



ECON3081

PACE: Current Issues in Economics

Session 2, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2026

Department of Economics

Contents

<u>General Information</u>	2
<u>Learning Outcomes</u>	2
<u>General Assessment Information</u>	3
<u>Assessment Tasks</u>	3
<u>Delivery and Resources</u>	6
<u>Policies and Procedures</u>	7

Disclaimer

Macquarie University has taken all reasonable measures to ensure the information in this publication is accurate and up-to-date. However, the information may change or become out-dated as a result of change in University policies, procedures or rules. The University reserves the right to make changes to any information in this publication without notice. Users of this publication are advised to check the website version of this publication [or the relevant faculty or department] before acting on any information in this publication.

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Ben Wang

ben.wang@mq.edu.au

4ER443

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 Submission Penalties

If you submit your assessment late, 5% of the total possible marks will be deducted for each day (including weekends), up to 7 days. Submissions more than 7 days late will receive a mark of 0.

Example 1 (out of 100):

If you score 85/100 but submit **20 hours late**, you will lose **5 marks** and receive **80/100**.

Example 2 (out of 30):

If you score 27/30 but submit **20 hours late**, you will lose **1.5 marks** and receive **25.5/30**.

Extensions

Automatic short extension: Some assessments are eligible for automatic short extension. You can only apply for an automatic short extension before the due date.

Special Consideration: If you need more time due to serious issues and for any assessments that are not eligible for Short Extension, you must apply for Special Consideration. Need help? Review the [Special Consideration page](#) for further details.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Skills development: Industry data analysis	30%	No	04/09/2026	Individual	No	Observed
Professional practice: Industry research project	40%	No	06/11/2026	Individual and Group	No	Open
Professional Practice: Final Presentation	30%	No	23/10/2026	Individual	No	Observed

Skills development: Industry data analysis

Assessment Type ¹: Problem-based task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **04/09/2026**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

The purpose of this task is for students to develop their ability to apply and communicate their reasoning and analytical skills in relation to data. Students will analyse data sets relating to economic issues raised by the industry partner.

Skills in focus:

- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Work readiness
- Discipline knowledge
- Digital skills

Deliverable(s): Written submissions to short answer questions

Individual assessment

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.

Professional practice: Industry research project

Assessment Type ¹: Professional task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 40 hours

Due: **06/11/2026**

Weighting: **40%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual and Group

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Open

The purpose of this assessment is for students to enhance their employability as an economist.

Students will work in teams to produce a team research report. Each team is required to produce a team economic research paper based on the topics presented by the industry partner at the beginning of the session.

Skills in focus:

- Collaboration and communication
- Discipline knowledge
- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Work readiness
- Digital skills

Deliverable(s): Written report with individual contribution [approx 1000 words]

Individual and group assessment

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.

Professional Practice: Final Presentation

Assessment Type ¹: Presentation task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **23/10/2026**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

The purpose of this assessment is for students to enhance their employability as an economist. Students will work in teams to present their team's research project. The presentation is designed to provide opportunities for constructive feedback from peers and academic staff.

Skills in focus:

- Collaboration and communication
- Discipline knowledge
- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Work readiness
- Digital skills

Deliverable(s): In-class presentation

Individual and group assessment

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.

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

Lecture time: Fridays 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.

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/>

Academic Success

[Academic Success](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Ask a Study Coach](#)
- [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 <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk>.

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 2026.04 of the [Handbook](#)