



# ENGG8990

## Master of Research - Engineering

Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2025

*School of Engineering*

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit convenor, lecturer

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Lecturer

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Wednesdays 2pm-4pm (upon email appointment)

Credit points

80

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

### Unit description

The Master of Research is undertaken as a single unit. The thesis together with four core research activities form a single coherent research program based on individual research plans and will consist of the following:

1. **Research Frontiers:** You will attend a number of school 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, and develop your own presentation skills;
2. **Literature Review:** You will learn 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 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; and
5. **Thesis:** You will complete a small research project and write it up in an externally examined thesis. Following examination, you will revise your thesis to address comments provided by examiners.

## 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:** Apply critical and integrative thinking to develop research questions within your discipline through scholarly investigation of currently available evidence.

**ULO2:** Communicate a coherent and sustained argument in relation to your research outcomes to specialist and non-specialist audiences.

**ULO3:** Employ integrity and ethical conduct in research as a socially and culturally responsible researcher.

**ULO4:** Plan and execute a research project to contribute knowledge to your discipline.

**ULO5:** Demonstrate expert judgement, adaptability and accountability in your professional practice as an independent researcher.

**ULO6:** Apply high-level cognitive, creative and technical skills to generate and evaluate

complex ideas and concepts.

## General Assessment Information

To pass this unit you need to:

- Participate in and undertake all hurdle activities.
- Achieve approval status from examiners on the quality of thesis.

Unless a special consideration request has been submitted and approved, 1 mark penalty will be applied for each day the thesis is not submitted by the EWS date. Check the email from GRA and/or your offer letter to find your EWS date and time.

The submission time for all other uploaded assessments is 11:55pm. A 1-hour grace period will be provided to students who experience technical difficulties. For any late submission of time-sensitive tasks, such as scheduled tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, and/or scheduled practical assessments/labs, please apply for Special Consideration.

### Assessments where Late Submissions will be accepted

- Thesis– YES, Standard Late Penalty applies
- Research methods - NO, unless Special Consideration is Granted
- Literature review - NO, unless Special Consideration is Granted
- Poster presentation - NO, unless Special Consideration is Granted
- Research planning - NO, unless Special Consideration is Granted

## Assessment Tasks

| Name                                | Weighting | Hurdle | Due                                      |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|--------|--|
| <a href="#">Research methods</a>    | 0%        | Yes    | 30/05/2025                               |
| <a href="#">Literature review</a>   | 0%        | Yes    | 28/02/2025                               |
| <a href="#">Poster presentation</a> | 10%       | Yes    | 31/07/2025                               |
| <a href="#">Thesis</a>              | 90%       | Yes    | Check the offer letter for the EWS date. |
| <a href="#">Research planning</a>   | 0%        | Yes    | 30/04/2025                               |
| <a href="#">Weekly colloquia</a>    | 0%        | No     | 31/07/2025                               |

### Research methods

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Practice-based task

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 20 hours

Due: **30/05/2025**

Weighting: **0%**

**This is a hurdle assessment task (see [assessment policy](#) for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)**

You will demonstrate your understanding and skills in appropriate research methodologies, and that you are able to critically analyse their use in comparison with alternative methods.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply critical and integrative thinking to develop research questions within your discipline through scholarly investigation of currently available evidence.
- Communicate a coherent and sustained argument in relation to your research outcomes to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- Employ integrity and ethical conduct in research as a socially and culturally responsible researcher.
- Plan and execute a research project to contribute knowledge to your discipline.
- Demonstrate expert judgement, adaptability and accountability in your professional practice as an independent researcher.
- Apply high-level cognitive, creative and technical skills to generate and evaluate complex ideas and concepts.

## Literature review

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Literature review

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 20 hours

Due: **28/02/2025**

Weighting: **0%**

**This is a hurdle assessment task (see [assessment policy](#) for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)**

You will collate and understand the background literature for your chosen project and produce a written report which will inform your thesis.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply critical and integrative thinking to develop research questions within your discipline through scholarly investigation of currently available evidence.

