



# RSCH20001 Prepare for Confirmation

## Term 1 - 2018

Profile information current as at 03/05/2024 06:11 pm

All details in this unit profile for RSCH20001 have been officially approved by CQU University 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

Prepare for Confirmation has been designed specifically for students enrolled in a Research Higher Degree at either Masters or Doctoral level. This unit will provide you with the knowledge and skills necessary to clarify the research design of your proposed research project regardless of your discipline area. You will be guided through research terminology, writing at a thesis level and the steps required in the construction of a research project. The unit has four assessments that will scaffold you through the process of writing Section A of the Confirmation of Candidature submission.

#### Details

Career Level: *Postgraduate*

Unit Level: *Not Applicable*

Credit Points: 6

Student Contribution Band: 8

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 1 - 2018

- 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. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 5%

#### 2. **Annotated bibliography**

Weighting: 10%

#### 3. **Report**

Weighting: 15%

#### 4. **Research Proposal**

Weighting: 70%

### 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 Unit evaluations

**Feedback**

The best aspect of this unit is the direct link to the Confirmation of Candidature submission. The pressure of meeting the assessment deadlines helped to submit the Confirmation of Candidature document on time.

**Recommendation**

Keep working with the Research Division to update the unit resources and assessment in line with current policy.

#### Feedback from Unit evaluations

**Feedback**

Would like more interaction among the student group.

**Recommendation**

Actively encouraging students to share their assessments in the Group Discussion Forum and to comment on each other's assessment. Students encouraged to attend Research Intensive workshop to meet other students face-to-face.

#### Feedback from Unit evaluations

**Feedback**

Current resources on the Moodle site are excellent. Some visual learners would like more videos. Textbook aimed more to Social Science students.

**Recommendation**

Update resources every term and try to incorporate different forms of resources, print and video. New textbook will be introduced in 2018 to cover a diversity of research approaches.

#### Feedback from Unit evaluations

**Feedback**

Unit coordinator gave very helpful and informative feedback in a timely manner.

**Recommendation**

Continue to provide individualised feedback to every student as they are all working on their own unique projects.

## Unit Learning Outcomes

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

1. Write using the language of research
2. Construct a Literature Review by critically analysing and synthesising references that have been located manually and/or electronically from a variety of sources
3. Critique a range of research approaches and paradigms that guide the systematic approach to conducting a research project
4. Integrate theory into the design of a research project
5. Apply critical and analytical skills and academic standards to research project design and thesis writing
6. Evaluate data collection and analysis methods
7. Create a research proposal.

## Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes





## Textbooks and Resources

### Textbooks

RSCH20001

#### Prescribed

#### **Research Design: Quantitative, Qualitative, Mixed Methods, Arts-Based, and Community-Based Participatory Research Approaches**

(2017)

Authors: Patricia Leavy

The Guilford Press

New York , New York , United States of America

ISBN: 9781462514380

Binding: Other

#### **Additional Textbook Information**

Note: It is imperative that you purchase this textbook. This textbook is a clear and practical guide to the research process. It is a well-written introduction to the foundations of research and covers five approaches to research design. It is a book that you will be able to use long after you complete this unit.

[View textbooks at the CQUniversity Bookshop](#)

### 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 styles below:**

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

For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

## Teaching Contacts

**Jo Luck** Unit Coordinator

[j.luck@cqu.edu.au](mailto:j.luck@cqu.edu.au)

## Schedule

### **Week 1 - 05 Mar 2018**

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
<b>Research foundations: Topic 1 - The language of research</b>	Preface and Chapter 1	

