



PSYC14051 *Psychology Research Project A*

Term 1 - 2021

Profile information current as at 03/05/2024 10:05 pm

All details in this unit profile for PSYC14051 have been officially approved by CQUniversity and represent a learning partnership between the University and you (our student). The information will not be changed unless absolutely necessary and any change will be clearly indicated by an approved correction included in the profile.

General Information

Overview

Psychology Research Project A (PSYC14051) is the first of two units which will introduce you to the process of undertaking research in the discipline of psychology. Over the two units, you will independently undertake a scholarly investigation, under the supervision of a qualified supervisor within the psychology discipline. The purpose of the Psychology Research Project A unit is to provide you with the experience of proposing and planning an independent research project. The research question examined will be developed in consultation with your supervisor and will have either theoretical or applied significance in the psychology discipline. In Psychology Research Project A you will complete a research project proposal and an ethics application for that proposed project. Successful completion of this unit requires that Psychology Research Project A (PSYC14051) and Psychology Research Project B (PSYC14052) are undertaken in two consecutive University terms (e.g. Term 1 and Term 2, or Term 2 and Term 3).

Details

Career Level: *Undergraduate*

Unit Level: *Level 4*

Credit Points: 12

Student Contribution Band: 10

Fraction of Full-Time Student Load: 0.25

Pre-requisites or Co-requisites

Students must be enrolled in CC42 Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours) Co-requisites: PSYC14047 and PSYC14050.

Important note: Students enrolled in a subsequent unit who failed their pre-requisite unit, should drop the subsequent unit before the census date or within 10 working days of Fail grade notification. Students who do not drop the unit in this timeframe cannot later drop the unit without academic and financial liability. See details in the [Assessment Policy and Procedure \(Higher Education Coursework\)](#).

Offerings For Term 1 - 2021

- Mixed Mode

Attendance Requirements

All on-campus students are expected to attend scheduled classes – in some units, these classes are identified as a mandatory (pass/fail) component and attendance is compulsory. International students, on a student visa, must maintain a full time study load and meet both attendance and academic progress requirements in each study period (satisfactory attendance for International students is defined as maintaining at least an 80% attendance record).

Residential Schools

This unit has a Compulsory Residential School for distance mode students and the details are:

Click here to see your [Residential School Timetable](#).

Website

[This unit has a website, within the Moodle system, which is available two weeks before the start of term. It is important that you visit your Moodle site throughout the term. Please visit Moodle for more information.](#)

Class and Assessment Overview

Recommended Student Time Commitment

Each 12-credit Undergraduate unit at CQUniversity requires an overall time commitment of an average of 25 hours of study per week, making a total of 300 hours for the unit.

Class Timetable

[Regional Campuses](#)

Bundaberg, Cairns, Emerald, Gladstone, Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville

[Metropolitan Campuses](#)

Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney

Assessment Overview

1. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: Pass/Fail

2. **Practical Assessment**

Weighting: Pass/Fail

Assessment Grading

This is a pass/fail (non-graded) unit. To pass the unit, you must pass all of the individual assessment tasks shown in the table above.

CQUniversity Policies

All University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

You may wish to view these policies:

- Grades and Results Policy
- Assessment Policy and Procedure (Higher Education Coursework)
- Review of Grade Procedure
- Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – Domestic Students
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – International Students
- Student Refund and Credit Balance Policy and Procedure
- Student Feedback – Compliments and Complaints Policy and Procedure
- Information and Communications Technology Acceptable Use Policy and Procedure

This list is not an exhaustive list of all University policies. The full list of University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

Previous Student Feedback

Feedback, Recommendations and Responses

Every unit is reviewed for enhancement each year. At the most recent review, the following staff and student feedback items were identified and recommendations were made.

Feedback from Student Evaluations

Feedback

More Qualtrics support required as there was a transition to this new platform during Term 1 2020.

Recommendation

Develop or source accessible resources for Qualtrics to support students.

Feedback from Student Evaluations

Feedback

Residential School could be earlier in the term to make information less overwhelming.

Recommendation

Honours team to review placement of residential school and consider whether an earlier timing is appropriate.

Unit Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Develop a research proposal for a psychology-based research project
2. Complete a CQUniversity Human Research ethics application (or an Animal Research ethics application where appropriate) for a psychology-based research project.

The purpose of the two-term long Psychology Research Project (A & B) is to provide you with training in developing, conducting, and communicating research across theoretical and applied domains. This requires you to undertake an investigation of a research question in psychology and to report the investigation in written scholarly form. The research question will be of theoretical or applied significance to an area of psychology and the investigation and subsequent dissertation will be carried out under the principal supervision of a member of the psychology staff.

