



# PSYC20038 *Positive Psychology: Research Methods*

## Term 2 - 2017

Profile information current as at 19/05/2024 12:25 am

All details in this unit profile for PSYC20038 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

This unit will introduce you to the various methodological approaches to research and evaluation as they relate to positive psychology. You will develop a critical understanding of the research process, and gain knowledge of the theoretical and empirical traditions in positive psychology research and assessment. The unit will help you to become familiar with valid and ethical processes for collecting and analysing data, the importance of data-driven decision making, and measuring the impact of interventions, and evaluating programs, using a range of methods specific to positive psychology research. In this unit you will be encouraged to question why and how research contributes to best practice (and vice versa). You will learn the skills of engaging with research in a critical manner, and consider the ways research can be used to guide design and procedure for interventions. There will be an overarching focus on being a critical consumer and user of research - to inform the formulation of research questions and intervention designs - whilst also recognising the key research foci, drivers, and interests in this domain.

### Details

Career Level: *Postgraduate*

Unit Level: *Level 8*

Credit Points: 6

Student Contribution Band: 10

Fraction of Full-Time Student Load: 0.125

### Pre-requisites or Co-requisites

There are no requisites for this unit.

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 2 - 2017

- Distance

### 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).

### 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 6-credit Postgraduate unit at CQUniversity requires an overall time commitment of an average of 12.5 hours of study per week, making a total of 150 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. **Research Assignment**

Weighting: 25%

#### 2. **Essay**

Weighting: 20%

#### 3. **Online Test**

Weighting: 5%

#### 4. **Critical Review**

Weighting: 50%

### Assessment Grading

This is a graded unit: your overall grade will be calculated from the marks or grades for each assessment task, based on the relative weightings shown in the table above. You must obtain an overall mark for the unit of at least 50%, or an overall grade of 'pass' in order to pass the unit. If any 'pass/fail' tasks are shown in the table above they must also be completed successfully ('pass' grade). You must also meet any minimum mark requirements specified for a particular assessment task, as detailed in the 'assessment task' section (note that in some instances, the minimum mark for a task may be greater than 50%). Consult the [University's Grades and Results Policy](#) for more details of interim results and final grades.

## 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](#).

## Unit Learning Outcomes

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

1. Contrast instruments to evaluate the effectiveness of a range of relevant positive psychology, resilience, and wellbeing interventions
2. Evaluate ethical methods in conducting research and evaluation of positive psychology, resilience, and wellbeing interventions
3. Locate appropriate peer-reviewed and industry-based empirical research relevant to the positive psychology, resilience, and wellbeing domains
4. Interpret contemporary research literature relevant to positive psychology, resilience, and wellbeing
5. Critique current research literature, including why and how this knowledge can inform best practice
6. Discern and communicate research gaps, future directions, and strategies, to enhance the body of knowledge in the positive psychology, resilience, and wellbeing domains.

## Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes



### Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>1 - Research Assignment - 25%</b>			•			
<b>2 - Essay - 20%</b>			•	•	•	
<b>3 - Online Test - 5%</b>		•				
<b>4 - Critical Review - 50%</b>	•			•		•

### Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Learning Outcomes

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>1 - Knowledge</b>	◦	◦	◦	◦	◦	◦
<b>2 - Communication</b>						◦
<b>3 - Cognitive, technical and creative skills</b>	◦		◦	◦	◦	
<b>4 - Research</b>				◦	◦	◦
<b>5 - Self-management</b>	◦		◦			
<b>6 - Ethical and Professional Responsibility</b>		◦				
<b>7 - Leadership</b>						

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>8 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures</b>						

## Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Graduate Attributes

Assessment Tasks	Graduate Attributes							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>1 - Research Assignment - 25%</b>	○	○		○	○			
<b>2 - Essay - 20%</b>	○			○				
<b>3 - Online Test - 5%</b>	○					○		
<b>4 - Critical Review - 50%</b>			○	○				

## Textbooks and Resources

### Textbooks

**There are no required textbooks.**

#### Additional Textbook Information

There are no prescribed books for this unit. A customised workbook will be supplied as part of the coursework.

### 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 6th Edition \(APA 6th edition\)](#)

For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

## Teaching Contacts

**Andrew McClelland** Unit Coordinator  
[a.mcclelland@cqu.edu.au](mailto:a.mcclelland@cqu.edu.au)

## Schedule

### Week 1 - 10 Jul 2017

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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What is research, and what is a researcher?

#### Week 2 - 17 Jul 2017

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
What is research, and what is a researcher?		

#### Week 3 - 24 Jul 2017

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
What is research, and what is a researcher?		

#### Week 4 - 31 Jul 2017

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Understanding and personalising research.		

