APPL902
Research Methods in Language Study
S1 External 2015
Dept of Linguistics

Contents

General Information 2
Learning Outcomes 2
General Assessment Information 3
Assessment Tasks 3
Delivery and Resources 5
Unit Schedule 6
Policies and Procedures 9
Graduate Capabilities 10

Disclaimer
Macquarie University has taken all reasonable measures to ensure the information in this publication is accurate and up-to-date. However, the information may change or become out-dated as a result of change in University policies, procedures or rules. The University reserves the right to make changes to any information in this publication without notice. Users of this publication are advised to check the website version of this publication [or the relevant faculty or department] before acting on any information in this publication.
**General Information**

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Unit Convener and Lecturer
Mehdi Riazi
mehdi.riazi@mq.edu.au
Contact via email
C5A 575
With appointment
Margaret Wood
margaret.wood@mq.edu.au

Credit points
4

Prerequisites
Admission to MAppLing or PGDipAppLing or MTransInterMAppLing or MAppLingTESOL or MTransIntStudies or MAdvConfInt or MTransInterMApplingTESOL

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit focuses on general principles of research and the use of research methods in language studies. It covers the whole process of research from choosing a topic, searching the related literature on the topic, and formulating research questions, to collecting and analysing data and writing up research reports. The exploration of quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-method research methodologies develops students' research literacy to understand research reports and to design research projects. Research ethics and writing research proposals are two other topics that are discussed in this unit.

**Important Academic Dates**

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at [https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates](https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates)

**Learning Outcomes**

1. Identify a research topic or area of interest
2. Critically review & evaluate literature (published papers) related to the topic of your research
3. Describe the basic underlying principles of research paradigms (quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods) and research methods
4. Synthesise and write up a literature review with the goal of showing gaps
5. Formulate and refine research questions and/or state relevant hypotheses
6. Propose a study with appropriate methodology for studying the specific research questions with an understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of alternative methods and analysis of ethical issues

General Assessment Information

Assessment at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due Date/time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annotated bibliography</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Sunday March 22 at 23:55 Sydney Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review paper (Literature review)</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Sunday April 19 at 23:55 Sydney Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Proposal on a gap you identified in Assignment 2</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Friday June 12 at 23:55 Sydney Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active participation (classroom and online discussion and presentations)</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Semester wide</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 1</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>22/03/2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 2</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>19/04/2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 3</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>12/06/2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active Participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Semester wide</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assignment 1

Due: **22/03/2015**
Weighting: **25%**

An annotated bibliography is a list of sources and annotations (summary and evaluation) on a selected topic arranged in alphabetical order. Each annotation will have three parts. The first part is the bibliographic information of the source which should strictly follow APA style. The second
part of each annotation includes a concise summary of the content and methodology of the study. Third part of the annotation is a critical evaluation of the study and its relevance to the theme of the AB (your chosen topic or area of interest). Given your annotated bibliography will be used as the basis for writing your second assignment, the review paper (literature review), it is worth preparing it as carefully as possible. Roughly, the summary and the evaluation of each stud should have a 60:40 proportion.

More details in the Unit Guide.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

1. Identify a research topic or area of interest
2. Critically review & evaluate literature (published papers) related to the topic of your research

Assignment 2
Due: 19/04/2015
Weighting: 30%

This assignment requires you to change your AB (Assignment 1) into a review paper. Use your AB (the introduction, the annotations and reflections, and the conclusion) and write an essay to discuss and highlight the major themes related to your chosen topic. The AB should provide you with enough content to write the review paper, however, you may want to do further search in the databases and add more content if necessary to enhance your review paper. Attend to the comments you received on your AB to improve your second assignment. The structure of the review paper will follow an introduction, body and conclusion as elaborated below.

Further details in the Unit Guide.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

1. Identify a research topic or area of interest
2. Critically review & evaluate literature (published papers) related to the topic of your research
4. Synthesise and write up a literature review with the goal of showing gaps
5. Formulate and refine research questions and/or state relevant hypotheses

Assignment 3
Due: 12/06/2015
Weighting: 40%

Assignment 3 is a proposal for a research project and is based on Assignments 1 and 2 with some additional sections. Use assignments 1 and 2 and the comments and feedback you received to prepare your proposal.

