



ECON3081

PACE: Current Issues in Economics

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

Department of Economics

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Disclaimer

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Natalia Ponomareva

natalia.ponomareva@mq.edu.au

Contact via email

4 Eastern Road 428

TBA

Lyla Zhang

lyla.zhang@mq.edu.au

Contact via email

4 Eastern Road 414

TBA

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

130cp at 1000 level or above including ((ECON203 or ECON2003) and (ECON204 or ECON2004))

Corequisites

10cp from ECON units at 3000 level

Co-badged status

Unit description

To summarise the knowledge, tools and capabilities learnt during their economics training, students in this capstone unit complete a major research project covering a current economic issue, under the supervision of an academic research adviser. Real-world research problems are provided by an industry partner. The unit provides an opportunity for students to gain a sound understanding of how to conduct a fully-fledged research project and to contextualise their graduate capabilities. By engaging in this real-world research experience, students learn how to navigate and address complex economic challenges, while developing critical thinking, problem-solving and analytical skills that are highly valued in today's job market. This capstone unit empowers students to showcase their expertise, positioning them for success in their chosen career.

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: Create economic knowledge-based solutions that can be applied to problems faced by key economic decision makers.

ULO2: Critically analyse economic issues and make policy recommendations based on economic theories and sound statistical or econometric evidence.

ULO3: Effectively communicate solutions to economic problems to specialist and non-specialist audiences, in written reports and oral presentations.

ULO4: Work in a team to develop a major group economic research report for an Industry Partner.

General Assessment Information

Late Assessment Submission Penalty (written assessments)

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 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](#).

Special Consideration

To request an extension on the due date/time for a timed or non-timed assessment task, you must submit a Special Consideration application. An application for Special Consideration does not guarantee approval.

The approved extension date for a student becomes the new due date for that student. The late submission penalties above then apply as of the new due date.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Research Project Pitch</u>	20%	No	Pitch: 23 March, presentation: 31 March
<u>Final Research Project</u>	50%	No	Presentation: 19 May, Report: 6 June
<u>Problem-based learning</u>	30%	No	9 May

Research Project Pitch

Assessment Type ¹: Project

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **Pitch: 23 March, presentation: 31 March**

Weighting: **20%**

At the beginning of the session, students will be placed into teams to complete a research project pitch. This task aims to help students develop a clear sense of direction early on in their project and to support teams in organising, planning and monitoring their progress as they move forward during the session. Each research project pitch will contain information pertaining to both the individual research goals of the student and the overall research goals of each team. The task consists of a submitted written plan (10%) to receive feedback, followed by a pitch presentation. The written plan is guided by a set of constructive questions that promote students to think about their project in a systematic way. The pitch presentation is a short presentation developing the ideas of the written plan.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Create economic knowledge-based solutions that can be applied to problems faced by key economic decision makers.
- Critically analyse economic issues and make policy recommendations based on economic theories and sound statistical or econometric evidence.
- Effectively communicate solutions to economic problems to specialist and non-specialist audiences, in written reports and oral presentations.
- Work in a team to develop a major group economic research report for an Industry Partner.

Final Research Project

Assessment Type ¹: Project

Indicative Time on Task ²: 40 hours

Due: **Presentation: 19 May, Report: 6 June**

Weighting: **50%**

The team research project consists of both presentations and a written report.

The presentations are designed to provide opportunities for constructive feedback from peers and academic staff that can be used to inform the remainder of their research projects.

Selected teams will be asked to present their final research findings to the industry partner along with their peers and academic staff. Each team is required to submit to Turnitin a 5,000-word

economic research paper based on the topics presented by the industry partner at the beginning of the session.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Create economic knowledge-based solutions that can be applied to problems faced by key economic decision makers.
- Effectively communicate solutions to economic problems to specialist and non-specialist audiences, in written reports and oral presentations.
- Work in a team to develop a major group economic research report for an Industry Partner.

Problem-based learning

Assessment Type ¹: Project

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **9 May**

Weighting: **30%**

Students will be asked to analyse economic issues in the context of the session's industry partner. The exact format will depend on the topic.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Create economic knowledge-based solutions that can be applied to problems faced by key economic decision makers.
- Critically analyse economic issues and make policy recommendations based on economic theories and sound statistical or econometric evidence.

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

Lecture time: Mondays 9am - 12pm

Learning and teaching strategy The learning and teaching strategy in ECON3081 recognises that students learn from contact with academic staff and their peers. It also recognises that students must take responsibility for their learning process, which includes independent study and reflection.

Lectures and consultation seminars The timetabled three-hour lectures for ECON3081 are in a mixed format, comprising of a variety of formal lectures, industry partner presentations, student presentations and consultation seminars. As ECON3081 is a participation and capstone unit, you are strongly encouraged to get engaged each and every lecture in order to gain vital hands-on experience and exposure to the ideas of peers, academic staff and the industry partner.

Required and Recommended Texts There is no set textbook for the course. Recommended reading material will be posted to the unit iLearn during the session.

Unit Schedule

Unit schedule will be available on iLearn.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://policies.s.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.s.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 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 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/.

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

The assessment structure was adjusted to comply with the new university policies.

Unit information based on version 2025.03 of the [Handbook](#)