#### Week 5 - 07 Aug 2017

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Understanding and personalising research.		<b>Research Assignment - Written Assessment</b> Due: Week 5 Friday (11 Aug 2017) 5:00 pm AEST

#### Vacation Week - 14 Aug 2017

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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#### Week 6 - 21 Aug 2017

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Understanding and personalising research.		

#### Week 7 - 28 Aug 2017

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Asking questions and doing research.		

#### Week 8 - 04 Sep 2017

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Asking questions and doing research.		<b>Essay: Developing Research Questions</b> Due: Week 8 Friday (8 Sept 2017) 5:00 pm AEST

#### Week 9 - 11 Sep 2017

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Asking questions and doing research.		

#### Week 10 - 18 Sep 2017

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Asking questions and doing research.		<b>Online Test: Ethics</b> Due: Week 10 Friday (22 Sept 2017) 5:00 pm AEST

#### Week 11 - 25 Sep 2017

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Asking questions and doing research.		

#### Week 12 - 02 Oct 2017

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Bringing it all together.		<b>Critical Review</b> Due: Week 12 Friday (6 Oct 2017) 5:00 am AEST

**Review/Exam Week - 09 Oct 2017**

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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**Exam Week - 16 Oct 2017**

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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## Assessment Tasks

### 1 Research Assignment - Written Assessment

**Assessment Type**

Research Assignment

**Task Description**

In this task, you will begin the process of engaging with peer-reviewed literature in an area that interests you within the domain of Positive Psychology/wellbeing and resilience.

This assessment is in two parts, with requirements detailed below.

Part A. Post in a discussion forum on Moodle

For this part of the assessment, you will need to identify a research interest relating to an area of passion/strong interest for you in the field of Positive Psychology/wellbeing and resilience. In week 2, in the allocated Moodle discussion forum, you will state your chosen area of research interest and provide a brief description of why this area is of interest to you.

Maximum 300 words for the post

Part B. Source three relevant journal articles and write a report

For Part B, you will be required to:

1) Conduct a peer-reviewed journal article search through the CQUniversity library, and source three peer-reviewed articles relevant to the research interest you identified in your week 2 post

2) Write a brief (200-250 words per article) overview of each of your three articles including:

- Why specifically you chose the three journal articles
- The researcher(s) research question of interest
- Each article's significance to your area of interest
- The key findings in each article.

Further information will be provided in the Assessment Guide on the unit Moodle site.

**Assessment Due Date**

Week 5 Friday (11 Aug 2017) 5:00 pm AEST

Your Moodle discussion post is due by Friday 5pm (AEST) in Week 2. The written report is due in Week 5.

**Return Date to Students**

Week 7 Friday (1 Sept 2017)

**Weighting**

25%

**Assessment Criteria**

This assignment will be assessed via a rubric, which will be available on the unit Moodle site.

You will be assessed on:

1. Fulfilling the requirements of posting on the allocated discussion thread
2. The quality and thoughtful effort demonstrated in your post
3. Detailing in your written report the methodology you used to source appropriate peer-reviewed journal articles through the University library
4. The relevance of your chosen peer-reviewed articles to your identified area of interest
5. The quality and accuracy of your reported overview and key findings of each of the chosen journal articles
6. The quality and clarity of your written communication, including appropriate APA referencing.

**Referencing Style**

- [American Psychological Association 6th Edition \(APA 6th edition\)](#)

**Submission**

Online

**Learning Outcomes Assessed**

- Locate appropriate peer-reviewed and industry-based empirical research relevant to the positive psychology, resilience, and wellbeing domains

### **Graduate Attributes**

- Knowledge
- Communication
- Research
- Self-management

## **2 Essay: Developing Research Questions**

### **Assessment Type**

Essay

### **Task Description**

Drawing on the three articles you selected for Assessment 1 - relevant to your chosen area of interest - you will explore and summarise the key 'gaps' in the literature that could be addressed by further research. This should not be a repetition of the limitations or future directions the article/s may identify. Rather, this summary should represent a cohesive consideration of all three articles, and what these articles tell you about future research options or needs. If you desire, you may include additional articles which support/guide your comments, but this is not a compulsory requirement.

Your submission will include:

- a) Detailing your area of interest. This can be copied from your forum post from week two, or modified if you have refined this since the Assessment 1
- b) An analysis and summarised discussion of the 'gaps' in the literature that could be further explored in research, and why this suggested future research would be worthwhile. The three articles you used for Assessment 1 must be included as the basis for your written work.
- c) Formulation of at least one research question, using the guiding principles covered in the unit study material in Moodle
- d) In-text citations, and a reference list (APA style).

The maximum word count for this assessment task is 850 words (not including the References list).