The thesis is an individual research project where the expectation is that you, with advice from your supervisor(s), will be responsible for, and participate in, all steps of the investigation and reporting.

Successful completion of this unit requires that Psychology Research Project A and Psychology Research Project B are undertaken in two consecutive University terms (e.g. Term 1 and Term 2, or Term 2 and Term 3).

Learning outcomes of this unit fulfil the level 2 pre-professional core competencies required by the updated Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) guidelines, specifically 2.5: Investigate a substantive individual research question relevant to the discipline of psychology. The unit also meets the study criteria as specified by the Psychology Board of Australia (PsyBA) as appropriate for study at level 8 as stated by the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF).

Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes



Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes	
	1	2
1 - Written Assessment - 0%	•	

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes	
	1	2
2 - Practical Assessment - 0%		•

Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Learning Outcomes

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes	
	1	2
1 - Communication	•	•
2 - Problem Solving	•	•
3 - Critical Thinking	•	•
4 - Information Literacy	•	
5 - Team Work		
6 - Information Technology Competence		
7 - Cross Cultural Competence		
8 - Ethical practice		•
9 - Social Innovation	•	
10 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures		

Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Graduate Attributes

Assessment Tasks	Graduate Attributes									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1 - Written Assessment - 0%	•	•	•	•					•	
2 - Practical Assessment - 0%	•	•	•					•		

Textbooks and Resources

Textbooks

There are no required textbooks.

IT Resources

You will need access to the following IT resources:

- CQUniversity Student Email
- Internet
- Unit Website (Moodle)

Referencing Style

All submissions for this unit must use the referencing style: [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

Teaching Contacts

Amanda Rebar Unit Coordinator
a.rebar@cqu.edu.au

Tina McAdie Unit Coordinator
t.mcadie@cqu.edu.au

Schedule

Week 1 - 08 Mar 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Connect with Supervisor, literature search, topic refinement, planning research project	None	None

Week 2 - 15 Mar 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Begin first brain storm draft of the proposal; develop the research question/s. Finalise research question/s & hypotheses; select and design research tools (questionnaires, etc.).	None	None

Week 3 - 22 Mar 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL (mandatory attendance)	None	For this unit, residential school will be Thursday and Friday, 25-26 March 9:00am - 5:00pm (AEST, QLD time).

Week 4 - 29 Mar 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Continue draft and refinement of approach and methodology, start to prepare Ethics Application.	None	None

Week 5 - 05 Apr 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Discuss broad literature review and project with supervisor. Continue to prepare Ethics Application.	None	None

Vacation Week - 12 Apr 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
None	None	Aim to submit the draft of Research Project Proposal to Supervisor for feedback.

Week 6 - 19 Apr 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Develop and refine the research design; methods, analyses; prepare Ethics Application, continue refining Research Project Proposal for submission.	None	None

Week 7 - 26 Apr 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Finalising Research Project Proposal and do Student Progress Report	None	Research Project Proposal and Student Progress Report Due in Moodle and to your supervisor via email Tuesday, 4 May at 9:00 am (AEST, QLD time). Research Project Proposal Due: Week 7 Friday (30 Apr 2021) 5:00 pm AEST

Week 8 - 03 May 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Continue with Ethics Application (students can submit ethics application early if supervisor has approved)	None	None

Week 9 - 10 May 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Continue with Ethics Application and literature review to prepare for thesis write up	None	Supervisor Progress Report due 17 May (your supervisors will be completing these)

Week 10 - 17 May 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Proposal feedback received and integrated into your thoughts for data collection.	None	None

Week 11 - 24 May 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Begin drafting outline for introduction and methods section of your empirical report	None	None

Week 12 - 31 May 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Introduction and methods of your empirical report, prepare for data collection

None

Ethics submission due in Moodle and [if new study: application submitted to ethics committee/ if existing data: permission to use deidentified data obtained] by Monday, 7 June at 9:00am (AEST, QLD time).

Ethics Application Due: Week 12 Friday (4 June 2021) 5:00 pm AEST

WEEK 13 - 07 Jun 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Refine introduction based on proposal feedback, continue drafting method section of empirical report	None	Proposal re-submission due by Friday, 11 June at 5:00pm (AEST, Brisbane time)

WEEK 14 - 14 Jun 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Refine introduction based on proposal feedback, continue drafting method section of empirical report	None	None

WEEK 15 - 21 Jun 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Term Specific Information

Prior to the start of term, we will be getting in contact with information about potential supervisors. Please actively check your student email address accounts starting the week of 15 February (3 weeks prior to term start).

