



EDST8060

Independent Education Project

Session 2, Online-flexible 2022

Macquarie School of Education

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Disclaimer

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Associate Professor Kathleen Tait

kathleen.tait@mq.edu.au

Contact via Contact via Dialogue on the iLearn site

29 Wally's Walk Room 366

By appointment

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MInc&SpecEd, or MEChild, or MEd, or MEdL, or MSpEd, or MTeach(Sec)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit offers students an opportunity to independently examine current issues in educational research and practice. Students will critically consider the application of current research into classroom practice, policy or program design in a contemporary education or community setting. This unit offers students an opportunity to further develop their critical thinking and research skills, as well as knowledge of their chosen topic.

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 an issue that is central to some aspect of educational theory, policy or practice;

ULO2: explore the academic and professional literatures relating the selected issue;

ULO3: organise, analyse and synthesise the available research and scholarship so as to describe what is known about the issue;

ULO4: adopt, an evidence based position in relation to the issue;

ULO5: effectively communicate these things to academic and professional audiences.

General Assessment Information

Assessment Presentation and Submission Guidelines

Please follow these guidelines when you submit each assignment:

- The assignment title page should include the student's name, student number, unit code, title of the assessment and submitted word count.
- Allow a left and right-hand margin of at least 2cm in all assignments.
- Please type all assignments using 12-point font and 1.5 spacing.
- All assessments must be submitted through Turnitin as an accessible word document - **do not submit as a pdf.**
- Faculty assignment cover sheets are NOT required.
- It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that all assessments are successfully submitted through Turnitin..

Draft Submissions & Turnitin Similarity Reports

- Students may use Turnitin's Similarity Report as a learning tool to improve their academic writing if this option is made available in the unit.
- Students are strongly encouraged to upload a draft copy of each assessment to Turnitin at least one week prior to the due date to obtain a Similarity Report.
- The Similarity Report provides students with a similarity index that may indicate if plagiarism has occurred. Students will be able to make amendments to their drafts prior to their final submission on the due date.
- Generally, one Similarity Report is generated every 24 hours up to the due date.

Please note:

- Students should regularly save a copy of all assignments before submission.
- Students are responsible for checking that the correct file has been uploaded, that their submission has been successful, and that it has been submitted by the due date and time.
- It is not the responsibility of unit staff to contact students who have failed to submit assignments. If you have any missing items of assessment, it is your responsibility to make contact with the unit convenor.

Assignment extensions and late penalties

- In general, there should be no need for extensions except through illness or misadventure that would be categorised as serious and unavoidable disruption according to the University definition of same, see: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/my-study-program/special-consideration>
- Applications for extensions must be made via AskMQ according to the Special Consideration policy. Extensions can only be granted if they meet the Special Considerations policy and are submitted via <https://ask.mq.edu.au/>. This will ensure consistency in the consideration of such requests is maintained.
- Students should keep an electronic file of all assessments. Claims regarding "lost" assessments cannot be made if the file cannot be produced. It is also advisable to keep an electronic file of all drafts and the final submission on a USB untouched/unopened after submission. This can be used to demonstrate easily that the assessment has not been amended after the submission date.

Late Assessment Submission Penalty

- Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including week-ends). After the 7th day, a mark of '0' (zero) will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm.
- A1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue. This late penalty will apply to non-timed sensitive assessment (incl essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings etc.). Late submission of time sensitive tasks (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs, etc.) will only be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special Consideration application. Special Consideration outcomes may result in a new question or topic

University policy on grading

Criteria for awarding grades for assessment tasks

Assignments will be awarded grades ranging from HD to F according to guidelines set out in the University's Grading Policy. The following descriptive criteria are included for your information.

Descriptive Criteria for awarding grades in the unit

In order to meet the unit outcomes and successfully pass this unit, students must make a genuine attempt at all assessment tasks. Where any submitted assessment task is considered to be unsatisfactory in this regard, the highest possible final grade that can be awarded for the unit will be 45.

Students will be awarded grades ranging from HD to F according to guidelines set out in the policy: <https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/assessment-in-effect-from-session-2-2016>

The following generic grade descriptors provide university-wide standards for awarding final grades.

Grade	Descriptor
HD (High Distinction)	Provides consistent evidence of deep and critical understanding in relation to the learning outcomes. There is substantial originality and insight in identifying, generating and communicating competing arguments, perspectives or problem-solving approaches; critical evaluation of problems, their solutions and their implications; creativity in application as appropriate to the discipline.
D (Distinction)	Provides evidence of integration and evaluation of critical ideas, principles and theories, distinctive insight and ability in applying relevant skills and concepts in relation to learning outcomes. There is demonstration of frequent originality in defining and analysing issues or problems and providing solutions; and the use of means of communication appropriate to the discipline and the audience.
Cr (Credit)	Provides evidence of learning that goes beyond replication of content knowledge or skills relevant to the learning outcomes. There is demonstration of substantial understanding of fundamental concepts in the field of study and the ability to apply these concepts in a variety of contexts; convincing argumentation with appropriate coherent justification; communication of ideas fluently and clearly in terms of the conventions of the discipline.
P (Pass).	Provides sufficient evidence of the achievement of learning outcomes. There is demonstration of understanding and application of fundamental concepts of the field of study; routine argumentation with acceptable justification; communication of information and ideas adequately in terms of the conventions of the discipline. The learning attainment is considered satisfactory or adequate or competent or capable in relation to the specified outcomes
F (Fail)	Does not provide evidence of attainment of learning outcomes. ?There is missing or partial or superficial or faulty understanding and application of the fundamental concepts in the field of study; missing, undeveloped, inappropriate or confusing argumentation; incomplete, confusing or lacking communication of ideas in ways that give little attention to the conventions of the discipline.

