HSYP8101
Introduction to Epidemiology and Biostatistics
Session 1, Special circumstances 2021

Medicine, Health and Human Sciences Faculty level units

Contents

General Information 2
Learning Outcomes 2
General Assessment Information 3
Assessment Tasks 4
Delivery and Resources 5
Policies and Procedures 6

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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.

https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/139832/unit_guide/print
General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Unit Convenor
Janaki Amin
janaki.amin@mq.edu.au
Contact via janaki.amin@mq.edu.au
75 Talavera Road
By appointment only

Credit points
10

Prerequisites
Admission to MPH or MPH(Res)

Corequisites

Co-badge status

Unit description
This unit introduces students to the skills of scientific inquiry and appraising evidence which are fundamental to public health research and practice. You will engage in integrated learning about reporting data, study design, data analysis and interpretation, and critical appraisal of research papers in public health. Learning activities will include lectures, tutorials, and online activities. By completing this unit, you will gain knowledge and skills which will enable you to locate, produce and appraise evidence in the field of public health.

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

ULO1: Identify and explain data commonly used to report on health at a population level
ULO2: Calculate and interpret the epidemiologic measures of occurrence and association in order to assess public health impact
ULO3: Characterise study designs used in public health and evaluate their strengths and limitations
ULO4: Critically appraise public health research papers using an epidemiological
General Assessment Information

Information concerning Macquarie University's assessment policy is available at https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/assessment. Grade descriptors and other information concerning grading requirements are contained in Schedule 1 of the Macquarie University Assessment Policy.

To pass this unit, students must demonstrate sufficient evidence of achievement of the learning outcomes and attempt all assessment tasks.

Further details for each assessment task will be available on iLearn, including marking rubrics.

All final grades in the department of Health Systems and Populations are determined by a grading committee and are not the sole responsibility of the Unit Convenor.

Students will be awarded one of these grades plus a Standardised Numerical Grade (SNG). The SNG is not necessarily a summation of the individual assessment components. The final grade and SNG that are awarded reflect the corresponding grade descriptor in Schedule 1 of the Assessment Policy.

Extensions for Assessment tasks


Late Submission of Work

All assignments which are officially received after the due date, and where no extension has been granted by the course convenor or tutor, will incur a deduction of 5% for the first day including the actual day on which the work is received, and 5% for each subsequent day. Weekends and public holidays are included. Late penalty is capped at 50%. For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due date</th>
<th>Received</th>
<th>Days late</th>
<th>Deduction</th>
<th>Raw mark</th>
<th>Final mark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 14th</td>
<td>Saturday 15th</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 14th</td>
<td>Monday 17th</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 14th</td>
<td>Tuesday 25th</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>50% (capped)</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introductory concepts</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Week 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical appraisal</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Week 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Exam week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portfolio Reflection</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Week 15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Introductory concepts
Assessment Type: Quiz/Test  
Indicative Time on Task: 9 hours  
Due: **Week 4**  
Weighting: **10%**

Online quiz to examine understanding of introductions epidemiological terms and concepts.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Identify and explain data commonly used to report on health at a population level
- Calculate and interpret the epidemiologic measures of occurrence and association in order to assess public health impact

#### Critical appraisal
Assessment Type: Case study/analysis  
Indicative Time on Task: 24 hours  
Due: **Week 11**  
Weighting: **40%**

Critical appraisal of an epidemiological paper

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Calculate and interpret the epidemiologic measures of occurrence and association in order to assess public health impact
- Characterise study designs used in public health and evaluate their strengths and limitations
- Critically appraise public health research papers using an epidemiological framework

#### Final exam
Assessment Type: Examination
Indicative Time on Task: 40 hours
Due: Exam week
Weighting: 50%
Open book exam

On successful completion you will be able to:
• Identify and explain data commonly used to report on health at a population level
• Calculate and interpret the epidemiologic measures of occurrence and association in order to assess public health impact
• Characterise study designs used in public health and evaluate their strengths and limitations
• Critically appraise public health research papers using an epidemiological framework

Portfolio Reflection
Assessment Type: Reflective Writing
Indicative Time on Task: 8 hours
Due: Week 15
Weighting: 0%

Reflection of student performance and achievement of course learning outcomes

On successful completion you will be able to:
• Identify and explain data commonly used to report on health at a population level
• Calculate and interpret the epidemiologic measures of occurrence and association in order to assess public health impact
• Characterise study designs used in public health and evaluate their strengths and limitations
• Critically appraise public health research papers using an epidemiological framework

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 Learning Skills Unit 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
Unit Organisation
This is a ten credit point unit run over a 13 week session. Further information is available via the HSYP8101 online Learning Management System (LMS) iLearn http://ilearn.mq.edu.

Readings

The readings for each week will be listed in ilearn using the Leganto system. Leganto is the reading list management system, which you can access through your iLearn unit. More information on Leganto is available here: http://libguides.mq.edu.au/leganto

Readings marked as 'required' are essential for completion in the marked week. Some readings may be included that are marked as 'recommended' or 'secondary sources', these are additional materials that may be of interest to you. Please use these at your discretion.

Technology and equipment

Off-campus

To study optimally when off campus you will need to have access to a reliable internet connection to retrieve unit information and at times to join interactive session (eg zoom) or submit assessment tasks via iLearn.

On-campus

Teaching rooms are equipped with state of art audio-visual and ICT equipment including internet connection, high quality video cameras and multiple LCD screens.

Please note that this unit has been altered to accommodate our delivery provisions in compliance with current COVID-19 requirements (Special Circumstance delivery). Learning activities (such as tutorials and other small group learning activities) will be offered on-campus while keeping an online version available for those students who choose to continue their studies online (selected via eStudent).

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). 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
Unit guide HSYP8101 Introduction to Epidemiology and Biostatistics

- **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). 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).

**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](https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct)

**Results**

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](https://es.mq.edu.au), (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/](http://students.mq.edu.au/support/)

**Learning Skills**

[Learning Skills](https://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 Enquiry Service**

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](https://ask.mq.edu.au)

If you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto: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.