



GEOP6080

Theory and Methods in Geography and Planning

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

School of Communication, Society and Culture

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor, lecturer

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online Monday 1-2pm

Lecturer

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Tutor

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MPlan or MEnv

Corequisites

Co-badged status

GEOP2010

Unit description

Research skills are essential to understanding space and place, and for contributing to social change. This unit introduces students to the process of designing and undertaking research. It provides an overview of theoretical frameworks in human geography and planning and explores their importance in shaping how researchers and organisations identify and engage with contemporary issues. Students will develop knowledge about research methodologies and gain skills in research design, data collection and analysis through applying a variety of research methods in real life contexts. Through the unit, students will consider how research generates different types of geographical and planning knowledge, and gain an appreciation for the wider role of research in society.

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: Discuss the role of research in shaping knowledge about space and place.

ULO2: Explain how theoretical approaches in geography and planning are connected with research methodologies.

ULO3: Critically evaluate a range of research methods and forms of data analysis within geography and planning.

ULO4: Apply research skills in practice using diverse methods of data collection and analysis.

General Assessment Information

Assignment requirements and submission

Detailed requirements and marking rubrics for each assessment are available from the iLearn site. All written assignments should be submitted [online to Turnitin](#) via the relevant links provided in iLearn. You are **not** required to submit a hardcopy of any assignments or include a cover sheet.

Assessment extensions and late penalties

Circumstances that affect your ability to complete assignments by the deadline must be discussed with the convenor (Kate) prior to the due date. Extensions will be granted only in unforeseen or exceptional circumstances according to the University [Special Consideration policy](#). Students must apply online via [AskMQ](#) and provide appropriate supporting documentation (e.g. medical certificate).

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 except for workshop skills assessments which are due at the end of the workshop. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue. This late penalty will apply to non-timed sensitive assessment (incl essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings etc). Late submission of time sensitive tasks (such as the quiz, workshop activities, 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 feedback

Feedback for assignments will be made available online and where relevant in the workshops.

The grade will be in the form of a letter as consistent with University policy (HD, D, Cr, P, F) alongside written feedback.

Assessment Tasks

| Name | Weighting | Hurdle | Due |
|---|-----------|--------|----------------------|
| Research skills exercises | 30% | No | Weeks 2, 6, 9 and 12 |
| Research methods toolkit | 40% | No | 04/06/2025 |
| Quizzes | 30% | No | Weeks 2, 6, 9 and 12 |

Research skills exercises

Assessment Type ¹: Practice-based task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 12 hours

Due: **Weeks 2, 6, 9 and 12**

Weighting: **30%**

Collation of skills exercises focusing on a range of research activities and tasks, including research design, data collection and data analysis.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Discuss the role of research in shaping knowledge about space and place.
- Explain how theoretical approaches in geography and planning are connected with research methodologies.
- Critically evaluate a range of research methods and forms of data analysis within geography and planning.
- Apply research skills in practice using diverse methods of data collection and analysis.

Research methods toolkit

Assessment Type ¹: Portfolio

Indicative Time on Task ²: 50 hours

Due: **04/06/2025**

Weighting: **40%**

A research methods toolkit based on detailed analysis and reflections of readings and practical exercises

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Discuss the role of research in shaping knowledge about space and place.
- Explain how theoretical approaches in geography and planning are connected with research methodologies.
- Critically evaluate a range of research methods and forms of data analysis within geography and planning.
- Apply research skills in practice using diverse methods of data collection and analysis.

Quizzes

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **Weeks 2, 6, 9 and 12**

Weighting: **30%**

Online quizzes drawing on unit content and readings

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Discuss the role of research in shaping knowledge about space and place.
- Explain how theoretical approaches in geography and planning are connected with research methodologies.

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

Unit design

The unit is designed in four modules. The content for each will be made available at the start of each module for you to work through in your own time (so Module 1 will be available at the start of week 1, Module 2 at the start of week 3 and so on).

There is a 2 hour timetabled lecture slot each week (Monday 11-1pm). In week 1, the lecture will

be delivered live via zoom as an introduction to the unit (recorded for students who are unable to attend). From weeks 2-13 students are expected to access the prerecorded content via iLearn and echo360. In addition academic staff will offer weekly Zoom drop-in sessions where we will be available to answer any questions about the unit. Please see iLearn for details.

Quizzes

Each module will end with a quiz and a workshop and these will run in weeks 2, 6, 9, and 12. You will not be able to access the assessed quizzes unless you have first reviewed all module content. You need to have reviewed all module content and completed the quiz before attending the on-campus workshop in the same week.

Workshops

There are 4 compulsory on-campus workshops, scheduled for weeks 2, 6, 9 and 12. You need to review all material and complete the quiz before you attend the workshops. Each workshop will be 3 hours- you should sign up for your preferred time and attend the same workshop each time. Tasks completed in the workshops will be assessed and will also generate the data needed for the final assessment task. There is no online alternative for these workshops. Students need to attend all four workshops to successfully complete the unit.

Reading/viewing

Required reading (journal articles and chapters) and viewing (video material) will be listed on iLearn and available via Leganto.

Technology used and required

All enrolled students have access to the unit website via iLearn. iLearn will provide access to lectures (powerpoint presentations for download and recordings through the University's Echo360 lecture recording facility) as well as readings, links and forum discussions. Regular access to iLearn is required in order to complete the unit.

Unit Schedule

| Week | w/c | Topic | Workshop | Assessment |
|------|------------|--|------------|--|
| 1 | 24th Feb | MODULE 1: Introduction to unit and your research skills toolkit | | Practice quiz |
| 2 | 3rd March | | Workshop 1 | Quiz and research skills exercises (1) |
| 3 | 10th March | MODULE 2: Quantitative Research | | |
| 4 | 17th March | | | |

| | | | | |
|----|---------------|---|---------------|--|
| 5 | 24th March | | | |
| 6 | 31st March | | Workshop 2 | Quiz and research skills exercises (2) |
| 7 | 7th April | MODULE 3: Qualitative Research | | |
| | | <i>Recess 14-27 April</i> | | |
| 8 | 28th April | | | |
| 9 | 5th May | | Workshop 3 | Quiz and research skills exercises (3) |
| 10 | 12th May | MODULE 4: Data analysis and communication of research findings | | |
| 11 | 19th May | | | |
| 12 | 26th May | | Workshop 4 | Quiz and research skills exercises (4) |
| 13 | 2nd June | | | Research skills toolkit due Wednesday 4th June 11:55pm |

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 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.

Unit information based on version 2025.02 of the [Handbook](#)