



FOAR8060

Research Project

Session 2, Online-scheduled-weekday 2026

Arts Faculty level units

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>	5
<u>Policies and Procedures</u>	5
<u>Changes since First Published</u>	7

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor & GradDipRes Course Director

A/Prof Kirstin Mills

kirstin.mills@mq.edu.au

Contact via Email

Room 752, Level 7, 25B Wally's Walk (Arts Precinct)

By appointment (either in person, online or email). Please email me to arrange a consultation time.

Credit points

20

Prerequisites

Admission to Graduate Diploma of Research OR Bachelor of Philosophy.

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit provides students with an opportunity to design, plan, and complete a pilot research project resulting in a fully developed research proposal and a literature review. This project may serve as the basis for a Master of Research thesis, allowing early planning and preparation for this degree, or it may propose an independent but equivalent-length project. Through a combination of student-led reading groups and independent study, students will encounter and critically evaluate a broad range of relevant literature in their field, and will develop key research skills, including independent learning, project management, collaboration, and judgement, adaptability, and accountability.

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: Critically evaluate an advanced body of knowledge in your discipline.

ULO2: Develop a research proposal using advanced knowledge, theories and methods required to conduct research in your discipline.

ULO3: Demonstrate awareness of the scope and limitations that shape research projects.

ULO4: Demonstrate well-developed judgement, adaptability and accountability in your professional practice as a researcher.

ULO5: Communicate relevant research concepts and ideas to specialist and non-specialist audiences.

General Assessment Information

How These Assessments Work

This 20-credit-point unit is structured around the development of a Research Proposal and Literature Review over the course of the semester. Seminars designed around writing groups are scheduled at strategic points throughout semester to support students in this endeavour, but the bulk of this unit's hours afford students an opportunity to conduct independent research on their developing projects. Students are therefore expected to devote appropriate time each week to working towards these research outputs.

Both assessments are assessed by academic experts in the student's research Discipline and School.

Late Assessment Submission Penalty

University Assessment Policy is as follows:

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-timed 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	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
<u>Research Proposal</u>	50%	No	08/11/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
<u>Literature Review</u>	50%	No	08/11/2026	Individual	Yes	Open

Research Proposal

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task ²: 60 hours

Due: **08/11/2026**

Weighting: **50%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Students will write a research proposal for their potential MRes research project or equivalent-length project.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically evaluate an advanced body of knowledge in your discipline.
- Develop a research proposal using advanced knowledge, theories and methods required to conduct research in your discipline.
- Demonstrate awareness of the scope and limitations that shape research projects.
- Demonstrate well-developed judgement, adaptability and accountability in your professional practice as a researcher.
- Communicate relevant research concepts and ideas to specialist and non-specialist audiences.

Literature Review

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task ²: 60 hours

Due: **08/11/2026**

Weighting: **50%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Students will write a literature review for their proposed MRes research project or equivalent-length project.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically evaluate an advanced body of knowledge in your discipline.
- Develop a research proposal using advanced knowledge, theories and methods required to conduct research in your discipline.
- Demonstrate awareness of the scope and limitations that shape research projects.
- Demonstrate well-developed judgement, adaptability and accountability in your

professional practice as a researcher.

- Communicate relevant research concepts and ideas to specialist and non-specialist audiences.

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

Classes in this unit are either on campus *or* online (via Zoom) depending on which mode you are enrolled in. This unit is worth 20 credit points and affords students an opportunity to undertake independent research and produce a pilot research project resulting in a Research Proposal and Literature Review. Independent reading and writing is supported by in-class reading and peer discussion groups at strategic points throughout the session.

All class times, dates and class resources are available via the iLearn site.

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.

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
04/08/2026	Short extension eligibility added

Unit information based on version 2026.01R of the [Handbook](#)