



# EDST8300

## Learner Development: Advances in Research and Practice

Session 1, Fully online/virtual 2020

*Macquarie School of Education*

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#### **Disclaimer**

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Anne McMaugh

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MTeach(Prim) or MTeach(Sec) or MEd or MEdLead or MEChild or GradCertEdStud or GradCertEd

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit explores recent developments in educational psychology and child development and examines links to teaching and learning primarily in school contexts. It begins with an overview and analysis of the broad fields of educational psychology and developmental psychology and recent topical debates are introduced. Topical focus areas include the development of motivation and engagement in students, student interactions with peers and teachers and the pedagogical debates surrounding the application of knowledge emerging from research. Students will conduct an independent study of a problem of practical or theoretical significance by deeply engaging with relevant research and theory from a psychological and developmental viewpoint. Students are encouraged to develop a research-based understanding that may be further developed in future research or study or in their practical workplace context.

## 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:

**ULO1:** Analyse and apply understanding of the research and theories in educational psychology and child development to educational practices.

**ULO2:** Evaluate the implications for learning of student characteristics including physical, social-emotional and cognitive development.

**ULO3:** Critically reflect on understanding and knowledge from the fields of educational psychology and child development to investigate a problem of practical or theoretical significance to students and teaching and learning contexts.

**ULO4:** Apply understanding of research and theory to evaluate educational practices, develop solutions. and communicate this knowledge to peers and the education community in a scholarly and professional manner.

## Assessment Tasks

### Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Assessment details are no longer provided here as a result of changes due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Students should consult [iLearn](#) for revised unit information.

[Find out more about the Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and potential impacts on staff and students](#)

## General Assessment Information

Please note that a generic criteria for all assessment tasks requires students to make a genuine attempt to complete all assessment tasks. Where this requirement is not met you will be awarded an FA grade with a maximum mark of 45.

Please also note that plagiarism detection software is used in this unit for all Task submissions.

### Assessment Task 1: Research Project 1

**Due by:** 27/03/20

**Submission:** Submit your report as a Word document to **Turnitin**, available in the iLearn site.

**Weighting:** 50%

**Word Count:** 2000 words maximum. This does not include your Reference list.

**A research synopsis including a literature review addressing a chosen research question and project justification.** You will be asked to choose from a list of topics (to be provided) relevant to child and/or adolescent learning and development and to conduct a review and synopsis of literature addressing this topic.

**Criteria:** You will be assessed on how well you:

- Provide a clear statement defining and explaining the developmental concept in the research topic under investigation.
- Present a literature review with an appropriate and relevant selection of a minimum of five (5) peer-reviewed, primary sources.

- Review and *synthesise* these primary sources of research literature to provide a clear argument for the educational and/or developmental significance of this topic.

A full task assessment rubric will be supplied in iLearn.

## **Assessment Task 2: Research Project 2**

**Due by:** 15/05/20

**Submission:** Submit your report as a Word document to **Turnitin**, available in the iLearn site.

**Weighting:** 50%

**Word count:** 3000 words maximum. This does not include your reference list.

**A report of research to a professional audience.** You will be asked to develop an informative and evidence-based report in the format of a professional resource for an audience of teachers, school leaders, or parents. Samples of such resource formats will be provided to you.

**Criteria:** Drawing on the research evidence collected in Task 1, you will be assessed on how well you:

- Provide a succinct and informative explanation of the developmental topic.
- Identify and communicate implications and practical strategies for education and child/adolescent learning and development.
- Effectively communicate your ideas in a professional and engaging manner, and with appropriate use of succinct written explanations, graphical devices, text boxes, and/or illustrations to communicate key ideas and concepts.

A full task assessment rubric will be supplied in iLearn.

## **General 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.

## Turnitin Originality Reports & Draft Submissions

- 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 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 criterion.

### University policy on grading and 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

Students will be awarded grades ranging from HD to F according to guidelines set out in the assessment policy: <https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/assessment>

In order to ensure clear distinctions between grades, final marks of 49, 64, 74 and 84 will not be used. The following generic grade descriptors provide university-wide standards for awarding final grades.

Grade	Descriptor
HD (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.

D (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.
Cr (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.
P (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
F (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.

