



GEOX8010

Social Impact Assessment

Session 2, Online-flexible 2022

Macquarie School of Social Sciences

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General Information

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MPASR (OUA) or GradDipPASR (OUA) or MPSP (OUA)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

GEOP 8010

Unit description

Social impact assessment (SIA) is an important assessment tool which applies social science methodologies to the evaluation of a wide range of public policy proposals, including those relating to land use planning, social policies and public health. This unit addresses the theory and methods of SIA, discusses the public policy processes which use this assessment, and applies a critical perspective to the ethical dilemmas facing the SIA practitioner. There is a practical focus to the course work through the use of current case studies, and this provides students with an insight into pressures and political difficulties frequently encountered.

Students will learn how to recognise and respond to these problems, and present issues to non-specialist audiences. All enrolment queries should be directed to Open Universities Australia (OUA): see www.open.edu.au

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: Explain the theory underpinning SIA and its role and use in practice

ULO2: Recognise key social impact issues that occur in land use development and public policy assessment

ULO3: Apply knowledge and key concepts from social impact assessment to critical evaluation of planning and policy decisions

ULO4: Identify and discuss ways of integrating social issues into public sector discourse and practice

ULO5: Research and discuss complex ideas about social change, social process and assessment of social impacts

ULO6: Recognise ethical issues and risks in evaluation and impact assessment

General Assessment Information

Detailed information about each assignment will be available on the iLearn page for this unit and the requirements of each assignment will be discussed in class.

All assignments must be submitted via Turn-it-in.

Late penalty

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, 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 weekends). 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. A 1-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 outcome may result in a new question or topic.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Research essay</u>	30%	No	29/08/22
<u>Critique of a case study</u>	40%	No	10/10/22
<u>Visual representation of key SIA issues</u>	30%	No	04/11/22

Research essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **29/08/22**

Weighting: **30%**

1500 word research essay drawing on academic and grey literature to explain social impact issues raised by a proposed project or policy

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain the theory underpinning SIA and its role and use in practice
- Recognise key social impact issues that occur in land use development and public policy assessment

Critique of a case study

Assessment Type **1**: Case study/analysis

Indicative Time on Task **2**: 40 hours

Due: **10/10/22**

Weighting: **40%**

2000 word critical review of a social impact assessment or similar document

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply knowledge and key concepts from social impact assessment to critical evaluation of planning and policy decisions
- Identify and discuss ways of integrating social issues into public sector discourse and practice
- Research and discuss complex ideas about social change, social process and assessment of social impacts
- Recognise ethical issues and risks in evaluation and impact assessment

Visual representation of key SIA issues

Assessment Type **1**: Practice-based task

Indicative Time on Task **2**: 20 hours

Due: **04/11/22**

Weighting: **30%**

Visual representation of social impact issues in a form suited to an identified audience with 600 words accompanying written commentary

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify and discuss ways of integrating social issues into public sector discourse and practice
- Research and discuss complex ideas about social change, social process and

assessment of social impacts

- Recognise ethical issues and risks in evaluation and impact assessment

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

This unit is scheduled to be delivered in Lectorial format comprising lecture and tutorial as integrated activities in the classroom for internal students and recorded lectures with recommended self-directed learning activities for students attending online.

A schedule of topics covered across the semester and a reading list will be available on the iLearn page

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 and 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.