- Communicate a coherent and sustained argument in relation to your research outcomes to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- Employ integrity and ethical conduct in research as a socially and culturally responsible researcher.
- Demonstrate expert judgement, adaptability and accountability in your professional practice as an independent researcher.
- Apply high-level cognitive, creative and technical skills to generate and evaluate complex ideas and concepts.

## Poster presentation

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Poster

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 20 hours

Due: **31/07/2025**

Weighting: **10%**

**This is a hurdle assessment task (see [assessment policy](#) for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)**

You will prepare a poster presentation explaining your current research

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply critical and integrative thinking to develop research questions within your discipline through scholarly investigation of currently available evidence.
- Communicate a coherent and sustained argument in relation to your research outcomes to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- Employ integrity and ethical conduct in research as a socially and culturally responsible researcher.
- Plan and execute a research project to contribute knowledge to your discipline.
- Demonstrate expert judgement, adaptability and accountability in your professional practice as an independent researcher.
- Apply high-level cognitive, creative and technical skills to generate and evaluate complex ideas and concepts.

## Thesis

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Thesis

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 200 hours

Due: **Check the offer letter for the EWS date.**

Weighting: **90%**

**This is a hurdle assessment task (see [assessment policy](#) for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)**

You will complete an individual research project, for which you will write a single coherent thesis which is examined externally.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply critical and integrative thinking to develop research questions within your discipline through scholarly investigation of currently available evidence.
- Communicate a coherent and sustained argument in relation to your research outcomes to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- Employ integrity and ethical conduct in research as a socially and culturally responsible researcher.
- Plan and execute a research project to contribute knowledge to your discipline.
- Demonstrate expert judgement, adaptability and accountability in your professional practice as an independent researcher.
- Apply high-level cognitive, creative and technical skills to generate and evaluate complex ideas and concepts.

## Research planning

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Plan

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 14 hours

Due: **30/04/2025**

Weighting: **0%**

**This is a hurdle assessment task (see [assessment policy](#) for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)**

You will learn to manage and plan a major research project. You will submit a brief project plan & budget

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply critical and integrative thinking to develop research questions within your discipline through scholarly investigation of currently available evidence.
- Plan and execute a research project to contribute knowledge to your discipline.

- Apply high-level cognitive, creative and technical skills to generate and evaluate complex ideas and concepts.

## Weekly colloquia

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Practice-based task

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 0 hours

Due: **31/07/2025**

Weighting: **0%**

You will engage in discipline-specific seminars and colloquia as appropriate

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Communicate a coherent and sustained argument in relation to your research outcomes to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- Employ integrity and ethical conduct in research as a socially and culturally responsible researcher.
- Demonstrate expert judgement, adaptability and accountability in your professional practice as an independent researcher.
- Apply high-level cognitive, creative and technical skills to generate and evaluate complex ideas and concepts.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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

Each candidate is expected to attend the mandatory faculty induction workshops on research writing, research integrity, and research planning. Candidates will also attend relevant safety and ethics induction workshops to ensure tasks required for their project are conducted in a safe and professional manner. Each candidate will attend several technical training sessions and methods workshops relevant to their research, as stipulated by their research supervisor(s). Each candidate will receive on-going tuition and advice regarding appropriate research methodologies, specialist techniques and data analysis methods from their supervisory team.



## 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 [connect.mq.edu.au](https://connect.mq.edu.au) or if you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto: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/>

## Academic Success

[Academic Success](#) 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 the [Service Connect Portal](#), 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/](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.

## Changes from Previous Offering

No changes from the previous offering. We value student feedback to be able to continually improve the way we offer our units. As such we encourage students to provide constructive feedback via student surveys, to the teaching staff directly, or via the FSE Student Experience &

Feedback link in the iLearn page.

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Unit information based on version 2025.04 of the [Handbook](#)