ACCG950
Contemporary Accounting Practice
S1 Evening 2016
Dept of Accounting & Corporate Governance

Contents
General Information 2
Learning Outcomes 2
Assessment Tasks 3
Delivery and Resources 6
Unit Schedule 7
Policies and Procedures 9
Graduate Capabilities 10
Research & Practice, Global & Sustainability 12
Changes since First Published 12

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 relevant faculty or department before acting on any information in this publication.
## General Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit convenor and teaching staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit Convenor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catriona Lavermicocca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:catriona.lavermicocca@mq.edu.au">catriona.lavermicocca@mq.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact via Email or Phone on 9850-8528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E4A308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 10 am till 12 noon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Credit points: 4

### Prerequisites

16cp in units at 800 level or above

### Corequisites

---

### Co-badged status

### Unit description

This unit aims to consolidate learning across postgraduate studies in accounting, preparing students for employment in complex business environments. Leadership and entrepreneurship are discussed as well as the importance of risk management in business decision making. Using real life case studies, reviews of industry reports and research as well as presentations by industry leaders and student alumni, this unit develops the knowledge and skills necessary to work as a professional accountant. This unit requires students to think critically, ethically and strategically in solving business problems whilst integrating technical knowledge and professional skills. It also provides an opportunity for students to further develop and consolidate their graduate capabilities, particularly their analytical, critical and integrative thinking skills, their professional judgement and problem solving capabilities and most importantly their role as engaged global citizens.

---

## 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. Integrate and synthesise knowledge and skills relating to the core disciplines of professional accounting with a focus on strategic decision making and recent developments.
2. Reflect on the knowledge and skills obtained in completing a postgraduate accounting qualification and prepare for transition to employment as an accountant.
3. Demonstrate professional judgment and problem solving capabilities.
4. Demonstrate the ability to communicate knowledge and ideas to accountants and non-accountants.
5. Demonstrate an awareness of emerging social, ethical and regulatory issues relevant to an accounting practitioner.

**Assessment Tasks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Report</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Week 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Week 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Study</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>Week 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflective Journal</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Week 13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Report**

Due: **Week 3**  
Weighting: **15%**

**The Future for Professional Accountants - Report**

This assessment task requires students to research recent articles and professional commentary on the role of professional accountants today and predicted in the future. Using this research students are to submit a report discussing the issues they identified as likely to impact the accounting profession in the future. (Word limit 1000 words).

Please see more detailed information available on iLearn.

Without exception, any evidence of plagiarism discovered in submitted assignments will result in a detailed investigation and may result in a fail grade in the unit and exclusion from the University.

**Submission:** Must be submitted via iLearn/Turnitin by 5pm on 18 March 2016

**Extension:** No extensions will be granted.

**Penalties:** No extensions will be granted. There will be a deduction of 10% of the total available marks made from the total awarded mark for each 24 hour period or part thereof that the submission is late (for example, 25 hours late in submission – 20% penalty). This penalty does not apply for cases in which an application for disruption of studies is made and approved.
This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Integrate and synthesise knowledge and skills relating to the core disciplines of professional accounting with a focus on strategic decision making and recent developments.
- Reflect on the knowledge and skills obtained in completing a postgraduate accounting qualification and prepare for transition to employment as an accountant.
- Demonstrate professional judgment and problem solving capabilities.
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate knowledge and ideas to accountants and non-accountants.
- Demonstrate an awareness of emerging social, ethical and regulatory issues relevant to an accounting practitioner.

Report

Due: **Week 6**
Weighting: **25%**

Based on an ethical issue identified and must be completed individually. (Word limit 2000 words).

Further details are provided on iLearn.

Without exception, any evidence of plagiarism discovered in submitted assignments will result in a detailed investigation and may result in a fail grade in the unit and exclusion from the University.