## 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](#).

## Units with Submissions of Family & Children's Records

Some assessment tasks require students to submit records about families and about children and their learning. It is expected that the records submitted are original, authentic, adhere to ethical practices and are the work of the student. Issues with the authenticity of such records will be investigated for possible forgery. Please note that submitted records can only be used once for assessment purposes.

## Confidentiality

Students must respect the need for sensitivity and confidentiality, and ensure that privacy obligations are met. There should be nothing in assessment submissions that identifies a centre or school. Use pseudonyms for any children or adults referred to in the assignment. Do not record details that enable identification of a site, or of children or adults.

## Withdrawing from this PG 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.

## Delivery and Resources

### Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Any references to on-campus delivery below may no longer be relevant due to COVID-19.

Please check here for updated delivery information: [https://ask.mq.edu.au/account/pub/display/unit\\_status](https://ask.mq.edu.au/account/pub/display/unit_status)

The **internal day time class** will include a three-hour workshop including lectorials and activities to reflect each topic. These will be recorded. The style and content of each class will vary depending on pedagogies suited to the material. This variation in pedagogy means that the quality of the recording will vary for the sections of the class that are conducted as activities or discussions around the room.

**Attendance Requirements for MTEACH students:** Attendance at all lectorials, tutorials and on-campus days is mandatory for MTEACH students. All MTEACH units have an 80% attendance requirement. This is a requirement for accreditation with the NSW Education Standards Authority. A sign-on sheet and record of attendance will be kept in classes in this unit.

**Lectorial Recordings:** These weekly lectorial recordings are available on the web through ECHO360. **You must listen to all lectorials if you do not attend these 'live'**. PowerPoint slides are available in iLearn in advance of the weekly lecture and/or are available in the Active Learning Tool.

The **online class mode** is only recommended for learners who prefer to learn independently. This mode of learning will require you to follow along independently and organise your time to listen to recordings or complete activities. As noted above the material recorded in classrooms may have varying audio qualities meaning the online learning experience is not the same as sitting in a classroom but will require more of your independence to complete the activities online.

**iLearn:** All learning materials and resources will be available in **iLearn** or via the iLearn platform. For example, you can access workshop recordings in the iLearn site and you will be directed to reading materials in the library.

The **library** is a valuable resource in this unit. You will be required to access primary source peer-reviewed journal articles to support your assessment tasks. These will be available from the library by using the databases and search tool available on the library website.

**Support resources:** Macquarie University has a range of services for students. If you are struggling with any aspect of academic life or career trajectory and skills, we have great supports within the university. Please refer to the comprehensive list of support services [here](#).

**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/](https://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.**

*Note: 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.

## Unit Schedule

### Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

The unit schedule/topics and any references to on-campus delivery below may no longer be relevant due to COVID-19. Please consult [iLearn](#) for latest details, and check here for updated delivery information: [https://ask.mq.edu.au/account/pub/display/unit\\_status](https://ask.mq.edu.au/account/pub/display/unit_status)

This unit has a 10-week teaching schedule to accommodate practicum placements for MTeach candidates.

Please see your iLearn site for the weekly schedule of lecture and tutorial topics.

## 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.*)

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)

## Attendance

MTeach candidates only: All units in this course have an 80% attendance requirement. This is a requirement for accreditation with the NSW Education Standards Authority.

## Unit Expectations

- Students are expected to read weekly readings before completing tasks and attending tutorials
- Students are expected to listen/attend weekly lectures before completing tasks and attending tutorials
- Students are required to make a genuine attempt at all assessment tasks to pass the unit.

Note: It is not the responsibility of unit staff to contact students who have failed to submit assignments. If you have any missing items of assessment, it is your responsibility to make contact with the unit convenor.

## Workload

In a 10 credit-point unit you should expect to commit nine (9) hours of your time per week to your studies.

## Electronic Communication

It is the student's responsibility to check all electronic communication on a regular weekly basis. Communication may occur via:

- Official MQ Student Email Address [Note: Please do not email staff from any email account other than your uni email account.]
- The Dialogue function on iLearn
- Other iLearn communication functions

## 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 help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Getting help with your assignment](#)
- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

## 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.

## Changes since First Published

Date	Description
11/02/2020	Assessment task 1 and 2 were inverted in the table of assessment tasks