



COMP8990

Master of Research - Computing

Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2023

School of Computing

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Credit points

80

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

The 800-level components of the Master of Research are not designed around units. The thesis together with four core research activities form a single coherent research unit based on individual research plans and will consist of the following:

1. Research Frontiers 2: you will attend a number of department or faculty-run sessions and engage in a program of activities developing your knowledge of the sub-disciplinary field in which you want to situate your own research
2. Literature Review: you will attend sessions explaining how researchers in your field engage with previous research literature, and produce a draft of your own literature review for your thesis
3. Research Methods: with other students and led by academic staff, you will develop the research methods you will use in your research project
4. Research Planning: through a combination of group sessions and individual work with your supervision team, you will develop a plan for a large scale research project, part of which will be completed in the MRes
5. Thesis: you will complete a small research project, and write it up in a short thesis of about 20,000 words.

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: Formulate a research question that has the potential to make original

contributions within their research field

ULO2: Research and compose a comprehensive and critical literature review in a specific research area centered around a research question.

ULO4: Use well-developed judgement to undertake research ethically and responsibly at the highest professional standards

ULO3: Conduct independent scholarly research in your field or discipline following well-established research methodology within their research field.

ULO5: Undertake a qualitative or quantitative analysis of the data collected, identify and apply appropriate research methods for the research question at hand, inclusive of critical reasoning, argumentation and justification.

ULO6: Write a significant research thesis of 20,000 words with a professional presentation

General Assessment Information

Late submissions **will not be accepted** without an approved Special Consideration request. Assessments submitted after the due date will receive a mark of **zero**.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Project planning	0%	No	Week 4
Research Methods	0%	No	Week 10
Literature Review	0%	No	Week 13
Research Frontiers 2	10%	No	Late June
Thesis	90%	No	November

Project planning

Assessment Type ¹: Plan

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **Week 4**

Weighting: **0%**

The objective is to provide training in project management, and planning of a major research project. A brief project plan & budget will be developed.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Formulate a research question that has the potential to make original contributions within their research field
- Use well-developed judgement to undertake research ethically and responsibly at the highest professional standards

Research Methods

Assessment Type ¹: Report

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **Week 10**

Weighting: **0%**

The goal of this task is for you to really scrutinise the experimental and/or theoretical design of your research and to write the methods section of your thesis.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Formulate a research question that has the potential to make original contributions within their research field
- Use well-developed judgement to undertake research ethically and responsibly at the highest professional standards
- Conduct independent scholarly research in your field or discipline following well-established research methodology within their research field.
- Undertake a qualitative or quantitative analysis of the data collected, identify and apply appropriate research methods for the research question at hand, inclusive of critical reasoning, argumentation and justification.

Literature Review

Assessment Type ¹: Literature review

Indicative Time on Task ²: 40 hours

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **0%**

The goal of this task is to collate and understand the background literature for your chosen project and to produce a written report which will be part of your thesis.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Formulate a research question that has the potential to make original contributions within their research field
- Research and compose a comprehensive and critical literature review in a specific research area centered around a research question.
- Use well-developed judgement to undertake research ethically and responsibly at the highest professional standards
- Conduct independent scholarly research in your field or discipline following well-established research methodology within their research field.

Research Frontiers 2

Assessment Type ¹: Poster

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **Late June**

Weighting: **10%**

This will have two components: (1) a research poster and (2) five short reports on your attended Departmental seminars.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Research and compose a comprehensive and critical literature review in a specific research area centered around a research question.
- Use well-developed judgement to undertake research ethically and responsibly at the highest professional standards

Thesis

Assessment Type ¹: Thesis

Indicative Time on Task ²: 1084 hours

Due: **November**

Weighting: **90%**

This is the major component of the year, the writing of a thesis; the other activities are all designed to support this.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Formulate a research question that has the potential to make original contributions within their research field
- Research and compose a comprehensive and critical literature review in a specific research area centered around a research question.
- Use well-developed judgement to undertake research ethically and responsibly at the highest professional standards
- Conduct independent scholarly research in your field or discipline following well-established research methodology within their research field.
- Undertake a qualitative or quantitative analysis of the data collected, identify and apply appropriate research methods for the research question at hand, inclusive of critical reasoning, argumentation and justification.
- Write a significant research thesis of 20,000 words with a professional presentation

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

All the resources will be provided on [iLearn](#) and the students are expected to study the reading materials provided on a weekly basis.

We may also hold 2-hour weekly meetings when necessary to discuss the study material in more detail and to help the MRes program and Activities in particular.

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 \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies\)](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 Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

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.