



SPHL3300

Language as Evidence

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

Department of Linguistics

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Mitchell Browne

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Iain Giblin

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

50cp at 2000 level or above including 20cp from (LING210-220 or LING2210-2240 OR PSY238 or PSYU2238)

Corequisites

20cp in LING or SPH or SPHL units at 3000 level

Co-badged status

Unit description

In this unit, you will integrate material covered in previous units to learn how your program of study fits together. You will explore the use of different types of empirical linguistic data to investigate aspects of language as small as the phoneme or as large as whole texts. The unit is project-based, enabling you to prepare for postgraduate and research studies in speech, hearing and language sciences, or for a wide range of professions in which collection or analysis of language data is relevant. Also covered are topics relating to the research process more generally, including: critical evaluation of the literature; ethical issues in research; defining research questions; collecting, presenting, analysing and interpreting quantitative and qualitative data; providing constructive peer feedback; and effective oral and written presentation skills.

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 research methods relevant to the study of speech, hearing and language

sciences

ULO2: Describe the strengths and limitations of various speech, hearing and language research techniques

ULO3: Identify methods for collecting and analysing empirical speech, hearing and language data

ULO4: Formulate and refine research questions in speech, hearing and language sciences

ULO5: Develop research protocols for presentation in both oral and written form, and revise proposals in light of peer feedback

ULO6: Critically evaluate published research

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Project proposal	50%	No	06/11/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Oral presentation	25%	No	Weeks 9/10	Individual	No	Observed
Reflection Portfolio	25%	No	23/10/2026	Individual	Yes	Open

Project proposal

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task ²: 53 hours

Due: **06/11/2026**

Weighting: **50%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

You will submit a proposal for an individualised research project that you have designed over the course of the unit. The proposal will cover the following aspects: Project Title, Aims and Background (including literature review), Significance and Innovation, Design, Methods, National Benefit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify research methods relevant to the study of speech, hearing and language sciences
- Describe the strengths and limitations of various speech, hearing and language research techniques

- Identify methods for collecting and analysing empirical speech, hearing and language data
- Formulate and refine research questions in speech, hearing and language sciences
- Develop research protocols for presentation in both oral and written form, and revise proposals in light of peer feedback
- Critically evaluate published research

Oral presentation

Assessment Type ¹: Presentation task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **Weeks 9/10**

Weighting: **25%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

You will deliver a 4-minute oral presentation with two (2) accompanying PowerPoint slides in your tutorial class. The oral presentation and PowerPoint slides should provide a summary of the essential aspects of your project proposal under the following headings: Project Title, Aims and Background, Significance and Innovation, Design and Methods, National Benefit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify research methods relevant to the study of speech, hearing and language sciences
- Describe the strengths and limitations of various speech, hearing and language research techniques
- Identify methods for collecting and analysing empirical speech, hearing and language data
- Formulate and refine research questions in speech, hearing and language sciences
- Develop research protocols for presentation in both oral and written form, and revise proposals in light of peer feedback
- Critically evaluate published research

Reflection Portfolio

Assessment Type ¹: Portfolio

Indicative Time on Task ²: 14 hours

Due: **23/10/2026**

Weighting: **25%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

The portfolio will comprise written reflections of research culture and overarching themes of the unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify research methods relevant to the study of speech, hearing and language sciences
- Describe the strengths and limitations of various speech, hearing and language research techniques
- Identify methods for collecting and analysing empirical speech, hearing and language data
- Formulate and refine research questions in speech, hearing and language sciences
- Critically evaluate published research

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

This unit is taught through a 2 hour intensive lectures (weeks 1-3, and 1 hour lecture in week 4), and 2 hour tutorials (weeks 2-11).

There is no assigned textbook. Instead, for each week you are assigned reading material. Discussions in the tutorials and assessment tasks are expected to be drawn from the readings and the lectures. All readings are available through the Leganto reading list, accessible via the iLearn page.

Enrolment in this unit entails engagement in a range of face-to-face and online learning activities, including lectures and tutorials, pre-tutorial activities, and readings. Resources are available through the iLearn website for this unit. Technologies used include video, Echo360 and other online resources. Active participation in the learning activities throughout the unit will require students to have access to a tablet, laptop or similar device.

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 2026.02 of the [Handbook](#)