



MQBS7020

Qualitative Research Approaches in Business and Economics

Session 1, Special circumstances 2021

Macquarie Business School Faculty level units

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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 Convener

Alison Pullen

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MRes

Corequisites

Co-badged status

MQBS8020

Unit description

This unit provides students with an introduction to theoretical and empirical research approaches informed by qualitative methods of inquiry within the business and economics discipline. It seeks to develop students' understanding of the contexts in which qualitative research can be undertaken, and the ability to analyse, conduct, and evaluate qualitative forms of research.

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: Explain the role of research philosophy in selecting suitable research methods for a particular study

ULO2: Consider the relative advantages and disadvantages of a diverse range of qualitative research methods used in management research in developing a research design

ULO3: Address any ethics issues that may arise as part of a research design that

involves qualitative methods

ULO4: Conduct qualitative research using a basic understanding of different coding strategies, and a range of typical qualitative methods

ULO5: Develop a basic research proposal based qualitative methods that links the suitability of the proposed method to the nature of the research question, as well as the relative advantages and disadvantages of the proposed method

General Assessment Information

All coursework will be handed in during class, feedback will be written and oral feedback will be given to the whole group in class.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Critique your preferred method</u>	20%	No	Week 8
<u>Qualitative research design</u>	40%	No	Week 10
<u>Weekly reviews</u>	40%	No	Week 13

Critique your preferred method

Assessment Type ¹: Case study/analysis

Indicative Time on Task ²: 31 hours

Due: **Week 8**

Weighting: **20%**

Select three recent (within the last 5 years) empirical research papers from three different top academic journals that have used a particular research method that you are interested in exploring more deeply, and write a 1,500 word critique of the three papers through critically comparing them on your assessment of the following: 1) Suitability and justification of the chosen method in relation to the research question 2) Technical adequacy of the method application in terms of data collection and analysis

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain the role of research philosophy in selecting suitable research methods for a particular study
- Consider the relative advantages and disadvantages of a diverse range of qualitative research methods used in management research in developing a research design

- Develop a basic research proposal based qualitative methods that links the suitability of the proposed method to the nature of the research question, as well as the relative advantages and disadvantages of the proposed method

Qualitative research design

Assessment Type ¹: Qualitative analysis task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 40 hours

Due: **Week 10**

Weighting: **40%**

Prepare a 2,500 word research proposal that is based on a qualitative research design. The report should contain: 1) Your research problem and research question(s) 2) A justification of your choice of qualitative method(s) in relation to your research question(s) based in a literature review of relevant methodological literature 3) The relation of your choice of qualitative method(s) to your onto-epistemic research philosophy 4) An explanation of how you will conduct your analysis 5) A significant example of actual data collection and analysis, including a summary of your main findings 6) A discussion of limitations and next steps

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain the role of research philosophy in selecting suitable research methods for a particular study
- Consider the relative advantages and disadvantages of a diverse range of qualitative research methods used in management research in developing a research design
- Conduct qualitative research using a basic understanding of different coding strategies, and a range of typical qualitative methods
- Develop a basic research proposal based qualitative methods that links the suitability of the proposed method to the nature of the research question, as well as the relative advantages and disadvantages of the proposed method

Weekly reviews

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 40 hours

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **40%**

For each of the sessions from weeks 2-12, write a 500 word review that: 1) Summarises what you believe to be the most important learnings from the seminar and readings in each week, and

2) Critically discuss how the materials covered could relate to your own research project e.g. how might you use some of the points discussed to improve, critique, and/or justify your research project?

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain the role of research philosophy in selecting suitable research methods for a particular study
- Consider the relative advantages and disadvantages of a diverse range of qualitative research methods used in management research in developing a research design
- Address any ethics issues that may arise as part of a research design that involves qualitative methods
- Conduct qualitative research using a basic understanding of different coding strategies, and a range of typical qualitative methods
- Develop a basic research proposal based qualitative methods that links the suitability of the proposed method to the nature of the research question, as well as the relative advantages and disadvantages of the proposed method

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

Students will be responsible for researching relevant readings. Materials will be provided by the lecturer.

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 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.