



# PSYU1101

## Psychology in Context: From Foundations to Applications

Session 2, Online-flexible, North Ryde 2026

*School of Psychological Sciences*

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#### Disclaimer

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

Psychology helps you explore why people think, feel, and behave the way they do. In this unit, you will be introduced to the ideas and approaches that shape the discipline and the profession, including its history and cultural perspectives. You will examine core areas such as personality, learning and memory, perception and cognition, motivation, and emotion, with a focus on how these perspectives are applied. You will also engage with the research process, developing skills in scientific reasoning and statistics that allow you to explain and interpret psychological evidence. By the end of the unit, you will have a strong foundation in psychological knowledge, with the ability to consider evidence ethically and communicate your ideas with clarity and cultural awareness.

## 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:** Describe and explain foundational principles, theories, and concepts in

psychology across domains such as history, culture, personality, learning and memory, cognition, emotion, and motivation. (Capability 1: Scientist and Scholar).

**ULO2:** Describe the nature and purpose of psychological research based on first-hand engagement with the research process. (Capability 1: Scientist and Scholar).

**ULO3:** Communicate psychological concepts and evidence clearly and appropriately using different modes suited to academic and professional contexts. (Capability 2: Practitioner).

**ULO4:** Apply psychological knowledge in ways that show ethical awareness, cultural sensitivity, respect for diversity, and the capacity for self-reflection and life-long learning. (Capability 3: Citizen).

## General Assessment Information

Grade descriptors and other information concerning grading are contained in the [Macquarie University Assessment Policy](#).

All final grades are determined by a grading committee, in accordance with the Macquarie University Assessment Policy, and are not the sole responsibility of the Unit Convenor.

Students will be awarded a final grade and a mark which must correspond to the grade descriptors specified in the [Assessment Procedure](#) (clause 128 and 129).

To pass this unit, you must demonstrate sufficient evidence of achievement of the learning outcomes, meet any ungraded requirements, and achieve a final mark of 50 or better.

Further details for each assessment task will be available on iLearn.

## Late Submissions

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (OF THE TOTAL POSSIBLE MARK) will be applied each day an assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a grade of '0' 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 concern.

For example:

| Number of days (hours) late | Total Possible Marks | Deduction | Raw mark | Final mark |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|-----------|----------|------------|
| 1 day (1-24 hours)          | 100                  | 5         | 75       | 70         |
| 2 days (24-48 hours)        | 100                  | 10        | 75       | 65         |
| 3 days (48-72 hours)        | 100                  | 15        | 75       | 60         |
| 7 days (144-168 hours)      | 100                  | 35        | 75       | 40         |

|                      |     |   |    |   |
|----------------------|-----|---|----|---|
| >7 days (>168 hours) | 100 | - | 75 | 0 |
|----------------------|-----|---|----|---|

For any late submissions of time-sensitive tasks, such as scheduled tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, and/or scheduled practical assessments/labs, students need to submit an application for Special Consideration.

## Assessment Tasks

| Name                      | Weighting | Hurdle | Due         | Groupwork/Individual | Short Extension | AI Approach |
|---------------------------|-----------|--------|-------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| <u>Final Exam</u>         | 50%       | No     | Exam Period | Individual           | No              | Observed    |
| <u>Written reflection</u> | 20%       | No     | 08/11/2026  | Individual           | Yes             | Open        |
| <u>Presentation</u>       | 30%       | No     | 20/09/2026  | Individual           | No              | Open        |

### Final Exam

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Examination

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 35 hours

Due: **Exam Period**

Weighting: **50%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension <sup>3</sup>: No

AI Approach: Observed

You will sit the final examination held within the University's formal exam period, in accordance with relevant requirements.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Describe and explain foundational principles, theories, and concepts in psychology across domains such as history, culture, personality, learning and memory, cognition, emotion, and motivation. (Capability 1: Scientist and Scholar).
- Describe the nature and purpose of psychological research based on first-hand engagement with the research process. (Capability 1: Scientist and Scholar).
- Communicate psychological concepts and evidence clearly and appropriately using different modes suited to academic and professional contexts. (Capability 2: Practitioner).
- Apply psychological knowledge in ways that show ethical awareness, cultural sensitivity, respect for diversity, and the capacity for self-reflection and life-long learning. (Capability

3: Citizen).

