



# ECH 400

## Individual Educational Project

S2 External 2019

*Department of Educational Studies*

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#### **Disclaimer**

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

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Dr Belinda Davis

[belinda.davis@mq.edu.au](mailto:belinda.davis@mq.edu.au)

Credit points

3

Prerequisites

39cp at 100 level or above including (ECH218 or ECH228)

Corequisites

3cp from ECH or ECHE units at 300 level or above

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit gives students the opportunity to pursue an area of interest through reading, writing and/or working with children. This unit is designed to enable students to acquire depth of knowledge in their chosen topic area, to consolidate their study and research skills. The unit also highlights the value of professional learning and lifelong learning. At the end of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to speak and write with confidence and authority about their chosen topic area.

## 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:

Learning Outcomes for BEd and BTeach Students:

1. integrate and synthesise prior knowledge and learning;
2. locate, evaluate and analyse relevant theoretical and research literature;
3. demonstrate a depth of understanding of key aspects of early childhood education;
4. identify personal strengths in performance and learning;

5. demonstrate a commitment towards improving professional performance and learning.

Learning Outcomes for BA Students:

1. consolidate your use of diverse communication skills;
2. reflect critically on your progress towards Macquarie University Graduate Capabilities;
3. enhance your career preparation processes.

## **General Assessment Information**

### **Assessment Presentation and Submission Guidelines**

Please follow these guidelines when you submit each assignment:

- Allow a left and right-hand margin of at least 2cm in all assignments.
- Please type all assignments using 12-point font and 1.5 spacing.
- All assessments must be submitted through Turnitin in .doc or .pdf format
- It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that all assessments are successfully submitted through Turnitin.
- Faculty assignment cover sheets are NOT required.

### **Draft Submissions & Turnitin Originality Reports**

- Students may use Turnitin's Originality Report as a learning tool to improve their academic writing if this option is made available in the unit.
- Students are strongly encouraged to upload a draft copy of each assessment to Turnitin at least one week prior to the due date to obtain an Originality Report.
- The Originality Report provides students with a similarity index that may indicate if plagiarism has occurred. Students will be able to make amendments to their drafts prior to their final submission on the due date.
- Generally, one Originality Report is generated every 24 hours up to the due date.

### **Please note:**

- Students should regularly save a copy of all assignments before submission,
- Students are responsible for checking that their submission has been successful and has been submitted by the due date and time.

### **Assignment extensions and late penalties**

- In general, there should be no need for extensions except through illness or misadventure that would be categorised as serious and unavoidable disruption according to the University definition of same, see: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/my-study-program/special-consideration>
- Applications for extensions must be made via AskMQ according to the Special

Consideration policy. Extensions can only be granted if they meet the Special Considerations policy and are submitted via <https://ask.mq.edu.au/>. This will ensure consistency in the consideration of such requests is maintained.

- Late submissions without extension will receive a penalty of 5% reduction of the total possible mark for each day late (including weekends and public holidays). You are reminded that submitting even just 1 day late could be the difference between passing and failing a unit. Late penalties are applied by unit convenors or their delegates after tasks are assessed.
- No assessable work will be accepted after the return/release of marked work on the same topic. If a student is still permitted to submit on the basis of unavoidable disruption, an alternative topic may be set.
- Students should keep an electronic file of all assessments. Claims regarding "lost" assessments cannot be made if the file cannot be produced. It is also advisable to keep an electronic file of all drafts and the final submission on a USB untouched/unopened after submission. This can be used to demonstrate easily that the assessment has not been amended after the submission date.

### **Requesting a re-assessment of an assignment**

If you have **evidence** that your task has been incorrectly assessed against the grade descriptors you can request a re-mark. To request a re-mark you need to contact the unit convenor within **7 days** of the date of return of the assignment and provide **a detailed assessment of your script against the task criteria**. Evidence from your assignment must be provided to support your judgements.

Note: Failed assessments cannot be re-marked as they are all double-marked as a part of the moderation process.

Please note: The outcome of a re-mark may be a **higher/lower or unchanged grade**. Grades are *standards referenced* and effort is NOT a crit

### **University policy on grading**

#### **Criteria for awarding grades for assessment tasks**

Assignments will be awarded grades ranging from HD to F according to guidelines set out in the University's Grading Policy. The following descriptive criteria are included for your information.

#### **Descriptive Criteria for awarding grades in the unit**

In order to meet the unit outcomes and successfully pass this unit, students must make a genuine attempt at all assessment tasks. Where any submitted assessment task is considered to be unsatisfactory in this regard, the highest possible final grade that can be awarded for the unit will be 45.

Students will be awarded grades ranging from HD to F according to guidelines set out in the

policy: <https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/assessment-in-effect-from-session-2-2016>

The following generic grade descriptors provide university-wide standards for awarding final grades.