Assessment Tasks

1 Research Project Proposal

Assessment Type

Written Assessment

Task Description

The submission of the Research Project Proposal is a compulsory, non-graded task (pass/resubmit/discontinue). It is required to be submitted and passed in order for enrolment to continue in Research Project B in the following term. The proposal ensures that students and supervisors are on track and have a project that is feasible to be completed within the Honours year and meets APAC requirements. Students are expected to submit a well-written workable proposal. All proposals will be assessed by an independent assessor who will provide feedback and recommendations regarding the project.

The proposal should be submitted following discussions, review and feedback of the final draft by the supervisors. The supervisor can review the overall proposal document only once. The Research Project Proposal MUST be submitted via Moodle.

If the submitted proposal is marked as 'Pass': Feedback from the assessor may be considered, but no revisions to the proposal are necessary before progressing the thesis project.

If the submitted proposal is marked as 'Resubmit': In this common instance, feedback from the assessor will need to be considered and responded to in a line-by-line fashion and a resubmitted proposal with revisions addressing the assessor's concerns will need to be resubmitted and receive a 'Pass' mark before progressing the thesis project. The resubmitted proposal will be required to be submitted alongside a line-by-line response to assessor comments within 2 weeks of receiving feedback. A student who fails to resubmit will not be permitted to continue their Research Project.

If the submitted proposal is marked as 'Discontinue': In this rare instance where a supervisor does not support the continuation of the proposed project, and the recommendation of the independent assessor is that the student discontinues, the student will be notified that the proposal has failed to be supported and he or she cannot enroll in Research Project B that year. The student will be automatically withdrawn without academic penalty from Part A and automatically dropped from Part B. In the event that the supervisor and the independent assessor do not agree, the head of course for and/or head of college will assess the proposal.

Formatting of the Research Project Proposal will be: A PDF submission with APA formatting, double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman or Arial font. No more than 2000 words, including tables and to be formatted as follows:

- Project title
- Background rationale and theory, research aims and significance (recommended: 500 – 800 words): Please provide a brief description of the relevance of your proposed project to current research, a justification as to why your research should proceed and an explanation of its potential to contribute to existing knowledge/literature. Then, state the research objectives, key research questions, and significance of the project. Where relevant, state the specific hypothesis/hypotheses to be tested.
- Design and Methods (recommended: 250-400 words): Outline chronologically the proposed method/s, including data collection techniques, tasks participants will be asked to complete, estimated time commitment required of them and measures being used. Do not include appendices, rather make sure that you have outlined broad measures and include in text citations for the measures you will be using in your proposed research.
- Description of Participants and recruitment methods (recommend: 100- 500 words): If seeking to recruit students/1st year psychology students, the details for how to do this are on the Moodle site. If recruiting from other disciplines/Schools, contact the Thesis Coordinator, as the student and supervisor must have that School's Dean's permission to recruit students.
- Potential ethical issues that you are aware of/risks (a response of a sentence or 2 to a paragraph relevant to project context: recommended 50 – 200 words). There is no such thing as a risk-free study.
- Proposed data analysis (recommended: 150 – 250 words): Describe the main analysis for research being proposed, include a description of the main analysis in line with the proposed hypothesis and/or exploratory nature of the proposed project.
- Reference list (not included in word count).

Assessment Due Date

Week 7 Friday (30 Apr 2021) 5:00 pm AEST

Submit to Moodle and email a final copy of the proposal to your supervisor

Return Date to Students

Week 9 Friday (14 May 2021)

Written feedback as well as a Pass/Resubmit/Discontinue grade will be emailed to your student email account

Weighting

Pass/Fail

Assessment Criteria

All aspects of the research proposal will be taken into account and scored by an independent reviewer on aspects including the background/rationale/research questions/hypotheses, the proposed design and methods, participants and recruitment, and data management and analyses. Reviewers will be asked to assess whether the proposal achieved a 'pass'/'resubmit'/'discontinue' and provide comments in written form which will be returned to the student so that the student may improve their thesis project into the next term project.

Referencing Style

- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

Submission

Online

Submission Instructions

Submission will be through Moodle. Please also email your supervisor a final copy of your thesis.

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Develop a research proposal for a psychology-based research project

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Social Innovation

2 Ethics Application

Assessment Type

Practical Assessment

Task Description

You must complete an ethics application, but the process for this will depend on if you are conducting a new study or using existing data.

