity index is below 15% and your similarity index for any individual source is no higher than 5%. Please note that if you do not use the header "References" for your reference section, all references will be included in your similarity index and artificially inflate your match rate. Thus, please do not forget to label your reference section (which is in line with journal formatting).
- The final results of the Turnitin assessment will be sent to the unit convenor, who will

analyze them with reference to the University's Policy on Academic Honesty. If you are struggling with keeping overlap with previous text low (less than 15%) you need to directly consult with your supervisor for guidance.

- **Procedures for submitting to Turnitin.** Students are required to submit each of the two papers using separate files:
  - Click on the Literature Review tab (or the Empirical Paper tab)
  - Give your submission a title using YOUR STUDENT ID NUMBER and YOUR SURNAME. For example, 57737311\_Beethoven.
  - Next to “File to Submit”, click on Choose File.
  - Choose the file you wish to upload and click Open.
  - Click “Add Submission”
  - A digital receipt will be generated. Save a copy of this.

### IF THESIS IS SUBMITTED LATE:

Penalties will be levied for thesis work submitted beyond the due date. One mark of the total mark of your thesis will be deducted for every day late, inclusive of weekends. For example if you submit the thesis on Monday 28 October 2019 – this is 5 days late and will incur a 5 mark deduction from the final mark/grade.

The below marking guidelines are provided to examiners and are used to formulate an appropriate grade. Both examiners provide suggested grade and the final grade is then assigned by the unit convenor (or Course Director or equivalent, for students supervised by unit convenor).

#### Instructions to Examiners

*The task is not to decide whether the paper is publishable (though any comments along these lines, or suggestions concerning improvements to assist publishability, would be most welcome), but to decide whether the standard is adequate for a Masters level project (which constitutes 25% of the degree) and whether the format is acceptable journal format and a suggested grade.*

**Mark range 85 - 100 (High Distinction)** – given to a study that you may expect to see in a good level journal.

- outstanding command of expression and logical argument in a skillfully structured manuscript
- superior evaluation and integration of existing literature
- evidence of significant insight and original thought in dealing with the critical issues
- sophisticated understanding of research methods, with evidence of careful attention to critical design issues in the execution of the project

- thoughtful and appropriate choice of data analysis and outstanding presentation and reporting of results
- clear and coherent interpretation of the thesis data, and/or the results of other studies
- comprehensive understanding of the importance of the results in the context of the theoretical framework
- An obviously publishable paper as is or with perhaps only minor changes.

**Mark range 75 - 84 (Distinction)** – given to a study that you may expect to see in a low to moderate level journal

- the manuscript is well written, logically argued and generally well structured
- the evaluation and integration of the existing literature is very sound without being outstanding
- reasonable insight and some evidence of original thought in dealing with the critical issues
- evidence of a solid understanding of research methods
- adequate design of the research project, although possibly containing minor but retrievable errors
- choice of data analysis that is appropriate for the design and clear presentation of results
- generally sound but pedestrian interpretation of results and their importance to the theoretical context
- paper is almost certainly publishable quality, but perhaps following some minor polishing

**Mark Range 65 - 74 (Credit)** – given to a study that is potentially publishable, but with some attainable changes and improvements.

- generally competently written, although some problems may exist in the logical organisation of the text and the way it is expressed
- provides an adequate coverage of the literature, although it tends to be more descriptive than evaluative, and arguments may be disjointed
- evidence of insight into the issues underlying the thesis or essay, but little evidence of original thinking
- the design of the research project is generally adequate but may contain some errors and oversights
- serviceable choice of data analysis, although other approaches may have been more appropriate

- the presentation of results may lack some clarity but is basically solid
- interpretation of results or other studies is adequate but limited

**Mark range 50 - 64 (Pass)** – given to a study that is unlikely to be publishable in any but the most basic journals, although it is still technically correct

- the work is not well written and shows flaws in the structuring of logical arguments
- coverage of the necessary literature is limited, but most relevant information is provided
- no real original input and most of the contribution is basic and pedestrian
- Perhaps some flaws exist in the design of the research project making it difficult for the research to meet its aims, but these should be acknowledged in at least a limited way by the student.
- Data analysis techniques are clearly not the most appropriate but still manage to provide some understanding of the data.
- the results may be poorly presented
- interpretations are superficial, demonstrating a weak but still correct understanding of the results and their relevance to the theoretical framework
- Integration with existing literature may be quite limited
- Little or no theoretical interpretation or implications.
- 

**Mark range 49 or less (Fail)** – this grade should be reserved for projects that clearly do not demonstrate any clear understanding of the use of research methodology in the applied field.

