



APPL8020

Research Methods in Language Study

Session 1, Weekday attendance, North Ryde 2020

Dept of Linguistics

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MAccComm or MAppLing or MAppLingTESOL or MTransInter or MConflnt or MAdvTransInterStud or MTransInterMApPLingTESOL

Corequisites

Co-badged status

APPL8020 Online APPL7020

Unit description

This unit focuses on general principles of research and the use of research methods in language studies. It covers the whole process of research from choosing a topic, searching the related literature on the topic, and formulating research questions, to collecting and analysing data and writing up research reports. The exploration of quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-method research methodologies develops students' research literacy to understand research reports and to design research projects. Research ethics and conducting and writing up a small-scale research projects are two other components of this unit.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates>

Learning Outcomes

- ULO1:** Identify & communicate a research topic to a professional audience
- ULO2:** Critically review and synthesise published literature related to the topic of your proposed research & communicate with a professional audience
- ULO3:** Explain the basic underlying principles of three research approaches (quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods)
- ULO4:** Conceive and formulate research questions/hypotheses relating to language study and language learning
- ULO5:** Creatively design, implement, and report a small-scale study to answer your research questions

General Assessment Information

Assessment Task 1: Annotated Bibliography

An annotated bibliography is a list of sources and annotations (summary and evaluation) on a selected topic arranged in alphabetical order. Each annotation should have three parts. The first part is the bibliographic information of the source which should strictly follow APA style. The second part of each annotation includes a concise summary of the content and methodology of the study (what problem was investigated using which methods and with what results?). The third part of the annotation should include your reflection (critical evaluation of the study) and its relevance to the theme of the AB (your chosen topic or area of interest). Roughly, the summary and the evaluation of each stud should have a 70% to 30% proportion.

Assessment Task 2: Review Paper

Assignment 2 is a “literature review” task and requires you to transform your annotated bibliography (Assignment 1) into a coherent literature review. You can refer to the “Writing a literature review” section in Chapter 3 of the interactive text to learn about how to prepare and write your literature review. If you have prepared your AB well, you already have the content for your literature review though you can update your AB and add any other resources you might find useful. You need to transform your AB into a coherent and focused review with an appropriate structure. This assignment is a mediatory assignment that links your first assignment to the third assignment. As such, the literature review should provide a context and background for the primary research you’ll be doing for the third assignment.

Like your first assignment, this assignment will also follow the “Introduction”, “Body”, and “Conclusion” structure.

Assessment Task 3: Research Report

Assignment 3 is a **research report of a small-scale study** you’ll complete. Follow the structure of Introduction (including selective Literature Review), Methods, Results, Discussion and Conclusion (IMRDC) (See Chapter 3 of your Interactive Text). Since you have already submitted a literature review (Assignment 2), only a selective part of it (significant sources and arguments)

should be included in the Introduction.

Late Assignment Submission

- Late submissions without an extension will receive a penalty of 5% of the total mark available for the assignment per day
- Late submission of an assignment without an extension will not be permitted after marks have been released to the rest of the class.
- Extensions will only be given in special circumstances and can be requested by completing the Special Consideration request at ask.mq.edu.au and providing the required supporting documentation.
- For more information on Special Consideration, see the university website <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/my-study-program/special-consideration>
- Assignments submitted after the deadline, regardless of the reason, will be marked and returned at a date determined by the unit convenor.
- Extensions cannot continue beyond the start of the following semester, and students should be aware that long extensions may impact graduation dates.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Active Participation	25%	No	All through the semester
Group Oral Presentation	10%	No	All through the semester
Assessment Task 1: Annotated Bibliography	20%	No	29/03/2020
Review Paper	20%	No	26/04/2020
Research Report	25%	No	14/06/2020

Active Participation

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 12 hours

Due: **All through the semester**

Weighting: **25%**

Students are required to actively participate in class and online discussions as well as complete learning activities in the interactive text.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically review and synthesise published literature related to the topic of your proposed

research & communicate with a professional audience

- Explain the basic underlying principles of three research approaches (quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods)
- Creatively design, implement, and report a small-scale study to answer your research questions

Group Oral Presentation

Assessment Type ¹: Presentation

Indicative Time on Task ²: 5 hours

Due: **All through the semester**

Weighting: **10%**

Students will work together as a group and will prepare a group oral presentation on their chosen topic.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify & communicate a research topic to a professional audience
- Critically review and synthesise published literature related to the topic of your proposed research & communicate with a professional audience
- Explain the basic underlying principles of three research approaches (quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods)

Assessment Task 1: Annotated Bibliography

Assessment Type ¹: Annotated bibliography

Indicative Time on Task ²: 11 hours

Due: **29/03/2020**

Weighting: **20%**

Students will choose a topic and search databases to select relevant published articles to write an annotated bibliography (2200 words)

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify & communicate a research topic to a professional audience
- Critically review and synthesise published literature related to the topic of your proposed research & communicate with a professional audience
- Explain the basic underlying principles of three research approaches (quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods)

Review Paper

Assessment Type ¹: Literature review

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **26/04/2020**

Weighting: **20%**

Students will transform their first assignment (annotated bibliography) into a coherent review paper (2000 words)

