# APPL8020

## Research Methods in Language Study

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

*Department of Linguistics*

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# General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
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Credit points
10

Prerequisites
Admission to MAppLing or MAppLingTESOL or MTransInterStud or MConfInt or MTransInterStud(Adv) or MTransInterStudMAppLingTESOL and 40 credit points at 8000 level

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit focuses on general principles of research and the use of research methods in language studies. It covers the whole process of research from choosing a topic, searching the related literature on the topic, and formulating research questions, to collecting and analysing data and writing up research reports. The exploration of quantitative, qualitative, mixed-methods, discourse analysis and corpus linguistics methodologies develops students' research literacy to understand research reports and to design research projects. Research ethics and writing up a formal research proposal are two other components of this unit.

## 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:** Identify the underlying principles of five broad approaches in applied language research (quantitative, qualitative, mixed-methods, discourse analysis, and corpus linguistics research) and apply these principles to examples of actual and potential research topics

**ULO2:** Conceive, formulate and operationalise research questions relating to a personally relevant area of language-related research

**ULO3:** Critically review and synthesise published literature related to the topic of your proposed research and communicate this to a professional audience

**ULO4:** Creatively design and present a formal written research proposal for an original small-scale study in an area of applied language study

# General Assessment Information

### Requesting an extension to assignment due date

On occasion, you may be in a situation when you aren't able to submit an assessment task on time. Extensions are only given in special circumstances, by completing a Special Consideration request. For more information on Special Consideration, see https://students.mq.edu.au/study/my-study-program/special-consideration

### Late submission of assignments

If you haven't been approved for an extension and you submit your assessment task late, penalties are applied. You should consult your unit convenor if you are in this position. Late submissions will receive a 5% per day penalty. If you submit the assessment task 10 days or more beyond the due date, without an approved extension, you will be awarded a maximum of 50% of the overall assessment marks. Weekends and public holidays are included.

### Use of Generative AI

Please refer to instructions from your lecturer on the use and acknowledgement of use of Generative AI in your submitted assignments.

# Assessment Tasks

| Name | Weighting | Hurdle | Due | Groupwork/Individual | Short Extension | AI Approach |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Online Quiz | 20% | No | 07/04/2025 | | No | |
| Research Question and Annotated Bibliography | 30% | No | 05/05/2025 | | No | |

| Name | Weighting | Hurdle | Due | Groupwork/Individual | Short Extension | AI Approach |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Research Proposal | 50% | No | 12/06/2025 | | No | |

## Online Quiz

Assessment Type [1]: Quiz/Test
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 15 hours
Due: **07/04/2025**
Weighting: **20%**
Groupwork/Individual:
Short extension [3]: No
AI Approach:

You will complete an open-book online quiz with questions covering content from the first part the unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify the underlying principles of five broad approaches in applied language research (quantitative, qualitative, mixed-methods, discourse analysis, and corpus linguistics research) and apply these principles to examples of actual and potential research topics

## Research Question and Annotated Bibliography

Assessment Type [1]: Annotated bibliography
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 30 hours
Due: **05/05/2025**
Weighting: **30%**
Groupwork/Individual:
Short extension [3]: No
AI Approach:

You will choose a topic and search databases and library resources to select relevant published articles to write an annotated bibliography that relates to your provisional research question.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify the underlying principles of five broad approaches in applied language research

(quantitative, qualitative, mixed-methods, discourse analysis, and corpus linguistics research) and apply these principles to examples of actual and potential research topics
- Conceive, formulate and operationalise research questions relating to a personally relevant area of language-related research
- Critically review and synthesise published literature related to the topic of your proposed research and communicate this to a professional audience
- Creatively design and present a formal written research proposal for an original small-scale study in an area of applied language study

## Research Proposal

Assessment Type [1]: Plan
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 35 hours
Due: **12/06/2025**
Weighting: **50%**
Groupwork/Individual:
Short extension [3]: No
AI Approach:

You will write a formal written literature review and research proposal for a small-scale study in an area of language-related research.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Conceive, formulate and operationalise research questions relating to a personally relevant area of language-related research
- Critically review and synthesise published literature related to the topic of your proposed research and communicate this to a professional audience
- Creatively design and present a formal written research proposal for an original small-scale study in an area of applied language study

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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
- Academic Success 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.

[3] An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the Service Connect Portal.

# Delivery and Resources

APPL8020 is delivered through a weekly two-hour lecture-seminar on campus. These lectures are also live streamed and recorded on Echo360.

***It is essential to attend the weekly classes OR engage with the class recording each week.*** If you are enrolled as an internal (on campus) student, please ensure that you are attending the class regularly. If you are unwell or unable to get to the campus in a particular week, please let the unit convenor know by e-mail and follow the live stream on Echo360 (if it is possible to do so) and/or listen to the recording. If you are an online (external) student, be sure to listen to the class recording each week at a time that is convenient for you.

In most weeks, students will be asked to complete some reading to accompany the topics that we are studying. ***It is important that you complete all the readings for the first five weeks of the unit before the online quiz.*** Details of weekly reading and links to the relevant articles and chapters can be found on the Leganto block on the APPL8020 iLearn site. There is no set textbook for this unit.

The class time and venue (room) can be found on the University timetable.

# 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.

# Professionalism, Diversity and Inclusion

**Inclusion and Diversity**

Social inclusion at Macquarie University is about giving everyone who has the potential to benefit from higher education the opportunity to study at university, participate in campus life and flourish in their chosen field. The University has made significant moves to promote an equitable, diverse and exciting campus community for the benefit of staff and students. It is your responsibility to contribute towards the development of an inclusive culture and practice in the areas of learning and teaching, research, and service orientation and delivery. As a member of the Macquarie University community, you must not discriminate against or harass others based on their sex, gender, race, marital status, carers' responsibilities, disability, sexual orientation, age, political conviction or religious belief. All staff and students are expected to display appropriate behaviour that is conducive to a healthy learning environment for everyone.

**Professionalism**

In the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences, professionalism is a key capability embedded in all our courses.

As part of developing professionalism, students are expected to attend all small group interactive sessions. As an adult learner, we respect your decision to choose how you engage with your learning, but we would remind you that the learning opportunities we create for you have been done so to enable your success, and that by not engaging you may impact your ability to successfully complete this unit. We equally expect that you show respect for the academic staff who have worked hard to develop meaningful activities and prioritise your learning by communicating with them in advance if you are unable to attend a small group interactive session.

Another dimension of professionalism is having respect for your peers. It is the right of every student to learn in an environment that is free of disruption and distraction. Please arrive to all

learning activities on time, and if you are unavoidably detained, please join activity as quietly as possible to minimise disruption. Phones and other electronic devices that produce noise and other distractions must be turned off prior to entering class. Where your own device (e.g., laptop) is being used for class-related activities, you are asked to close down all other applications to avoid distraction to you and others. Please treat your fellow students with the utmost respect. If you are uncomfortable participating in any specific activity, please let the relevant academic know.

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Unit information based on version 2025.02 of the Handbook