



FOAJ8020

Research Theory (Education)

NMJI Term 1 (Sept), China 2026

Arts Faculty level units

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MEd(NMJI)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit introduces students to the key theories and theoretical approaches that underpin and shape research in Education. Students will encounter and critically review a broad range of theories related to research in the discipline, exploring the role, importance, and potential impacts and outcomes of various theories on research projects. In addition to understanding research theories, students will evaluate ethics and integrity frameworks relevant to these theories and their applications. This unit will equip students with a broad understanding of the place of theory in research, and how they might apply such theoretical approaches in their own future research projects.

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: Evaluate key theories and theoretical concepts and approaches required to conduct research in Education.

ULO2: Critically review a specialised body of knowledge related to relevant research theories in Education, demonstrating knowledge of the role and impact of various theoretical approaches upon research.

ULO3: Evaluate ethics and integrity frameworks relevant to research theories in Education.

ULO4: Communicate relevant research concepts and ideas to specialist and non-specialist audiences.

General Assessment Information

General Submission Information

Please format assessments using 12-point font and 1.5 spacing.

All assessments must be submitted electronically. Turnitin plagiarism detection software is used to check all written assessments. It is the responsibility of all students to ensure that their submitted work is in a format compatible with Turnitin software for plagiarism checking.

Submissions must meet the required file type and formatting specifications outlined in the assessment guidelines. Failure to submit work in an acceptable format may result in delays in processing your submission and potential penalties for non-compliance with assessment requirements. If you are unsure about the file format or have technical difficulties, it is your responsibility to seek assistance before the submission deadline. Students should be careful to check that they submit the correct file for an assessment as no re-submissions will be accepted after the due date and time, including instances where students upload an incorrect file. It is not the responsibility of unit staff to contact students who have failed to submit assessments. If you have any missing items of assessment, it is your responsibility to contact the unit convenor.

Students can use Turnitin's Originality Report as a learning tool to improve their academic writing if this option is made available in the unit.

Word limits are strictly applied. Work above the word limit will not be marked.

Marking

All assessments are marked using a rubric.

Marking of all assessments is moderated by the Unit Convenor.

Results

Results shown in iLearn, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed because they are subject to final approval by the University.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
<u>Theory analysis task:</u> <u>Annotated</u> <u>Bibliography</u>	20%	No	24/ 09/ 2026	Individual	No	Open

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
<u>Theory analysis task:</u> <u>Oral Presentation</u>	30%	No	30/ 10/ 2026	Individual	No	Observed
<u>Research theory</u> <u>design task: Research</u> <u>Proposal & Viva Voce</u>	50%	No	04/ 12/ 2026	Individual	No	Observed

Theory analysis task: Annotated Bibliography

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **24/09/2026**

Weighting: **20%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Open

Students will write a brief annotated analysis and summary of an existing research article demonstrating their understanding and implementation of a research theory/theories of their choice.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Evaluate key theories and theoretical concepts and approaches required to conduct research in Education.
- Evaluate ethics and integrity frameworks relevant to research theories in Education.
- Communicate relevant research concepts and ideas to specialist and non-specialist audiences.

Theory analysis task: Oral Presentation

Assessment Type ¹: Presentation task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **30/10/2026**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

Students will orally present a critical analysis of a small collection of existing research articles demonstrating their understanding and implementation of a research theory/theories of their choice.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Evaluate key theories and theoretical concepts and approaches required to conduct research in Education.
- Critically review a specialised body of knowledge related to relevant research theories in Education, demonstrating knowledge of the role and impact of various theoretical approaches upon research.
- Evaluate ethics and integrity frameworks relevant to research theories in Education.
- Communicate relevant research concepts and ideas to specialist and non-specialist audiences.

Research theory design task: Research Proposal & Viva Voce

Assessment Type ¹: Professional task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 40 hours

Due: **04/12/2026**

Weighting: **50%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

Students will submit an outline of a hypothetical research project demonstrating their understanding and implementation of a research theory/theories of their choice. Students will participate in a live viva voce session to orally present and discuss their research proposal.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Evaluate key theories and theoretical concepts and approaches required to conduct research in Education.
- Critically review a specialised body of knowledge related to relevant research theories in Education, demonstrating knowledge of the role and impact of various theoretical approaches upon research.
- Evaluate ethics and integrity frameworks relevant to research theories in Education.
- 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

Information about the unit iLearn site

This unit has a full web presence through iLearn. Information for students about access to the online component of this unit is available at <https://nmjilearn.mq.edu.au/login/index.php?loginredirect=1>. You will need to enter your student username and password.

Unit Schedule

The Unit Schedule is available on the unit 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.

Unit information based on version 2026.02 of the [Handbook](#)