Details of how to prepare Assignment 3 can be found in the Unit Guide.
This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- 1. Identify a research topic or area of interest
- 5. Formulate and refine research questions and/or state relevant hypotheses
- 6. Propose a study with appropriate methodology for studying the specific research questions with an understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of alternative methods and analysis of ethical issues

Active Participation

Due: **Semester wide**
Weighting: 5%

Both internal (on-campus) and external (distance) students should take part in learning and teaching activities throughout the semester. For internal students, these will include attending lectures (for internal students), presentations, and participation in face-to-face in-class, and possibly online discussion.

For external students, active participation will include group presentation in Week 3, and at least 3 other postings related to review of quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods research. You are encouraged to post a brief report of the papers identified for reading on any of these research paradigms. This excludes your responses to other students’ postings and the initial introduction of yourself and your topics. Also, use the “Glossary” part to define (briefly) and describe research concepts and terms. This will help you to consolidate your understanding of key terms and will give others a chance to read and understand those concepts. There is also a Wiki where you can post more lengthy definitions as well as useful sources you come across. Glossary and Wiki contributions are not included in the active participation but will enhance your learning.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- 1. Identify a research topic or area of interest
- 2. Critically review & evaluate literature (published papers) related to the topic of your research
- 3. Describe the basic underlying principles of research paradigms (quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods) and research methods

**Delivery and Resources**

**Teaching and Learning Strategies**

The learning and teaching strategies used in this Unit are individual study, in-class face to face lectures and in-class and online discussions through Forum.

The unit convenor will be monitoring the online discussions. If you have any general questions, concerns, and comments these may be posted on the Forum facility. However, should you have
any personal issues (e.g. requests for extensions etc.) then these should be addressed directly to the unit convenor at mehdi.riazi@mq.edu.au

Online discussion provides students (especially distance/external students) the opportunity to interact and exchange ideas with other classmates to consolidate their understanding of theoretical concepts. Both internal and external students are therefore urged to take part in online discussion of different topics.

Resources

We use the following texts in this unit. The first one is “required” (you must have a copy), and the other ones are “optional” (you may or may not have a copy) for further reading.


Other recommended texts and articles can be found in the Unit Guide.

Unit Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Lecturer</th>
<th>Required reading(s)</th>
<th>Recommended readings</th>
<th>Tasks &amp; Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Overview of the unit</td>
<td>Mehdi Riazi</td>
<td>Dornyei (2007) Chapter 1</td>
<td>Check Part II of Paltridge &amp; Phakiti (2010) for examples of areas of interest</td>
<td>Identify your area of interest to be discussed in class &amp; online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Research process</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Introduce yourself and your area of interest in “Forum”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Literature Review</td>
<td>Group Activity</td>
<td>Other Notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>03/15</td>
<td>Knowing about and searching databases</td>
<td>Overview of research databases in “Files” folder in iLearn</td>
<td>Overview of research databases in “Files” folder in iLearn</td>
<td>Internal students may bring their Laptop to do some hands-on research activities in class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>10/03/15</td>
<td>Overview of three research paradigms: quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods</td>
<td>Dornyei (2007) Chapter 2 &amp; 3</td>
<td>Riaz &amp; Candlin (2014)</td>
<td>Group presentations: Each group to present on three features of each research paradigm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Quality criteria: Issues of reliability &amp; validity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Internal students (ISs) present in class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>External students (ESs) present in “Forum”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>17/03/15</td>
<td>Longitudinal vs. cross-sectional research</td>
<td>Dornyei (2007) Chapter 4</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Assignment 1 is due on Sunday March 22nd at 23:55 Sydney time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>24/03/15</td>
<td>Surveys and correlational studies</td>
<td>Dornyei (2007) Related parts in Chapters 5 &amp; 9</td>
<td>Paltridge &amp; Phakiti (2010) Chapter 3</td>
<td>Read sample survey study in “Files” folder in iLearn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ISs: Discuss in class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ESs: Post brief reflections in “Forum”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>31/03/15</td>
<td>Experimental studies</td>
<td>Dornyei (2007) Related parts in Chapter 5 &amp; 9</td>
<td>Paltridge &amp; Phakiti (2010) Chapter 2</td>
<td>Read sample experimental study in “Files” folder in iLearn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ISs: Discuss in class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ESs: Post brief reflections in “Forum”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Mid-term Break (April 03-19)</strong> Assignment 2 is due on Sunday April 19th at 23:55 Sydney Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ISs: Discuss in class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ESs: Post brief reflections in “Forum”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Due Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Additional Information</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>28/04/15</td>
<td>Case study and ethnographic research</td>
<td>Mehdi Riazi&lt;br&gt; Dornyei (2007)&lt;br&gt; Chapters 6</td>
<td>Paltridge &amp; Phakiti (2010)&lt;br&gt; Chapters 5 &amp; 6&lt;br&gt; Richards (2009)</td>
<td>Read sample case study and ethnography research in “Files” folder in iLearn&lt;br&gt; ISs: Discuss in class&lt;br&gt; ESs: Post brief reflections in “Forum”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>19/05/15</td>
<td>Summing up: How to choose the appropriate research method</td>
<td>Mehdi Riazi&lt;br&gt; Dornyei (2007)&lt;br&gt; Chapter 14</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>26/05/15</td>
<td>Research as argument</td>
<td>Mehdi Riazi&lt;br&gt; Dornyei (2007)&lt;br&gt; Chapters 12 &amp; 13</td>
<td>The following two “Online Writing Labs” are also very useful:</td>
<td>Go to: <a href="http://www.ling.mq.edu.au/support/policies_plagiarism.htm">http://www.ling.mq.edu.au/support/policies_plagiarism.htm</a>&lt;br&gt; • Make yourself familiar with all the information contained on this link&lt;br&gt; •</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Unit guide** APPL902 Research Methods in Language Study

