GEOP3070

Urban Economies

Session 2, Online-flexible 2025

School of Communication, Society and Culture

Contents

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff Miriam Williams miriam.williams@mq.edu.au
Credit points 10
Prerequisites 130cp
Corequisites
Co-badged status
Unit description Cities are the drivers of the national and international economy. This unit explores the role of firms, households and governments in shaping economic processes in cities, with a focus on Australian cities. The unit will explore four key themes. First, the unit investigates the major international and domestic drivers of the urban economy. Second, the unit explores some of the main theoretical approaches used in economic geography to understand urban economic processes. Third, financial processes related to infrastructure delivery and land/housing economics are investigated. Finally, issues of urban productivity, employment and disadvantage are explored. Through the investigation of theory, economic and planning policy and detailed analysis of case studies, students will develop an understanding of the complex economic processes which shape cities.

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 key theoretical frameworks, concepts, definitions and measures used for understanding economic processes in cities

ULO2: Evaluate the economic processes which drive the spatial structure of cities in Australia and internationally

ULO3: Analyse economic and employment data to explore economic processes, governance and funding at the urban scale.

ULO4: Critically evaluate the role of urban and economic planning policy in shaping economic processes between and within cities.

General Assessment Information

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-time 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
Essay	30%	No	15th September 2025 11:55pm
Research report	40%	No	13th October 2025 11:55pm
Portfolio	30%	No	3rd November 2025 11:55pm

Essay

Assessment Type [1]: Essay
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 30 hours
Due: **15th September 2025 11:55pm**
Weighting: **30%**

Essay (1,200 words) exploring one of the key theoretical frameworks used to explore economic processes in cities.

On successful completion you will be able to:

• Explain the key theoretical frameworks, concepts, definitions and measures used for understanding economic processes in cities

• Evaluate the economic processes which drive the spatial structure of cities in Australia and internationally

• Analyse economic and employment data to explore economic processes, governance

and funding at the urban scale.

- Critically evaluate the role of urban and economic planning policy in shaping economic processes between and within cities.

Research report

Assessment Type [1]: Report
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 40 hours
Due: **13th October 2025 11:55pm**
Weighting: **40%**

Research report (2,000 words) on employment and economic disadvantage across Sydney.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain the key theoretical frameworks, concepts, definitions and measures used for understanding economic processes in cities
- Evaluate the economic processes which drive the spatial structure of cities in Australia and internationally
- Analyse economic and employment data to explore economic processes, governance and funding at the urban scale.
- Critically evaluate the role of urban and economic planning policy in shaping economic processes between and within cities.

Portfolio

Assessment Type [1]: Portfolio
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 30 hours
Due: **3rd November 2025 11:55pm**
Weighting: **30%**

A portfolio of work including summaries and practice-based tasks.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain the key theoretical frameworks, concepts, definitions and measures used for understanding economic processes in cities
- Evaluate the economic processes which drive the spatial structure of cities in Australia and internationally

- Analyse economic and employment data to explore economic processes, governance and funding at the urban scale.
- Critically evaluate the role of urban and economic planning policy in shaping economic processes between and within cities.

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[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

In-person offering

Students should attend the 2 hour lecture and a 1 hour tutorial each week. Please sign up for your preferred option tutorial and attend the same class throughout semester.

Online offering

Lectures will be recorded and available via Echo in iLearn. Tutorials for online students are asynchronous and take place through weekly discussion forums. You should listen to the recorded lecture, *prior* to making contributions to the discussion forums.

Reading

There are a range of journal articles and chapters that are required reading. These will be listed on iLearn and available via Leganto.

Technology used and required

All enrolled students have access to the GEOP3070 website via iLearn. iLearn will provide access to lectures (powerpoint presentations for download and recordings through the University's Echo lecture recording facility) as well as readings, links and forum discussions. Regular access to iLearn is required in order to complete the unit. **Students will require access to Microsoft Excel and a computer in order to complete the data analysis exercises for their report assessments.**

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 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/

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/.

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.

Unit information based on version 2025.01R of the Handbook