Note: *If you fail a unit with a professional experience component, the fail grade will be on your transcript irrespective of the timing of the placement.*

Withdrawing from this unit

If you are considering withdrawing from this unit, please seek academic advice via <https://ask.mq.edu.au> before doing so as this unit may be a co-requisite or prerequisite for units in the following sessions and may impact on your progression through the degree.

Results

Results shown in iLearn, 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 [as](#)

k.mq.edu.au

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Planning independent study	45%	No	11.55pm 21/08/2022
Synthesized review of relevant literature	55%	No	11.55pm 23/10/2022

Planning independent study

Assessment Type ¹: Plan

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **11.55pm 21/08/2022**

Weighting: **45%**

Students will submit a clear rationale, outlining aims, background information and a defensible research question that serves to justify their selected topic of interest. (2000 words).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- identify an issue that is central to some aspect of educational theory, policy or practice;
- explore the academic and professional literatures relating the selected issue;
- organise, analyse and synthesise the available research and scholarship so as to describe what is known about the issue;

Synthesized review of relevant literature

Assessment Type ¹: Literature review

Indicative Time on Task ²: 45 hours

Due: **11.55pm 23/10/2022**

Weighting: **55%**

Students will conduct a critical evaluation of the literature and provide a summary of the findings and the implications of their chosen topic of interest. (3000 words).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- organise, analyse and synthesise the available research and scholarship so as to describe what is known about the issue;
- adopt, an evidence based position in relation to the issue;
- effectively communicate these things to academic and professional audiences.

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

Required and recommended texts

American Psychological Association (2020). *Concise guide to APA style 7th edition*. The official APA Style Guide for Students. Washington, DC. ISBN:978-1-4338-3273-4

Faigley, L., Carey, M., & Munoz, G. (2017). *The Little Pearson Handbook 4th edition*. An academic writing skills and grammar textbook. Pearson Education Australia, Melbourne, Victoria. ISBN 9781488616846.

Information about the unit iLearn site

This unit has a full web presence through iLearn. All requirements for this unit begin on Week 1 of the semester. Students are expected to access the iLearn site and engage with unit materials regularly during the semester. Students will need regular access to a computer and the Internet to complete this unit.

General organisation of the unit

The unit is organised in external mode only, and in a flexible delivery format.

In flexible delivery units, it is critical that students are organised and disciplined.

Access and technical assistance

Information for students about access to the online component of this unit is available at <https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/login/index.php>.

You will need to enter your student username and password.

Please do **NOT** contact the Unit Convenor regarding iLearn technical help.

No extensions will be given for any technical issues. Allow enough time for your submissions.

Assistance is available from IT Helpdesk ph: 1800 67 4357 or log a request at help.mq.edu.au. OneHelp is the online IT support service for both students and staff.

This unit requires students to use several ICT and software skills:

- **Internet access:** The iLearn site contains materials for this unit; it is also required for the online submission of all Assessment Tasks, and for the use of Turnitin submission for ALL tasks.
- **Word processing, visual representations, and document formatting:** You are required to use an appropriate form of software to present your assignments.
- **Uploading** of assessment tasks to iLearn.

Structure

This unit is designed for self-paced independent study. There are no classes or tutorials scheduled for this unit.

Unit Schedule

There are no classes or tutorials scheduled for this unit. This unit offers students an opportunity to independently examine current issues in educational research and practice. Students will critically consider the application of current research into classroom practice, policy or program design in a contemporary education or community setting of their choice.

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](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution 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

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing an](#)

[d maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

The Writing Centre

[The Writing Centre](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the 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

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via [AskMQ](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

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.

School of Education Procedures

In addition, the following policies and procedures of the School of Education are applicable in this unit.

Unit Expectations

Note: it is not the responsibility of unit staff to contact students who have failed to submit assignments. If you have any missing items of assessment, it is your responsibility to make contact with the unit convenor.

Please make effective use of the online component of the unit and access iLearn regularly.

Electronic Communication

It is the student's responsibility to check all electronic communication on a regular weekly basis. Communication may occur via:

- Official *MQ Student Email* Address
- The *Dialogue* function on iLearn
- Other iLearn communication functions

Changes from Previous Offering

Past offerings of this unit required that an academic staff member supervised an individual student's work during the semester.

This unit is now designed as an independent, self-paced unit. Students no longer need to be supervised individually.

5Rs Framework

The 5Rs Framework, developed by the School of Education at Macquarie University, is embedded throughout your teacher education course.

Your use of the 5Rs Framework will help you develop the capabilities that will make your teaching career sustainable and fulfilling.

In this unit, you will learn using the 5Rs framework in the following important ways:

Resilient: Understanding and identifying critical issues that are central to educational theory, policy and practices.

Reflexive: Understanding of theory to underpin educational policies and practices.

Responsive: Developing critical analysis strategies in a range of topics of educational research.

Ready to learn: Reinforcing the importance of research-based evidence for informing evidence-based practices and policies.

Research engaged: Drawing on a range of research outputs to understand educational policies, theories, and practices