Grade	Descriptor
<b>HD</b> (High Distinction)	Provides consistent evidence of deep and critical understanding in relation to the learning outcomes. There is substantial originality and insight in identifying, generating and communicating competing arguments, perspectives or problem solving approaches; critical evaluation of problems, their solutions and their implications; creativity in application as appropriate to the discipline.
<b>D</b> (Distinction)	Provides evidence of integration and evaluation of critical ideas, principles and theories, distinctive insight and ability in applying relevant skills and concepts in relation to learning outcomes. There is demonstration of frequent originality in defining and analysing issues or problems and providing solutions; and the use of means of communication appropriate to the discipline and the audience.
<b>Cr</b> (Credit)	Provides evidence of learning that goes beyond replication of content knowledge or skills relevant to the learning outcomes. There is demonstration of substantial understanding of fundamental concepts in the field of study and the ability to apply these concepts in a variety of contexts; convincing argumentation with appropriate coherent justification; communication of ideas fluently and clearly in terms of the conventions of the discipline.
<b>P</b> (Pass).	Provides sufficient evidence of the achievement of learning outcomes. There is demonstration of understanding and application of fundamental concepts of the field of study; routine argumentation with acceptable justification; communication of information and ideas adequately in terms of the conventions of the discipline. The learning attainment is considered satisfactory or adequate or competent or capable in relation to the specified outcomes
<b>F</b> (Fail)	Does not provide evidence of attainment of learning outcomes. There is missing or partial or superficial or faulty understanding and application of the fundamental concepts in the field of study; missing, undeveloped, inappropriate or confusing argumentation; incomplete, confusing or lacking communication of ideas in ways that give little attention to the conventions of the discipline.

*Note: If you fail a unit with a professional experience component the fail grade will be on your transcript irrespective of the timing of the placement.*

### **Withdrawing from this UG Unit**

If you are considering withdrawing from this unit, please seek academic advice via <https://ask.mq.edu.au> before doing so as this unit may be a co-requisite or prerequisite for units in the following sessions and may impact on your progression through the degree.

### **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](https://ask.mq.edu.au).

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<a href="#">Technologies/Ann Bibliography</a>	25%	No	16/08/2019
<a href="#">Literature</a>	30%	No	13/09/2019
<a href="#">Ass 3 Options</a>	25%	No	11/10/2019
<a href="#">Ass 4 Options</a>	20%	No	8/11/2019

### Technologies/Ann Bibliography

Due: **16/08/2019**

Weighting: **25%**

Please refer to the assessment guide for details relevant to your program. You will either develop a powerpoint presentation which explains the issues and dilemmas of mobile technologies in early childhood, or you will write an annotated bibliography relevant to your chosen focus of study for your education project.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Learning Outcomes for BEd and BTeach Students:
  - 1. integrate and synthesise prior knowledge and learning;
  - 2. locate, evaluate and analyse relevant theoretical and research literature;
- Learning Outcomes for BA Students:
  - 1. consolidate your use of diverse communication skills;

### Literature

Due: **13/09/2019**

Weighting: **30%**

Please refer to the assessment guide for details relevant to your program.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Learning Outcomes for BEd and BTeach Students:
  - 1. integrate and synthesise prior knowledge and learning;
  - 2. locate, evaluate and analyse relevant theoretical and research literature;
- Learning Outcomes for BA Students:

## Ass 3 Options

Due: **11/10/2019**

Weighting: **25%**

Please refer to the assessment guide for details relevant to your program.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Learning Outcomes for BEd and BTeach Students:
  - 3. demonstrate a depth of understanding of key aspects of early childhood education;
  - 4. identify personal strengths in performance and learning;
  - 5. demonstrate a commitment towards improving professional performance and learning.
- Learning Outcomes for BA Students:
  - 1. consolidate your use of diverse communication skills;
  - 2. reflect critically on your progress towards Macquarie University Graduate Capabilities;
  - 3. enhance your career preparation processes.

## Ass 4 Options

Due: **8/11/2019**

Weighting: **20%**

Please refer to the assessment guide for details relevant to your program.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Learning Outcomes for BEd and BTeach Students:
  - 3. demonstrate a depth of understanding of key aspects of early childhood education;
  - 4. identify personal strengths in performance and learning;
  - 5. demonstrate a commitment towards improving professional performance and learning.
- Learning Outcomes for BA Students:
  - 1. consolidate your use of diverse communication skills;
  - 2. reflect critically on your progress towards Macquarie University Graduate Capabilities;
  - 3. enhance your career preparation processes.

## Delivery and Resources

### LEARNING IN THIS UNIT

Successful completion of this unit relies on independent study. There are no lectures, tutorials or preset readings in ECH400. Some students enjoy the challenge of independent study, while others find it difficult to work to their own schedule without a weekly timetable provided in a unit outline, or a structure provided by recorded lectures. In ECH400, you control your own learning

and you should develop some personal strategies to make sure you remain focused on your study. Some strategies are listed in this section.

**Set aside ‘class time’** It is often helpful to set aside some regular non-negotiable time each week, where you imagine that you are ‘going to class’. For example, you could decide that 7-10 on Tuesday and Thursday evenings would always ECH400 class time. You tell family and friends that you are not available for social gatherings or anything else on those evenings because you have to go to university – even if ‘university’ is actually your study space. Of course, this is not the full nine hours study time expected for this unit and you’ll need to add additional time as it suits you, but at this regular time should help structure your learning.