You are encouraged to utilise your proposal feedback before submitting an ethics application, however you can submit your ethics application, with your supervisors' approval, at any time.

New Study Ethics Approval Procedures:

1. Use the New Study Ethics Approval Form and relevant templates to prepare your ethics application
2. Your primary supervisor must be listed as Chief Investigator and you, the student, as Associate Investigator, however, you are expected to take responsibility for the completion and submission of the application.
3. Send all materials to supervisory team for feedback, and once feedback has been integrated, have your supervisory team sign the form. All application materials must be signed and approved by the supervisory team prior to submission.
4. Submit the ethics application to CQUniversity's Human Research Ethics Committee by sending it via email to ethics@cqu.edu.au
5. Submit your ethics application and a copy of your email showing you've sent it to the ethics committee via Moodle.
6. Receive feedback from ethics committee (~3-5 weeks from submission) and address any issues raised by revision of the application by resubmitting to the ethics committee.
7. You must not start any aspect of the study until you have full approval from the ethics committee to do so.
8. If there are any changes to your study procedures needed following ethical approval, submit a modification form by sending it via email to ethics@cqu.edu.au Do not deviate from the procedures that you have approval for from the ethics committee until modifications have been approved.
9. As the ethics committee operates outside and independently of the course, enquiries regarding the status of an application should be directed to the Ethics Committee (ethics@cqu.edu.au) rather than the thesis coordinator or head of course.

Study Using Existing Data

1. Complete the Study with Existing Data Ethics form
2. Send all materials to supervisory team for feedback, and once feedback has been integrated, have your supervisory team sign the form.
3. Work with the supervisory team to ensure you have received appropriate permissions to access the data.
4. Submit your ethics application and a copy of proof showing you have access to the data to Moodle.
5. You must not start any aspect of the study until you have received appropriate permissions to access the data.

Applications to the Animal Research Ethics Committee: If you require ethics approval for animal-based research, you should consult directly with your supervisory team and the Thesis Coordinator in the first instance.

Assessment Due Date

Week 12 Friday (4 June 2021) 5:00 pm AEST

Ethics applications are due in Moodle. For new studies, you must also submit the application to the ethics committee. For existing data, you must have obtained permission to access the existing data.

Return Date to Students

Exam Week Friday (18 June 2021)

You will receive a Pass/Fail mark in Moodle

Weighting

Pass/Fail

Assessment Criteria

If students have followed the instructions and there are no ethical concerns for the study, then the mark will be 'pass'. Data collection of new studies must not proceed until they have full approval through the ethics committee.

Referencing Style

- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

Submission

Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Complete a CQUniversity Human Research ethics application (or an Animal Research ethics application where appropriate) for a psychology-based research project.

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Ethical practice

Academic Integrity Statement

As a CQUniversity student you are expected to act honestly in all aspects of your academic work.

Any assessable work undertaken or submitted for review or assessment must be your own work. Assessable work is any type of work you do to meet the assessment requirements in the unit, including draft work submitted for review and feedback and final work to be assessed.

When you use the ideas, words or data of others in your assessment, you must thoroughly and clearly acknowledge the source of this information by using the correct referencing style for your unit. Using others' work without proper acknowledgement may be considered a form of intellectual dishonesty.

Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in your university study ensures the CQUniversity qualification you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

As a student, you are responsible for reading and following CQUniversity's policies, including the [Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure](#). This policy sets out CQUniversity's expectations of you to act with integrity, examples of academic integrity breaches to avoid, the processes used to address alleged breaches of academic integrity, and potential penalties.

What is a breach of academic integrity?

A breach of academic integrity includes but is not limited to plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion, cheating, contract cheating, and academic misconduct. The Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure defines what these terms mean and gives examples.

Why is academic integrity important?

A breach of academic integrity may result in one or more penalties, including suspension or even expulsion from the University. It can also have negative implications for student visas and future enrolment at CQUniversity or elsewhere. Students who engage in contract cheating also risk being blackmailed by contract cheating services.

Where can I get assistance?

For academic advice and guidance, the [Academic Learning Centre \(ALC\)](#) can support you in becoming confident in completing assessments with integrity and of high standard.

What can you do to act with integrity?

**Be Honest**

If your assessment task is done by someone else, it would be dishonest of you to claim it as your own

**Seek Help**

If you are not sure about how to cite or reference in essays, reports etc, then seek help from your lecturer, the library or the Academic Learning Centre (ALC)

**Produce Original Work**

Originality comes from your ability to read widely, think critically, and apply your gained knowledge to address a question or problem