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify & communicate a research topic to a professional audience
- Critically review and synthesise published literature related to the topic of your proposed research & communicate with a professional audience
- Explain the basic underlying principles of three research approaches (quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods)
- Conceive and formulate research questions/hypotheses relating to language study and language learning

Research Report

Assessment Type ¹: Report

Indicative Time on Task ²: 12 hours

Due: **14/06/2020**

Weighting: **25%**

Students will conduct and report a small-scale study related to their chosen topic (2200 words)

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically review and synthesise published literature related to the topic of your proposed research & communicate with a professional audience
- Explain the basic underlying principles of three research approaches (quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods)
- Conceive and formulate research questions/hypotheses relating to language study and language learning
- Creatively design, implement, and report a small-scale study to answer your research questions

¹ If you need guidance or support to understand or complete this type of assessment, please contact the Learning Skills Team

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

The learning and teaching strategies used in this Unit include individual study, in-class face to face lectures and in-class and online discussion Forums. Face-to-face weekly lectures include a two-hour lecture and a one-hour tutorial.

The unit convenor will be monitoring the online discussion. If you have any general questions, concerns, and comments these may be posted on the Forum in iLearn. However, should you have any personal issues (e.g. requests for extensions etc.) then these should be addressed directly to the unit convenor at mehdi.riazi@mq.edu.au

The online discussion provides students (especially external students) the opportunity to interact and exchange ideas with other classmates to consolidate their understanding of theoretical concepts. Both internal and external students are urged to take part in online discussions as relating to weekly topics.

For the required and optional texts and/or materials please refer to the Unit Guide in iLearn.

Unit Schedule

Week	Topic	Lecturer	Required reading(s)	Recommended readings	Tasks & Assignments
1	Introduction to Research Methods: Overview of the unit and assignments Primary vs. Secondary research	Mehdi Riaz	Riazi (2018) Chapter 1	--	Read about the first assignment (Annotated Bibliography) in Chapter 1 Identify your area of interest (topic)
2	Conducting Secondary Research: Knowing about and searching databases	Mehdi Riaz	Riazi (2018) Chapter 2	--	Read Chapter 2 carefully and complete the learning activities Prepare a list of articles for your AB (First Assignment)

3	Writing Academically: Writing up research	Mehdi Riaz	Riazi (2018) Chapter 3	--	Presentation of research topics Internal students (ISs) present in class External students (ESs) present in online "Forum" Read Chapter 3 carefully and prepare Assignment 1
4	Conducting Primary Research: Overview of three research paradigms: quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods research	Mehdi Riaz	Riazi (2018) Chapter 4	Cumming (1994)	Assignment 1 is due on Sunday, March 29th at 23:55 Sydney time Read Chapter 4 carefully and complete "Learning Activity" of Chapter 4
5	Conducting Quantitative Research: Surveys and correlational studies	Mehdi Riaz	Riazi (2018) Chapter 5	Surveys (Wagner, 2013)-Accessible from MQ Online Library	Read Chapter 5 carefully and complete "Learning Activity" of Chapter 5
6	Conducting Quantitative Research: Experimental designs	Mehdi Riaz	Riazi (2018) Chapter 6	--	Read Chapter 6 carefully and complete "Learning Activity" of Chapter 6
7	Collecting and Analysing Quantitative Data	Mehdi Riaz	Riazi (2018) Chapter 7	Brown, J.D. (1991)	Read Chapter 7 carefully and complete "Learning Activity" of Chapter 7
Mid-term Break (April 13-26) Assignment 2 is due on Sunday, April 26th at 23:55 Sydney Time					
8	Conducting Qualitative Research: Case study and ethnography	Mehdi Riaz	Riazi (2018) Chapter 8	Case study (Duff, 2013)- Accessible from MQ Online Library Richards (2009)	Read Chapter 8 carefully and complete "Learning Activity" of Chapter 8

9	Conducting Qualitative Research: Discourse analysis and narrative inquiry	Mehdi Riaz	Riazi (2018) Chapter 9	Narrative Approaches to Second Language Acquisition (Pomerantz, 2013)- Accessible from MQ Online Library	Read Chapter 9 carefully and complete "Learning Activity" of Chapter 9
10	Analysing Qualitative Data	Mehdi Riaz	Riazi (2018) Chapter 10	Maguire & Delahunt (2017)	Read Chapter 10 carefully and complete "Learning Activity" of Chapter 10
11	Mixed-methods research-Part 1	Mehdi Riaz	Riazi (2018) Chapter 11	Riazi (2017) Riazi & Candlin (2014) Teddle & Tashakkori (2006)	Read Chapter 11 carefully and complete "Learning Activity" of Chapter 11
12	Elaboration on Assignment 3	Mehdi Riaz	--	--	--
13	Ethical issues in research*	Peter Roger	Riazi (2018) Chapter 13	Thomas (2009) Rieschild (2003)	Assignment 3 due on Sunday, June 14th at 23:55 Sydney Time

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 or if you are a Global MBA student contact 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) 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 Enquiry Service

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Equity 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.

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.