## Written reflection

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Reflection task

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 12 hours

Due: **08/11/2026**

Weighting: **20%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension <sup>3</sup>: Yes

AI Approach: Open

You will submit a short written reflection on your experiences with psychological research and issues of representation in psychological science.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Describe and explain foundational principles, theories, and concepts in psychology across domains such as history, culture, personality, learning and memory, cognition, emotion, and motivation. (Capability 1: Scientist and Scholar).
- Describe the nature and purpose of psychological research based on first-hand engagement with the research process. (Capability 1: Scientist and Scholar).
- Apply psychological knowledge in ways that show ethical awareness, cultural sensitivity, respect for diversity, and the capacity for self-reflection and life-long learning. (Capability 3: Citizen).

## Presentation

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Presentation task

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 25 hours

Due: **20/09/2026**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension <sup>3</sup>: No

AI Approach: Open

You will develop and deliver a presentation on a current research question related to psychological science.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Describe and explain foundational principles, theories, and concepts in psychology across domains such as history, culture, personality, learning and memory, cognition, emotion, and motivation. (Capability 1: Scientist and Scholar).
- Describe the nature and purpose of psychological research based on first-hand

engagement with the research process. (Capability 1: Scientist and Scholar).

- Communicate psychological concepts and evidence clearly and appropriately using different modes suited to academic and professional contexts. (Capability 2: Practitioner).
- Apply psychological knowledge in ways that show ethical awareness, cultural sensitivity, respect for diversity, and the capacity for self-reflection and life-long learning. (Capability 3: Citizen).

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation.

<sup>3</sup> An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the [Service Connect Portal](#).

## Delivery and Resources

As a student enrolled in this unit, you will engage in a range of online learning activities, including readings, online modules, videos and lecture modules. Details can be found on the iLearn site for this unit.

### Technology Used

Active participation in the learning activities throughout the unit requires students to have a reliable internet connection and access to a laptop or desktop computer equipped with a working camera and microphone, which is essential for completing the final exam.

## Unit Schedule

| Week | Lecture Module Topic  | Tutorial Topic                                                        |
|------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1    | Unit Introduction     | Introductions, assessment Info                                        |
| 2    | Indigenous Psychology | Non-Western approaches to psychology                                  |
| 3    | Learning              | Introduction to research                                              |
| 4    | Perception            | Measurement scales, types of data, confound variables                 |
| 5    | Personality           | Introduction to software, data entry, summarising and displaying data |

|    |                                         |                                                 |
|----|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 6  | Personality Assessment                  | No tutorial                                     |
| 7  | Cognition                               | Central tendency and variability                |
| 8  | Forensic Psychology and Memory – Part 1 | Normal distribution                             |
| 9  | Forensic Psychology and Memory – Part 2 | Sampling distribution and central limit theorem |
| 10 | Organisational Psychology               | Probability                                     |
| 11 | Emotion and Motivation – Part 1         | Hypothesis testing                              |
| 12 | Emotion and Motivation – Part 2         | Correlation                                     |
| 13 | Review and Final Exam Information       | No tutorial                                     |

## 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](http://connect.mq.edu.au) or if you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto: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.

## Artificial Intelligence Tools

Macquarie University recognises that artificial intelligence (AI), especially generative AI, is rapidly reshaping education and the modern workplace. As AI becomes increasingly accessible, the University and your teaching staff are committed to preparing you to use these tools effectively, ethically, and with strong professional judgment. Rather than restricting technology, the emphasis is on helping you understand when and how AI can be used to enhance productivity, support learning, and reflect real-world professional practice. Across your degree, we will support you to develop the critical thinking, adaptability, and values-based decision-making skills required to navigate evolving AI tools responsibly, including acknowledging their use appropriately. You should always appropriately acknowledge when you have used AI tools within assessment tasks, including which AI tools you have used and how you have used them.

To provide clarity, Macquarie University uses a simple, two-tiered approach to AI in assessment:

AI Open assessments allow you to fully incorporate AI, reflecting authentic tasks where AI would normally be used in professional settings.

Observed with AI Optional assessments involve tasks where you either demonstrate essential knowledge without technology or show how you apply AI under supervision.

Across both categories, the goal is to ensure you build foundational knowledge, exercise sound judgment, and engage with AI in ways that uphold ethical, cultural, and university values.

## 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

As part of developing professionalism, students are expected to attend all small group interactive sessions including clinical, practical, laboratory, work-integrated learning (e.g., PACE placements), and team-based learning activities. Some learning activities are recorded (e.g., face-to-face lectures), however you are encouraged to avoid relying upon such material as they do not recreate the whole learning experience and technical issues can and do occur. 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.

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 2026.05 of the [Handbook](#)