**Maintain a learning journal** It is a good idea to maintain a learning journal as you progress through your study for this unit. This is a personal record of your study, and entries may include responses to your reading, any quotes you would like to remember, new ideas or techniques you would like to try and questions for discussion with your tutor or other students. Weekly entries in your learning journal will help maintain a steady focus on your study.

**Readings** As there are no lectures, tutorials or on-campus sessions for this unit, your independent reading is a key component of your learning. The diversity of students’ interests makes it impossible to cover the range of topics in a text or recommended readings. You must spend time searching for relevant information to complete your assignments. A wide range of original and creative thinking underlies the work you will complete for ECH 400, and a search of the literature is an important component of your study. If you feel that you are struggling to understand your reading, try one or more of the following strategies: (a) go to one or more of the references listed at the end of the reading, (b) contact another student and discuss the issues, (c) post your question on an ECH400 iLearn Forum, or (d) contact your tutor.

**UNIT WEB PRESENCE** This unit has a full web presence through iLearn. Students will need regular access to a computer and the Internet to complete this unit. You can access the website for this unit by logging into: [ilearn.mq.edu.au](http://ilearn.mq.edu.au). This site is an essential unit resource and every student must check it at least twice a week. It has the following features, which we encourage you to make effective use of:

**§ Unit Resources:** contains your unit outline and links to useful resources on academic writing and studying at the Department of Educational Studies.

**§ Forums (discussion boards):** where you can discuss with each other ideas and questions that arise from lectures, readings or seminars.

**§ Dialogue (email facility):** for private email messages to other students and the unit’s teaching staff.

**iLearn announcements and dialogue functions/student email:** During session time, staff may contact students using iLearn’s announcements or dialogue facilities or their official MQ student email address. It is students’ responsibility to check both iLearn and their student email at least twice a week during session.

**Access and technical assistance Information** for students about access to the online component of this unit is available at [ilearn.mq.edu.au/login/MQ/](http://ilearn.mq.edu.au/login/MQ/). You will need to enter your student username and password.



Please do NOT contact the Unit Convenor regarding iLearn technical help. No extensions will be given for any technical issues. Allow enough time for your submissions.

Assistance is available from IT Helpdesk ph: 1800 67 4357, or log a request at [help.mq.edu.au](https://help.mq.edu.au). OneHelp is the online IT support service for both students and staff.

**This unit requires students to use several ICT and software skills:**

- **Internet access:** The iLearn site contains materials for this unit; it is also required for the online submission of all Assessment Tasks, and for the use of Turnitin submission for ALL tasks.
- **Word processing, visual representations, and document formatting:** You are required to use an appropriate form of software to present your assignments.
- **Uploading** of assessment tasks to iLearn.

**IMPORTANT:** The iLearn website is not a substitute for reading the unit outline and associated expectations, guidelines or information. It is there to support your engagement with the unit's content and relevant communication with other students and teaching staff.

§ Staff will respond to emails in a timely manner. Please be aware that they have multiple teaching, research and university service commitments, and may take a couple of days to respond. It is unrealistic to expect them to respond after work hours or during weekends.

§ Please follow accepted modes of communication that are appropriate for an academic website and show respect towards your addressee/s. Please use standard semi-formal English in your posts and emails, focus only on topics relevant to the unit, use clear and concise subject lines, and avoid posting questions that have already been addressed elsewhere (on the iLearn website, in lectures or in the unit outline).

§ Consider the tone of all your messages very carefully and avoid creating unnecessary anxiety in your peers. *Disrespectful, inappropriate or off-the-topic messages will be deleted or returned to sender*

## 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](http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<http://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](http://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://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)

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

### 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

- 4. identify personal strengths in performance and learning;
- 2. reflect critically on your progress towards Macquarie University Graduate Capabilities;

#### Assessment tasks

- Ass 3 Options
- Ass 4 Options

### 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

- 4. identify personal strengths in performance and learning;
- 5. demonstrate a commitment towards improving professional performance and learning.
- 3. enhance your career preparation processes.

### 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**

- Learning Outcomes for BEd and BTeach Students:
  - 1. integrate and synthesise prior knowledge and learning;
  - 3. demonstrate a depth of understanding of key aspects of early childhood education;
- Learning Outcomes for BA Students:

## **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**

- 1. integrate and synthesise prior knowledge and learning;
- 2. locate, evaluate and analyse relevant theoretical and research literature;
- 3. demonstrate a depth of understanding of key aspects of early childhood education;
- 4. identify personal strengths in performance and learning;
- 2. reflect critically on your progress towards Macquarie University Graduate Capabilities;

## **Assessment tasks**

- Ass 3 Options
- Ass 4 Options

## **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 outcome**

- 2. locate, evaluate and analyse relevant theoretical and research literature;

## **Assessment tasks**

- Technologies/Ann Bibliography
- Literature
- Ass 4 Options

## **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**

- 1. consolidate your use of diverse communication skills;

## **Assessment tasks**

- Technologies/Ann Bibliography
- Literature