**Submission**: This report must be submitted via iLearn/turnitin by 5pm on 8 April 2016.

**Extension**: No extensions will be granted.

**Penalties**: No extensions will be granted. There will be a deduction of 10% of the total available marks made from the total awarded mark for each 24 hour period or part thereof that the submission is late (for example, 25 hours late in submission – 20% penalty). This penalty does not apply for cases in which an application for disruption of studies is made and approved.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Integrate and synthesise knowledge and skills relating to the core disciplines of professional accounting with a focus on strategic decision making and recent developments.
- Reflect on the knowledge and skills obtained in completing a postgraduate accounting qualification and prepare for transition to employment as an accountant.
- Demonstrate professional judgment and problem solving capabilities.
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate knowledge and ideas to accountants and non-accountants.
Case Study

Due: **Week 11**

Weighting: **35%**

The case study will require students to identify two Australian listed corporations, collect published information on their corporate social responsibility approach and compare and contrast. Students will be required to exercise professional judgement, make conclusions and work in a team. (Word limit 2,500 words)

This assessment task is to be completed individually but will require group meetings to identify the two companies that will be examined and to discuss issues relevant to the case study. You will be allocated to a group by the unit convenor.

Please see more detailed information provided on ilearn.

Without exception, any evidence of plagiarism discovered in submitted assignments will result in a detailed investigation and may result in a fail grade in the unit and exclusion from the University.

**Submission:** Must be submitted via Turnitin by 27 May 2016 5pm.

**Extension:** No extensions will be granted.

**Penalties:** No extensions will be granted. There will be a deduction of 10% of the total available marks made from the total awarded mark for each 24 hour period or part thereof that the submission is late (for example, 25 hours late in submission – 20% penalty). This penalty does not apply for cases in which an application for disruption of studies is made and approved.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Integrate and synthesise knowledge and skills relating to the core disciplines of professional accounting with a focus on strategic decision making and recent developments.
- Reflect on the knowledge and skills obtained in completing a postgraduate accounting qualification and prepare for transition to employment as an accountant.
- Demonstrate professional judgment and problem solving capabilities.
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate knowledge and ideas to accountants and non-accountants.
- Demonstrate an awareness of emerging social, ethical and regulatory issues relevant to an accounting practitioner.
Reflective Journal

Due: Week 13
Weighting: 25%

This comprehensive reflective journal is to be completed throughout the duration of this unit, comprising reflections on the class debate to be held in week 4, completed assessment tasks, seminar topics and the unit experience as a whole. This reflective journal is due for submission via iLearn on 10 June 2016 and group discussion of key reflections in class in Week 13.

This reflective journal and presentation will be marked out of 25.

Please see more detailed information provided on iLearn.

Without exception, any evidence of plagiarism discovered in submitted assignments will result in a detailed investigation and may result in a fail grade in the unit and exclusion from the University.

Submission: Must be submitted via iLearn on 10 June 2016.

Extension: No extensions will be granted.

Penalties: No extensions will be granted. There will be a deduction of 10% of the total available marks made from the total awarded mark for each 24 hour period or part thereof that the submission is late (for example, 25 hours late in submission – 20% penalty). This penalty does not apply for cases in which an application for disruption of studies is made and approved.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

• Integrate and synthesise knowledge and skills relating to the core disciplines of professional accounting with a focus on strategic decision making and recent developments.
• Reflect on the knowledge and skills obtained in completing a postgraduate accounting qualification and prepare for transition to employment as an accountant.
• Demonstrate professional judgment and problem solving capabilities.
• Demonstrate the ability to communicate knowledge and ideas to accountants and non-accountants
• Demonstrate an awareness of emerging social, ethical and regulatory issues relevant to an accounting practitioner.

Delivery and Resources

Classes

• This unit includes thirteen three-hour weekly seminars (classes) as detailed in this unit guide.
The timetable for classes can be found on the University web site at: [http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au/](http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au/)

Class attendance for this unit is compulsory.

Students are expected to get involved in class discussion and debate including in-class completion of simulations and case studies.

**Student workload**

150 hours

**Required and Recommended Texts and/or Materials**

**Prescribed textbooks:**

There are no prescribed texts for this unit however materials will be provided under each of the week headings in ilearn and in some cases distributed in class.

You must read the relevant materials before coming to class and in completing the assessment tasks as well as undertake your own further research. Direction will be provided by the lecturer on additional research materials.

**Unit Web Page**

You are required to access a computer and the internet at various times in completing this unit, to download course material available on the learning management system (ilearn) and to complete assessment tasks.