### **Assessment Due Date**

Week 8 Friday (8 Sept 2017) 5:00 pm AEST

### **Return Date to Students**

Week 10 Friday (22 Sept 2017)

### **Weighting**

20%

### **Assessment Criteria**

This assignment will be assessed via a rubric, which will be available on the unit Moodle site.

You will be assessed on:

- Your critical analysis and reporting of gaps/areas for further research in the chosen literature
- Your rationale as to why the identified future research would be of benefit
- Development of a meaningful research question/s using the principles explored in the unit coursework
- The quality and conciseness of your written communication and arguments
- Correct adherence to APA style for in-text citations and the References list.

### **Referencing Style**

- [American Psychological Association 6th Edition \(APA 6th edition\)](#)

### **Submission**

Online

### **Learning Outcomes Assessed**

- Locate appropriate peer-reviewed and industry-based empirical research relevant to the positive psychology, resilience, and wellbeing domains
- Interpret contemporary research literature relevant to positive psychology, resilience, and wellbeing
- Critique current research literature, including why and how this knowledge can inform best practice

### **Graduate Attributes**

- Knowledge
- Research

### 3 Online Test: Ethics

**Assessment Type**

Online Test

**Task Description**

This assessment will be a short online quiz, designed to assess your understanding of fundamental ethics principles, covered in the Moodle unit content.

**Assessment Due Date**

Week 10 Friday (22 Sept 2017) 5:00 pm AEST

**Return Date to Students**

Week 11 Friday (29 Sept 2017)

**Weighting**

5%

**Assessment Criteria**

The quiz will be a multiple choice assessment. All ethics information relevant to the quiz will be covered in the Moodle content. You will be advised on Moodle the specific quiz requirements and scope.

**Referencing Style**

- [American Psychological Association 6th Edition \(APA 6th edition\)](#)

**Submission**

Online

**Learning Outcomes Assessed**

- Evaluate ethical methods in conducting research and evaluation of positive psychology, resilience, and wellbeing interventions

**Graduate Attributes**

- Knowledge
- Ethical and Professional Responsibility

### 4 Critical Review

**Assessment Type**

Critical Review

**Task Description**

In this assessment, you will source and critically evaluate two published research articles. The articles sourced will be your choice, but must be:

1. Peer-reviewed and published in a reputable Journal
2. Relevant to ONE area of interest you have in the Positive Psychology/wellbeing and resilience domain, but this must be a different area of focus than your choice in Assessment 1. You will need to source two journal articles each reporting a study relevant to this chosen area, ensuring that you have not previously critiqued these journal articles in this unit or other units in this course.

Your critical review will include your responses to the following:

- a) What is the predominant area of interest for the researcher/s, and why is the area considered important? (This will be the basis for your introduction).
- b) What is the main research question/s in each article?
- c) Compare and contrast the methodologies used by the researchers
- d) What are the key findings in both publications, and do they appear to be justified?
- e) What are some of the strengths and limitations of each of the research publications?
- f) An evaluation of the clarity of communication in each publication
- g) An evaluation of the researchers' suggestions for future research
- h) An evaluation of the clarity of communication in each publication

Maximum word count: 2000 words.

Further information will be provided in the Assessment Guide and will include requirements for formatting, and the inclusion of subheadings.

Maximum word count: 2000 words.

**Assessment Due Date**

Week 12 Friday (6 Oct 2017) 5:00 am AEST



**Return Date to Students**

Exam Week Friday (20 Oct 2017)

**Weighting**

50%

**Assessment Criteria**

This assignment will be assessed via a rubric, which will be available on the unit Moodle site.

You will be assessed on:

- Your accuracy and reporting of the researchers' predominant research area of interest, and their research questions
- Your ability to interpret, critique and summarise the reported research findings
- The quality of your comparing and contrasting of the research methodologies used in the two journal articles
- The quality and comprehensiveness of your identification of the strengths, weaknesses, and future research directions
- Your evaluation of the clarity of the writing in the articles
- The clarity, conciseness and quality of your written communication and critical thinking
- The correct use of APA style for in-text citations and your References list.

**Referencing Style**

- [American Psychological Association 6th Edition \(APA 6th edition\)](#)

**Submission**

Online

**Learning Outcomes Assessed**

- Contrast instruments to evaluate the effectiveness of a range of relevant positive psychology, resilience, and wellbeing interventions
- Interpret contemporary research literature relevant to positive psychology, resilience, and wellbeing
- Discern and communicate research gaps, future directions, and strategies, to enhance the body of knowledge in the positive psychology, resilience, and wellbeing domains.

**Graduate Attributes**

- Cognitive, technical and creative skills
- Research

## 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