- Little or no logical argument leading to methods
- Inappropriate coverage of relevant literature
- Poorly described methods that would not allow replication
- Inappropriate analyses or inadequately described results

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Empirical Journal paper</u>	100%	No	23 October 2019

### Empirical Journal paper

Due: **23 October 2019**

Weighting: **100%**

The Empirical Journal Article is a write-up of your empirical research as if you were going to submit it to a journal for publication. You must state on the front cover the journal you are writing for and follow the guidelines to authors (Notes for Contributors) given in the journal. The empirical paper should not exceed between 5000 to 8000 words maximum.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Designing and conducting an empirical research project which has direct relevance for clinical psychology.
- Writing an empirical paper in journal format suitable for a psychology journal.

## **Delivery and Resources**

There are no formal seminars for this unit. Rather, students are required to be in regular contact with their designated research supervisor through the course of this year to ensure they meet the thesis requirements by the due date.

Please check Ilearn page for PSYC992 for regular updates.

An electronic copy of the journal paper needs to be uploaded to turnitin by the due date.

Notes for Authors/Contributors:

Specify the selected journal on the journal article cover page and, if relevant, specify the category of paper. It is a good idea to include the journal's 'Notes for Contributors' page found on each journal website with your thesis.

The front cover of the dissertation must state the following:-

- Your name and student number
- The degree you are enrolled in and the title of the piece of work (please give both the Literature Review and Empirical Journal Article a title and list on the front page)
- Your Supervisors' name and the year the work is submitted

### **SUBMISSION CHECK LIST:**

- Nomination of Dissertation Examiners form, (prepare minimum 4 weeks ahead of due date)
- Signed "Data Retention" declaration form (see Unit Ilearn page)

### **Data Retention:**

All original data associated with research must be retained in a durable and appropriately referenced form for a period of five years after publication. The retention period dates from the day of submission of your dissertation. Submit a Retention of Original Research Data Form with

your dissertation, these forms are available via Ilearn page. Please note however, that if you intend publishing your results, the data may need to be kept for considerably longer.

## Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central>). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Undergraduate students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/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/study/getting-started/student-conduct>

## Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) 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](https://ask.mq.edu.au) or if you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto:globalmba.support@mq.edu.au)

## Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://stu>



[dents.mq.edu.au/support/](https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/support/)

## Learning Skills

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](https://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](https://ask.mq.edu.au)

If you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto:globalmba.support@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 outcomes

- Designing and conducting an empirical research project which has direct relevance for clinical psychology.
- Writing an empirical paper in journal format suitable for a psychology journal.

### Assessment task

- Empirical Journal paper

## 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

- Designing and conducting an empirical research project which has direct relevance for clinical psychology.
- Writing an empirical paper in journal format suitable for a psychology journal.

### Assessment task

- Empirical Journal paper

## 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

- Designing and conducting an empirical research project which has direct relevance for clinical psychology.
- Writing an empirical paper in journal format suitable for a psychology journal.

### Assessment task

- Empirical Journal paper

## 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

- Designing and conducting an empirical research project which has direct relevance for clinical psychology.

- Writing an empirical paper in journal format suitable for a psychology journal.

### **Assessment task**

- Empirical Journal paper

## **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**

- Designing and conducting an empirical research project which has direct relevance for clinical psychology.
- Writing an empirical paper in journal format suitable for a psychology journal.

### **Assessment task**

- Empirical Journal paper

## **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**

- Designing and conducting an empirical research project which has direct relevance for clinical psychology.
- Writing an empirical paper in journal format suitable for a psychology journal.

### **Assessment task**

- Empirical Journal paper

## Changes since First Published

Date	Description
16/08/ 2019	Dear Kerry Sorry I forgot to add the late penalty notice - which is now added Thanks and Regards Maria