https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/45545/unit_guide/print
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:


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

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: [https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)

Results

Results shown in iLearn, 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 ask.mq.edu.au.

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit [http://students.mq.edu.au/support/](http://students.mq.edu.au/support/)

Learning Skills

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.
Student Enquiry Service
For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

Equity 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.

IT Help
For help with University computer systems and technology, visit 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.

Graduate Capabilities
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

• 3. Describe the basic underlying principles of research paradigms (quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods) and research methods
• 5. Formulate and refine research questions and/or state relevant hypotheses
• 6. Propose a study with appropriate methodology for studying the specific research questions with an understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of alternative methods and analysis of ethical issues

Assessment tasks

• Assignment 2
• Assignment 3
• Active Participation
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**

- 1. Identify a research topic or area of interest
- 2. Critically review & evaluate literature (published papers) related to the topic of your research
- 3. Describe the basic underlying principles of research paradigms (quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods) and research methods
- 4. Synthesise and write up a literature review with the goal of showing gaps
- 5. Formulate and refine research questions and/or state relevant hypotheses
- 6. Propose a study with appropriate methodology for studying the specific research questions with an understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of alternative methods and analysis of ethical issues

**Assessment tasks**

- Assignment 1
- Assignment 2
- Assignment 3
- Active Participation

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**

- 1. Identify a research topic or area of interest
- 2. Critically review & evaluate literature (published papers) related to the topic of your research
- 3. Describe the basic underlying principles of research paradigms (quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods) and research methods

https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/45545/unit_guide/print
• 4. Synthesise and write up a literature review with the goal of showing gaps
• 5. Formulate and refine research questions and/or state relevant hypotheses
• 6. Propose a study with appropriate methodology for studying the specific research questions with an understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of alternative methods and analysis of ethical issues

Assessment tasks

• Assignment 1
• Assignment 2
• Assignment 3
• Active Participation

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 outcomes

• 5. Formulate and refine research questions and/or state relevant hypotheses
• 6. Propose a study with appropriate methodology for studying the specific research questions with an understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of alternative methods and analysis of ethical issues

Assessment tasks

• Assignment 2
• Assignment 3

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 outcomes

• 3. Describe the basic underlying principles of research paradigms (quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods) and research methods
4. Synthesise and write up a literature review with the goal of showing gaps
6. Propose a study with appropriate methodology for studying the specific research questions with an understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of alternative methods and analysis of ethical issues

**Assessment tasks**

- Assignment 2
- Assignment 3
- Active Participation

**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 outcome**

- 6. Propose a study with appropriate methodology for studying the specific research questions with an understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of alternative methods and analysis of ethical issues

**Assessment task**

- Assignment 3