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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Josephine Chau
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Credit points
10

Prerequisites
Admission to MPH or MPH(Res)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
In this unit you will develop practical skills to design a Public Health research project. You will build on your previous knowledge of epidemiology and biostatistics particularly in study design; and extend into literature review, selection of research methods including when to use quantitative and qualitative methods and synergies between them, research governance and ethics applications, developing a research proposal, and disseminating research. You will be able to learn these skills and apply them in the context of a research topic in an area of your interest.

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:

UL01: Apply a systematic approach to purposefully reviewing public health literature to inform research
UL02: Formulate explicit research questions/objectives relevant to public health enquiry
UL03: Develop a clear research plan appropriate for answering a postulated research question
UL04: Demonstrate research communication skills required for the dissemination of research information
General Assessment Information

Grade descriptors and other information concerning grading are contained in the Macquarie University Assessment Policy.

All final grades are determined by a grading committee, in accordance with the Macquarie University Assessment Policy, and are not the sole responsibility of the Unit Convenor.

Students will be awarded a final grade and a mark which must correspond to the grade descriptors specified in the Assessment Procedure (clause 128).

To pass this unit, you must demonstrate sufficient evidence of achievement of the learning outcomes, meet any ungraded requirements, and achieve a final mark of 50 or better.

Further details for each assessment task will be available on iLearn.

Late Submissions

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 grade of ‘0’ 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 concern.

For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of days (hours) late</th>
<th>Total Possible Marks</th>
<th>Deduction</th>
<th>Raw mark</th>
<th>Final mark</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 day (1-24 hours)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 days (24-48 hours)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 days (48-72 hours)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 days (144-168 hours)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;7 days (&gt;168 hours)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For any late submissions of time-sensitive tasks, such as scheduled tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, and/or scheduled practical assessments/labs, students need to submit an application for Special Consideration.
# Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop a research question</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Week 3 09/08/2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature review planning</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Week 6 02/09/2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete a concept sheet</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Week 8 27/09/2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation of research proposal</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Week 12 25/10/2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research proposal</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Week 14 11/11/2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Develop a research question

Assessment Type 1: Participatory task  
Indicative Time on Task 2: 5 hours  
Due: **Week 3 09/08/2022**  
Weighting: 5%

Students will submit a proposed research question for peer review and discussion in iLearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:  
- Formulate explicit research questions/objectives relevant to public health enquiry

## Literature review planning

Assessment Type 1: Plan  
Indicative Time on Task 2: 23 hours  
Due: **Week 6 02/09/2022**  
Weighting: 25%

Completion of literature review search planner.

On successful completion you will be able to:  
- Apply a systematic approach to purposefully reviewing public health literature to inform research  
- Formulate explicit research questions/objectives relevant to public health enquiry
Complete a concept sheet

Assessment Type: Plan
Indicative Time on Task: 8 hours
Due: Week 8 27/09/2022
Weighting: 5%

This task will be completed using a concept sheet template. Completion and peer feedback from this task will inform development of the research proposal.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Formulate explicit research questions/objectives relevant to public health enquiry
- Develop a clear research plan appropriate for answering a postulated research question
- Demonstrate research communication skills required for the dissemination of research information

Presentation of research proposal

Assessment Type: Presentation
Indicative Time on Task: 20 hours
Due: Week 12 25/10/2022
Weighting: 20%

Seminar style presentation of student research proposals

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Apply a systematic approach to purposefully reviewing public health literature to inform research
- Formulate explicit research questions/objectives relevant to public health enquiry
- Develop a clear research plan appropriate for answering a postulated research question
- Demonstrate research communication skills required for the dissemination of research information

Research proposal

Assessment Type: Plan
Indicative Time on Task: 40 hours
Due: Week 14 11/11/2022
Completion of a written research proposal using a template based on MQ Research Protocol Proforma

On successful completion you will be able to:

• Apply a systematic approach to purposefully reviewing public health literature to inform research
• Formulate explicit research questions/objectives relevant to public health enquiry
• Develop a clear research plan appropriate for answering a postulated research question
• Demonstrate research communication skills required for the dissemination of research information

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

As a student enrolled in this unit, you will engage in a range of online and face-to-face learning activities, including readings, online discussions, videos and lectures. Details can be found on the iLearn site for this unit.

Recommended 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 Used
Active participation in the learning activities throughout the unit will require students to have access to a tablet, laptop or similar device. Students who do not own their own laptop computer may borrow one from the university library.

Policies and Procedures
Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (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). 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) 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/](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](https://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/), or contact [Service Connect](https://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/).

**IT Help**

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit [http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/](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](https://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

**Inclusion and diversity**

Social inclusion at Macquarie University is about giving everyone who has the potential to benefit
from higher education the opportunity to study at university, participate in campus life and flourish in their chosen field. The University has made significant moves to promote an equitable, diverse and exciting campus community for the benefit of staff and students. It is your responsibility to contribute towards the development of an inclusive culture and practice in the areas of learning and teaching, research, and service orientation and delivery. As a member of the Macquarie University community, you must not discriminate against or harass others based on their sex, gender, race, marital status, carers' responsibilities, disability, sexual orientation, age, political conviction or religious belief. All staff and students are expected to display appropriate behaviour that is conducive to a healthy learning environment for everyone.

**Professionalism**

In the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences, professionalism is a key capability embedded in all our courses.

As part of developing professionalism, students are **expected to attend all small group interactive sessions** including clinical, practical, laboratory, work-integrated learning (e.g., PACE placements), and team-based learning activities. Some learning activities are recorded (e.g., face-to-face lectures), however you are encouraged to avoid relying upon such material as they do not recreate the whole learning experience and technical issues can and do occur. As an adult learner, we respect your decision to choose how you engage with your learning, but we would remind you that the learning opportunities we create for you have been done so to enable your success, and that by not engaging you may impact your ability to successfully complete this unit. We equally expect that you show respect for the academic staff who have worked hard to develop meaningful activities and prioritise your learning by communicating with them in advance if you are unable to attend a small group interactive session.

Another dimension of professionalism is having respect for your peers. It is the right of every student to learn in an environment that is free of disruption and distraction. Please arrive to all learning activities on time, and if you are unavoidably detained, please join activity as quietly as possible to minimise disruption. Phones and other electronic devices that produce noise and other distractions must be turned off prior to entering class. Where your own device (e.g., laptop) is being used for class-related activities, you are asked to close down all other applications to avoid distraction to you and others. Please treat your fellow students with the utmost respect. If you are uncomfortable participating in any specific activity, please let the relevant academic know.

**Changes since First Published**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13/07/2022</td>
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https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/154949/unit_guide/print