**Unit Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Presentation</th>
<th>Seminar date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td><strong>Seminar 1</strong>&lt;br&gt;Introduction, what we will be doing in this unit, graduate capabilities, program learning goals and reflective practice&lt;br&gt;Challenges faced in transition to the workplace and employer’s expectations</td>
<td></td>
<td>Week commencing 29 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td><strong>Seminar 2</strong>&lt;br&gt;Developing the ability to think critically and communicate ideas - core skills required in a professional accountant&lt;br&gt;Putting together a reflective journal</td>
<td></td>
<td>Week commencing 7 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Week commencing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 03  | Seminar 3 | Business and regulatory environment - Current domestic and international issues facing business  
Student alumni presentations on their accounting journey to date | 14 March |
| 04  | Seminar 4 | Debate - The future for professional accountants                      | 21 March |
| 05  | Seminar 5 | Ethical challenges including case studies in financial crime, fraud, money laundering and tax evasion | 28 March |
| 06  | Seminar 6 | Beyond financial reporting - a corporate social responsibility perspective  
Employer presentation.                                     | 4 April |
|     | Mid-session break |                                                                  | 11 April to 22 April |
| 07  | Seminar 7 | Business Strategy - formulation and implementation                   | 25 April |
| 08  | Seminar 8 | The importance of leadership as a capability - theory and practice   | 2 May |
| 09  | Seminar 9 | Harvard Simulation project                                           | 9 May |
| 10  | Seminar 10 | Business culture  
Employer presentation                                           | 16 May |
| 11  | Seminar 11 | Entrepreneurship and Innovation  
Risk management                                                       | 23 May |
| 12  | Seminar 12 | Linkedin, twitter and getting connected  
Professional programs and further education  
Networking and alumni                                              | 30 May |
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:


Grading Policy prior to Session 2 2016 [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html]


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/]

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/]

Seminar 13

Wellbeing in the workplace

Group discussions on reflective journals

Week commencing 6 June
Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module for Students
- Ask a Learning Adviser

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://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

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.

Graduate Capabilities

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

- Integrate and synthesise knowledge and skills relating to the core disciplines of professional accounting with a focus on strategic decision making and recent developments.
- Reflect on the knowledge and skills obtained in completing a postgraduate accounting qualification and prepare for transition to employment as an accountant.
- Demonstrate professional judgment and problem solving capabilities.
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate knowledge and ideas to accountants and non-
accountants

• Demonstrate an awareness of emerging social, ethical and regulatory issues relevant to an accounting practitioner.

Assessment tasks

• Report
• Report
• Case Study
• Reflective Journal

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

• Integrate and synthesise knowledge and skills relating to the core disciplines of professional accounting with a focus on strategic decision making and recent developments.
• Reflect on the knowledge and skills obtained in completing a postgraduate accounting qualification and prepare for transition to employment as an accountant.
• Demonstrate an awareness of emerging social, ethical and regulatory issues relevant to an accounting practitioner.

Assessment tasks

• Report
• Report
• Case Study
• Reflective Journal

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

• Integrate and synthesise knowledge and skills relating to the core disciplines of professional accounting with a focus on strategic decision making and recent developments.
• Reflect on the knowledge and skills obtained in completing a postgraduate accounting qualification and prepare for transition to employment as an accountant.
• Demonstrate professional judgment and problem solving capabilities.
• Demonstrate the ability to communicate knowledge and ideas to accountants and non-accountants
• Demonstrate an awareness of emerging social, ethical and regulatory issues relevant to an accounting practitioner.

Assessment tasks

• Report
• Report
• Case Study
• Reflective Journal

Research & Practice, Global & Sustainability

This unit addresses global and sustainability issues and the relevant implications arising from the materials, assessment, academic discussion and debate in classes/seminars. The unit promotes sustainability by developing the ability in students to research and locate information relating to recent developments in the accounting profession, ethics, leadership and strategy. Throughout the unit additional references and materials are provided to facilitate research.

Changes since First Published

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19/02/2016</td>
<td>Added Turnitin submission to case study and changed title of assessment from Reflective Portfolio to Reflective Journal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>