



COMP3860

Special Topics in Computing and Information Systems

Session 2, Weekday attendance, North Ryde 2020

Dept of Computing

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff Malcolm Ryan malcolm.ryan@mq.edu.au
Credit points 10
Prerequisites Permission by special approval
Corequisites
Co-badged status
Unit description This unit is a special topic unit that may be offered from time to time in new areas of computing and information systems, or as a special project under the supervision of a member of staff.

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:** Create a research proposal, designing a project to answer a research question.
- ULO2:** Evaluate existing research literature to establish the current state of research in an area of computing.
- ULO3:** Apply time and project management skills to carry out a research plan.
- ULO4:** Create an experimental research prototype to answer a research question.
- ULO5:** Analyse the results of an experiment to answer a research question.
- ULO6:** Communicate research findings in a well-structured report.

General Assessment Information

Details of the assessment tasks, including expected content, due dates and late penalties, should be negotiated and confirmed between supervisors and students in Week 1.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Literature review	10%	No	TBA
Technical deliverable	40%	No	TBA
Project proposal	10%	No	TBA
Project Report	20%	No	TBA
Reflective report	20%	No	TBA

Literature review

Assessment Type ¹: Literature review

Indicative Time on Task ²: 13 hours

Due: **TBA**

Weighting: **10%**

A review of existing literature relevant to the research question.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Evaluate existing research literature to establish the current state of research in an area of computing.

Technical deliverable

Assessment Type ¹: Project

Indicative Time on Task ²: 59 hours

Due: **TBA**

Weighting: **40%**

The precise deliverable depends on the project and could be a design document, an implementation, or a detailed analysis.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply time and project management skills to carry out a research plan.
- Create an experimental research prototype to answer a research question.

Project proposal

Assessment Type ¹: Report

Indicative Time on Task ²: 13 hours

Due: **TBA**

Weighting: **10%**

A short description of the project, its major aims and methods.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Create a research proposal, designing a project to answer a research question.

Project Report

Assessment Type ¹: Report

Indicative Time on Task ²: 26 hours

Due: **TBA**

Weighting: **20%**

A description of the technical deliverable plus the results of its evaluation. A short presentation can also be part of the report section as negotiated by the supervisor.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Analyse the results of an experiment to answer a research question.
- Communicate research findings in a well-structured report.

Reflective report

Assessment Type ¹: Reflective Writing

Indicative Time on Task ²: 26 hours

Due: **TBA**

Weighting: **20%**

A reflection on the research experience, the success of the project, and lessons learnt for future research.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Create a research proposal, designing a project to answer a research question.
- Apply time and project management skills to carry out a research plan.
- Create an experimental research prototype to answer a research question.
- Analyse the results of an experiment to answer a research question.
- Communicate research findings in a well-structured report.

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

This unit is a special topic unit that may be offered from time to time in new areas of computing and information systems, or as a special project under the supervision of a member of staff. Mode of delivery is open for negotiation between students and supervisors, however should include a minimum of 1 hour face-to-face contact per week.

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](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 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.