



PICX8922

Conflict Management Strategies

Session 2, Online-flexible 2026

School of International Studies

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Courtney Richardson

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Tutor

Marilyn Kwan Kharkongor

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MCT(OUA) OR MCrim(OUA) OR MCyberSecAnalysis(OUA) OR MSS(OUA) MIntell(OUA) OR MStrategySec(OUA) OR GradCertStrategicPolicy(OUA) OR GradCertSecStudCr(OUA)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

In an era marked by rising geopolitical tensions, understanding the challenges and opportunities involved in managing conflicts has become critical for global peace and security. In this unit, students will engage with the academic debate and practical application of conflict management strategies such as sanctions, peacekeeping, ad hoc operations, technical missions, and legal mechanisms. Through the study of contemporary case studies, students will investigate the motivations behind different responses and assess their effectiveness. The unit considers the roles played by domestic, national, regional, international, and transnational actors in shaping and implementing these strategies, and reflects on the historical record of such interventions. By the end of the unit, students will be able to analyse and evaluate a range of policy responses to conflict, implement high-level research skills, and critically assess the ethical and professional challenges associated with managing conflicts short of war.

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 scholarly debates on conflict management within contemporary national and international security contexts.

ULO2: Analyse and compare policy responses to complex conflicts using case studies from diverse geopolitical environments.

ULO3: Apply advanced research methods to investigate the motivations, implementation, and outcomes of conflict management strategies.

ULO4: Assess ethical and professional challenges associated with managing conflicts short of war in a security and policy context.

General Assessment Information

SUBMITTING ASSESSMENT TASKS

- All text-based assessment tasks are to be submitted, marked and returned electronically. This will only happen through the unit iLearn site.
- All assessment tasks are compulsory and must be submitted as a MS word document, and must be submitted on time.
- 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.
- Assessments handed in early will not be marked and returned before the due date.
- Assessment tasks will be subject to a 'Turnitin' review as an automatic part of the submission process.
- The granting of extensions is subject to the university's Short Extensions/Special Consideration Policy. Extensions will not be granted by unit conveners or tutors, but must be lodged through these processes: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/assessment-exams/special-consideration>.
- Late Assessment Submission Penalty applies unless Short Extension/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.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Policy Memo	50%	No	11/09/ 2026	Individual	Yes	Open

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Take Home Exam	50%	No	06/11/2026	Individual	No	Open

Policy Memo

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task ²: 49 hours

Due: **11/09/2026**

Weighting: **50%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Students will complete a short policy memo for government.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically evaluate scholarly debates on conflict management within contemporary national and international security contexts.
- Analyse and compare policy responses to complex conflicts using case studies from diverse geopolitical environments.
- Apply advanced research methods to investigate the motivations, implementation, and outcomes of conflict management strategies.
- Assess ethical and professional challenges associated with managing conflicts short of war in a security and policy context.

Take Home Exam

Assessment Type ¹: Problem-based task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 49 hours

Due: **06/11/2026**

Weighting: **50%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Open

Students will complete a take-home exam that tests key understandings of the unit

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically evaluate scholarly debates on conflict management within contemporary national and international security contexts.
- Analyse and compare policy responses to complex conflicts using case studies from diverse geopolitical environments.

- Apply advanced research methods to investigate the motivations, implementation, and outcomes of conflict management strategies.
 - Assess ethical and professional challenges associated with managing conflicts short of war in a security and policy context.
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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

UNIT REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

- You should spend an average of 12 hours per week on this unit. This includes listening to lectures prior to seminar or tutorial, reading weekly required materials as detailed in iLearn, participating in iLearn discussion forums and preparing assessments.
- Internal students are expected to attend all seminar or tutorial sessions, and external students are expected to make significant contributions to on-line activities.
- In most cases students are required to attempt and submit all major assessment tasks in order to pass the unit.

REQUIRED READINGS

- The citations for all the required readings for this unit are available to enrolled students through the unit iLearn site, and at Macquarie University's library site. Electronic copies of required readings may be accessed through the library or will be made available by other means.

TECHNOLOGY USED AND REQUIRED

- Computer and internet access are essential for this unit. Basic computer skills and skills in word processing are also a requirement.

- This unit has an online presence. Login is via: <https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/>
- Students are required to have regular access to a computer and the internet. Mobile devices alone are not sufficient.
- Information about IT used at Macquarie University is available at http://students.mq.edu.au/it_services/

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
13/07/2026	Further detail added as instructed.

Unit information based on version 2026.04 of the [Handbook](#)