



ECON3081

Current Issues in Economics

Session 1, Special circumstances 2021

Department of Economics

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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 activities on campus, and most will keep an online version available to those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face 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

Ben Wang

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4ER 443

TBA

Lecturer

Edwin Franks

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TBA

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

130cp at 1000 level or above including ((ECON203 or ECON2003) and (ECON204 or ECON2004))

Corequisites

10cp from ECON units at 3000 level

Co-badged status

Unit description

Students in this unit have the opportunity to complete a major research project that deals with current issues in economics, under the supervision of an academic research adviser. Real world research problems are provided by an industry partner. The unit provides an opportunity for students to gain a sound understanding of how to conduct a fully-fledged research project. Students will contextualise their graduate capabilities in their final group research report.

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: Create economic knowledge-based solutions that can be applied to problems

faced by key economic decision makers.

ULO2: Critically analyse economic issues and make policy recommendations based on economic theories and sound statistical or econometric evidence.

ULO3: Effectively communicate solutions to economic problems to specialist and non-specialist audiences, in written reports and oral presentations.

ULO4: Work in a team to develop a major group economic research report for an Industry Partner.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Team Research Project</u>	60%	No	Week 13, 1pm 4 May
<u>Research Project Pitch</u>	10%	No	Week 5, 1pm 26 March
<u>Essay</u>	30%	No	Week 9, 1pm 7 May

Team Research Project

Assessment Type ¹: Project

Indicative Time on Task ²: 55 hours

Due: **Week 13, 1pm 4 May**

Weighting: **60%**

The team research project consists of three parts. 1. Presentation 1 - Week 8 (10%). During the week 8 lecture, each team will be asked to present a summary of the progress made on their research project to the class. This presentation is designed to provide opportunities for constructive feedback from peers and academic staff that can be used to inform the remainder of their research projects. 2. Presentation 2 and Industry Partner Presentations - Weeks 11, 12 and 13 (10%). During lectures in weeks 11, 12 and 13, each team will be asked to present their final research findings to the industry partner along with their peers, academic staff and a selection of faculty PACE/program coordinators. 3. Team research paper - Week 13 (40%). Each team is required to submit to Turnitin a 5,000-word economic research paper based on the topics presented by the industry partner at the beginning of the session.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Create economic knowledge-based solutions that can be applied to problems faced by key economic decision makers.
- Effectively communicate solutions to economic problems to specialist and non-specialist audiences, in written reports and oral presentations.
- Work in a team to develop a major group economic research report for an Industry Partner.

Research Project Pitch

Assessment Type ¹: Project

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **Week 5, 1pm 26 March**

Weighting: **10%**

At the beginning of the session, students will be placed into teams of 5. Each team is then expected to complete a research project pitch, which aims to help students develop a clear sense of direction early on in their project and to support teams in organising, planning and monitoring their progress as they move forward during the session. Each research project pitch will contain information pertaining to both the individual research goals of the student and the overall research goals of each team. Completed research project pitches must be uploaded to Turnitin by week 5.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Create economic knowledge-based solutions that can be applied to problems faced by key economic decision makers.
- Critically analyse economic issues and make policy recommendations based on economic theories and sound statistical or econometric evidence.
- Effectively communicate solutions to economic problems to specialist and non-specialist audiences, in written reports and oral presentations.
- Work in a team to develop a major group economic research report for an Industry Partner.

Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **Week 9, 1pm 7 May**

Weighting: **30%**

Students will be given a set of essay questions, focusing on issues of economic sustainability in the context of the session's industry partner. The essay will be due in week 9.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Create economic knowledge-based solutions that can be applied to problems faced by key economic decision makers.
- Critically analyse economic issues and make policy recommendations based on economic theories and sound statistical or econometric evidence.

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

Learning and teaching strategy The learning and teaching strategy in ECON3081 recognises that students learn from contact with academic staff and their peers. It also recognises that students must take responsibility for their learning process, which includes independent study and reflection.

Lectures and consultation seminars The timetabled three-hour lectures for ECON3081 are in a mixed format, comprising of a variety of formal lectures, industry partner presentations, student presentations and consultation seminars. As ECON3081 is a participation and capstone unit, you are strongly encouraged to get engaged each and every lecture in order to gain vital hands-on experience and exposure to the ideas of peers, academic staff and the industry partner.

Required and Recommended Texts There is no set textbook for the course. Recommended reading material will be posted to the unit iLearn during the session.

Unit Schedule

Week	Lecture Topic	Assessment Task Due
1, 26 Feb	Introduction to ECON3081	
2, 5 Mar	Writing an Economics Research Paper I: Embarking on a research project	
3, 12 Mar	Industry Partner Lecture	
4, 19 Mar	Writing an Economics Research Paper II: Econometrics	
5, 26 Mar	Writing an Economics Research Paper III: Related literature	Research Project Pitch
6, 2 Apr	Easter Friday, no class	
7, 23 Apr	Project Consultation Seminar	
8, 30 Apr	Research Presentation I	Presentation I
9, 7 May	Project Consultation Seminar	Essay
10, 14 May	Project Consultation Seminar	
11, 21 May	Research Presentation	Presentation II
12, 28 May	Research Presentation to Industry Partner	Presentation

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). 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](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/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.