



PICT809

Research Project

S3 External 2013

Centre for Policing, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Other Staff

Julian Droogan

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Contact via julian.droogan@mq.edu.au

PICT Offices, Level 2, Building Y3A

By appointment

Unit Convenor

Vincent Williams

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Y3A 238

As detailed on the iLearn site

Credit points

8

Prerequisites

Admission to MPICT or MPICTMIntSecSt or MIntSecStud or MCompForensics

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

Students enrolled in this unit are expected to research and compose one substantial research project or thesis of 15,000 words on an approved topic. Students will be supervised in all stages of this task by the unit convener, and by PICT staff. All enrolled students will undertake a major research project or thesis, including all the stages from topic selection through to completion. The unit therefore provides students with the opportunity to explore a topic of particular relevance to themselves or their organisation. In so doing they will be encouraged to thoroughly engage with the existing research on their topic, using it as a stepping stone in developing their own interests and key analytical questions. This research relies on utilising secondary sources and does not require original empirical work. Indeed students are not permitted to conduct interviews or other fieldwork which would normally require ethics approval.

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:

- ability to identify and develop an appropriate research question
- ability to apply an appropriate research methodology to a research question
- ability to identify and critically evaluate academic, professional and other literature on a research topic
- ability to write a coherent analytical report that synthesizes the extant literature with the research findings and draws appropriate conclusions

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
Proposal	15%	Advised by supervisor
Draft of introduction	15%	Advised by supervisor
Final report	70%	End of session

Proposal

Due: **Advised by supervisor**

Weighting: **15%**

The proposal should be 1000 words. See ilearn for dues date.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- ability to identify and develop an appropriate research question
- ability to apply an appropriate research methodology to a research question

Draft of introduction

Due: **Advised by supervisor**

Weighting: **15%**

The draft introduction should be 2-3000 words. See ilearn for due date.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- ability to identify and critically evaluate academic, professional and other literature on a research topic

Final report

Due: **End of session**

Weighting: **70%**

The final dissertation report should be 10000 words. See ilearn for due date.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- ability to identify and critically evaluate academic, professional and other literature on a research topic
- ability to write a coherent analytical report that synthesizes the extant literature with the research findings and draws appropriate conclusions

Delivery and Resources

Students work independently with support from their academic supervisor. All assignments should be submitted electronically by the due date. Please refer to ilearn for details and guidelines for submission.

There are no specific or required readings for this unit as students will identify and review literature that is relevant to their research question.

Unit Schedule

This unit does not have a weekly schedule as students work with a member of PICT staff who acts as their supervisor throughout the unit. Students should arrange and maintain regular contact with their supervisor who will provide advice and support through all stages of the unit.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy <http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html

Special Consideration Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/special_consideration/policy.html

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of Academic Student Support Services. Details of these services can be accessed at: <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

UniWISE provides:

- Online learning resources and academic skills workshops http://www.students.mq.edu.au/support/learning_skills/
- Personal assistance with your learning & study related questions.
- The Learning Help Desk is located in the Library foyer (level 2).
- Online and on-campus orientation events run by Mentors@Macquarie.

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

Details of these services can be accessed at <http://www.student.mq.edu.au/ses/>.

IT Help

If you wish to receive IT help, we would be glad to assist you at <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/>.

When using the university's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students and it outlines what can be done.

Graduate Capabilities

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- ability to identify and develop an appropriate research question
- ability to apply an appropriate research methodology to a research question
- ability to identify and critically evaluate academic, professional and other literature on a research topic
- ability to write a coherent analytical report that synthesizes the extant literature with the research findings and draws appropriate conclusions

Assessment tasks

- Proposal
- Draft of introduction
- Final report

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- ability to identify and critically evaluate academic, professional and other literature on a research topic
- ability to write a coherent analytical report that synthesizes the extant literature with the research findings and draws appropriate conclusions

Assessment task

- Final report

PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- ability to apply an appropriate research methodology to a research question

Assessment task

- Draft of introduction

PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- ability to write a coherent analytical report that synthesizes the extant literature with the research findings and draws appropriate conclusions

Assessment task

- Final report

PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- ability to identify and develop an appropriate research question
- ability to apply an appropriate research methodology to a research question
- ability to write a coherent analytical report that synthesizes the extant literature with the research findings and draws appropriate conclusions

Assessment tasks

- Proposal
- Final report

PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- ability to identify and develop an appropriate research question
- ability to identify and critically evaluate academic, professional and other literature on a research topic

Assessment task

- Proposal

