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
alison.pullen@mq.edu.au

Alison Pullen
alison.pullen@mq.edu.au

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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critique your preferred method</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Week 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualitative research design</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Week 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly reviews</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Week 13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**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://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

https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/139987/unit_guide/print
Student Support

- 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). 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 (http://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

**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
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.