



APPL8020

Research Methods in Language Study

Session 2, Fully online/virtual 2020

Department of Linguistics

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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

Margaret Wood

margaret.wood@mq.edu.au

Peter Roger

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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

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 project 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://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: Identify and communicate a research topic to a professional audience

ULO2: Critically review and synthesise published literature related to the topic of your proposed research and 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

Late submission

- If assignments are submitted after the due date without an approved extension, they are deemed late. Late submissions will receive a 5% per day penalty and will not be marked if more than 2 weeks late.
- All 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.
- 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>

For more detailed information about assessment tasks please refer to the Unit Guide in iLearn.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Assessment Task 1: Annotated Bibliography	20%	No	Sunday, August 30 at 23:55 Sydney Time
Review Paper	20%	No	Sunday, September 27 at 23:55 Sydney Time
Research Report	25%	No	Sunday, November 8 at 23:55 Sydney Time
Group Oral Presentation	10%	No	Weeks 3, 5, 6, 8, 9
Active Participation	25%	No	All through the semester

Assessment Task 1: Annotated Bibliography

Assessment Type ¹: Annotated bibliography

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **Sunday, August 30 at 23:55 Sydney Time**

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 and communicate a research topic to a professional audience
- Critically review and synthesise published literature related to the topic of your proposed research and 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: 15 hours

Due: **Sunday, September 27 at 23:55 Sydney Time**

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 and communicate a research topic to a professional audience
- Critically review and synthesise published literature related to the topic of your proposed research and 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: 20 hours

Due: **Sunday, November 8 at 23:55 Sydney Time**

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 and 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

Group Oral Presentation

Assessment Type ¹: Presentation

Indicative Time on Task ²: 5 hours

Due: **Weeks 3, 5, 6, 8, 9**

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

Active Participation

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **All through the semester**

Weighting: **25%**

Students are required to actively participate 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 and 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

¹ 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.

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, online lectures and discussion, and group oral presentations. Online weekly lectures include a two-hour lecture and a one-hour tutorial for each group.

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 through communicate with your teacher in iLearn or at mehdi.riazi@mq.edu.au

The online discussion provides 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.

3b. Required and Optional Texts and/or Materials

Required Textbook:

The following text is the “required” text for this unit.

Riazi, M. (2018). *Research methods in language studies: An interactive text*. Top Hat.

The following books are “optional” and good to consult.

Riazi, A.M. (2016). *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Research Methods in Applied Linguistics*. London: Routledge.

Paltridge, B., & Phakiti, A. (eds.)(2015). *Research methods in applied linguistics*. NY: Bloomsbury Publications.

Riazi, A.M. (2017). *Mixed methods research in language teaching and learning*. London: Equinox.

Unit Schedule

Week	Topic	Presenter	Required reading(s)	Tasks & Assignments
1	Introduction to Research Methods: Overview of the unit and assignments Primary vs. Secondary research	Mehdi Riazi	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 Riazi	Riazi (2018) Chapter 2	Read Chapter 2 carefully and complete the learning activities Prepare a list of articles for your AB (First Assignment)
3	Presenting research topics Writing up research	Group Oral Presentation (GOP)	Riazi (2018) Chapter 3	Presentation of research topics Read Chapter 3 carefully and prepare Assignment 1
4	Conducting Primary Research: Overview of three research paradigms: quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods research	Mehdi Riazi	Riazi (2018) Chapter 4 Cumming (1994)	Assignment 1 is due on Sunday, August 30 at 23:55 Sydney time Read Chapter 4 carefully and complete “Learning Activity” of Chapter 4

5	Conducting Quantitative Research: Surveys and correlational studies	Group Oral Presentation (GOP)	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	Group Oral Presentation (GOP)	Riazi (2018) Chapter 6	Read Chapter 6 carefully and complete "Learning Activity" of Chapter 6
7	Collecting and Analysing Quantitative Data	Mehdi Riazi	Riazi (2018) Chapter 7 Brown, J.D. (1991)	Read Chapter 7 carefully and complete "Learning Activity" of Chapter 7
<p>Recess (Sept. 14-27)</p> <p>Assignment 2 is due on Sunday September 27 at 23:55 Sydney Time</p>				
Week	Topic	Presenter	Required reading(s)	Tasks & Assignments
8	Conducting Qualitative Research: Case study and ethnography	Group Oral Presentation (GOP)	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	Group Oral Presentation (GOP)	Riazi (2018) Chapter 9 Pomerantz (2013)- Accessible from MQ Online Library	Read Chapter 9 carefully and complete "Learning Activity" of Chapter 9
10	Preparing for Assignment 3: Elaboration & data collection	Mehdi Riazi	Riazi (2018) Chapter 4	Decide on the method and start data collection

11	Analysing Qualitative Data	Mehdi Riazi	Riazi (2018) Chapter 10 Maguire & Delahunt (2017)	Read Chapter 10 carefully and complete "Learning Activity" of Chapter 10
12	Mixed-methods research	Mehdi Riazi	Riazi (2018) Chapter 11 Riazi (2017)	Read Chapter 11 carefully and complete "Learning Activity" of Chapter 11
13	Ethical issues in research*	Peter Roger	Riazi (2018) Chapter 13 Thomas (2009) Rieschild (2003)	Assignment 3 due on Sunday, November 8 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 \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](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 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>

If you are a Global MBA student contact 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/.

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.