



# ENGX8090

## Special Study Unit 1: Research Preparation

Session 2, Fully online/virtual 2020

*Department of English*

### Contents

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<a href="#"><u>General Information</u></a>	2
<a href="#"><u>Learning Outcomes</u></a>	2
<a href="#"><u>Assessment Tasks</u></a>	3
<a href="#"><u>Delivery and Resources</u></a>	5
<a href="#"><u>Policies and Procedures</u></a>	5

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#### **Notice**

As part of [Phase 3 of our return to campus plan](#), most units will now run tutorials, seminars and other small group learning activities on campus for the second half-year, while keeping an online version available for those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face and online activities for your unit, please go to [timetable viewer](#). To check detailed information on unit assessments visit your unit's iLearn space or consult your unit convenor.

## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Associate Professor Jane Messer

[jane.messer@mq.edu.au](mailto:jane.messer@mq.edu.au)

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Lvl 2, Australian Hearing Hub 16 University Ave

By appointment

Supervisor

Dept of English academic staff

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Permission by special approval and Admission to MCrWrit

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit offers students the opportunity to develop critical research and writing skills. The research project question is initiated and devised by the student, in consultation with the unit convenor and/or an individual supervisor. Research will be conducted within the fields of literary analysis or creative writing theory, drawing upon related fields such as history or philosophy; the final essay or chapter may be interdisciplinary in its approach. The planning, research and writing undertaken in this unit will enable students to practice and advance their critical thinking abilities and written expression skills. For those students planning to continue on to the thesis-writing unit, the topic selected and the research and written work completed in this unit is preparatory. There are no classes in this unit; students work independently, consulting with their supervisor at scheduled virtual or in face-to-face meetings. At the successful outcome of the unit, students will have produced a critical essay or thesis chapter.

## 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:** Devise a research question relating to literature or creative writing.

**ULO2:** Locate and appropriately document scholarly research relevant to the topic.

**ULO3:** Use advanced critical thinking and writing skills to produce a finished work of critical research.

**ULO4:** Communicate the value and significance of the research.

**ULO5:** Appraise and evaluate the scholarly field and research culture within which the research is situated.

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<a href="#">Research skills development tasks</a>	10%	No	End of Weeks 2, 3, 4
<a href="#">Research proposal and plan</a>	20%	No	End of Week 4
<a href="#">Literature Review including annotated bibliography</a>	20%	No	End of Week 7
<a href="#">Critical Writing</a>	50%	No	End of Week 12

### Research skills development tasks

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Report

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 7 hours

Due: **End of Weeks 2, 3, 4**

Weighting: **10%**

Research skills development tasks: Bibliographic Software, Generating Ideas, Library consultation.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Devise a research question relating to literature or creative writing.
- Locate and appropriately document scholarly research relevant to the topic.

### Research proposal and plan

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Plan

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 35 hours

Due: **End of Week 4**

Weighting: **20%**

Research proposal and plan

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Devise a research question relating to literature or creative writing.
- Locate and appropriately document scholarly research relevant to the topic.
- Use advanced critical thinking and writing skills to produce a finished work of critical research.
- Communicate the value and significance of the research.
- Appraise and evaluate the scholarly field and research culture within which the research is situated.

## Literature Review including annotated bibliography

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Literature review

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 35 hours

Due: **End of Week 7**

Weighting: **20%**

Literature Review including annotated bibliography

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Locate and appropriately document scholarly research relevant to the topic.
- Appraise and evaluate the scholarly field and research culture within which the research is situated.

## Critical Writing

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Essay

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 70 hours

Due: **End of Week 12**

Weighting: **50%**

Critical Writing

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Use advanced critical thinking and writing skills to produce a finished work of critical research.

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<sup>1</sup> If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

<sup>2</sup> 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 unit is undertaken online, and in consultation with the unit convenor, who works with students to develop their topic. There are no lectures, however there are academic resources in the iLearn site on academic research and writing skills. Internal students are welcome to attend Department of English Research Seminars (held fortnightly during Session periods/day time) and other relevant research seminars presented by researchers in the Faculty of Arts in order to develop familiarity with a wide range of approaches to scholarship and research practices.

## 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](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://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.