### **Week 2 - 12 Mar 2018**

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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<b>Research foundations: Topic 2 - Information literacy</b>	Unit readings	<b>Preliminary research topic</b> Due Friday (16 March 2018) 4:00 PM AEST
		<b>Preliminary research topic</b> Due: Week 2 Friday (16 Mar 2018) 4:00 pm AEST
<b>Week 3 - 19 Mar 2018</b>		
<b>Module/Topic</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Events and Submissions/Topic</b>
<b>Research foundations: Topic 3 - Literature review</b>	Chapter 3 plus unit readings	
<b>Week 4 - 26 Mar 2018</b>		
<b>Module/Topic</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Events and Submissions/Topic</b>
<b>Research processes: Topic 4 - Research paradigms</b>	Unit readings	
<b>Week 5 - 02 Apr 2018</b>		
<b>Module/Topic</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Events and Submissions/Topic</b>
<b>Research processes: Topic 5 - The role of theory</b>	Unit readings	<b>Annotated bibliography</b> Due Friday (6 April 2018) 4:00 PM AEST
		<b>Annotated Bibliography</b> Due: Week 5 Friday (6 Apr 2018) 4:00 pm AEST
<b>Vacation Week - 09 Apr 2018</b>		
<b>Module/Topic</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Events and Submissions/Topic</b>
<b>Non-teaching week</b>		
<b>Week 6 - 16 Apr 2018</b>		
<b>Module/Topic</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Events and Submissions/Topic</b>
<b>Research processes: Topic 6 - Research design</b>	Chapter 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 plus unit readings	
<b>Week 7 - 23 Apr 2018</b>		
<b>Module/Topic</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Events and Submissions/Topic</b>
<b>Research processes: Topic 7 - Analysis of data</b>	Unit readings	
<b>Week 8 - 30 Apr 2018</b>		
<b>Module/Topic</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Events and Submissions/Topic</b>
<b>The research thesis: Topic 8 - Academic standards &amp; Ethics</b>	Chapter 2 plus unit readings	
<b>Week 9 - 07 May 2018</b>		
<b>Module/Topic</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Events and Submissions/Topic</b>
<b>The research thesis: Topic 9 - Structure of a thesis Topic 10 - Project planning and management</b>	Unit readings	<b>Research design</b> Due Friday (11 May 2018) 4:00 PM AEST
		<b>Research design</b> Due: Week 9 Friday (11 May 2018) 4:00 pm AEST
<b>Week 10 - 14 May 2018</b>		
<b>Module/Topic</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Events and Submissions/Topic</b>
<b>The research thesis: Topic 11 - The research proposal</b>	Unit readings	

Week 11 - 21 May 2018		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Work on Confirmation of Candidature (Section A)		
Week 12 - 28 May 2018		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Work on Confirmation of Candidature (Section A)		Complete unit feedback survey in Moodle - the red "Have your say" button.
Review/Exam Week - 04 Jun 2018		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Finalise and submit Confirmation of Candidature (Section A)		<p><b>Confirmation of Candidature (Section A)</b> Due Friday (8 June 2018) 4:00 PM AEST</p> <p><b>Confirmation of Candidature (Section A)</b> Due: Review/Exam Week Friday (8 June 2018) 4:00 pm AEST</p>
Exam Week - 11 Jun 2018		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

## Term Specific Information

### Unit Coordinator's contact details:

Dr Jo Luck

Email: j.luck@cqu.edu.au

Telephone: +61 7 4930 9550

Address: Building 32, Rockhampton North.

Skype: jo.luck

## Assessment Tasks

### 1 Preliminary research topic

#### Assessment Type

Written Assessment

#### Task Description

In this assessment item you need to complete the proforma provided in the assessment details on the Moodle unit website. It is designed to provide an overview of your proposed research topic.

**Please note: you need to ask your research supervisor(s) which referencing style you should be using when writing your thesis.** Use that referencing style for all your written submissions in this unit. Two common referencing styles are Harvard (author-date) and American Psychological Association (APA) referencing style but some research discipline areas will require a different referencing style. For more information about common referencing styles used at Central Queensland University see the [CQUniversity referencing guides](#).

#### Assessment Due Date

Week 2 Friday (16 Mar 2018) 4:00 pm AEST

#### Return Date to Students

Week 4 Friday (30 Mar 2018)

#### Weighting

5%

#### Assessment Criteria

This first assessment item is a one to two page proforma designed to collect information about your proposed research

topic. It will be assessed as Pass or Fail. More details are available on the Moodle unit website.

### Referencing Style

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

### Submission

Online

### Submission Instructions

Upload your assessment as a MS-Word file onto the Moodle unit website.

### Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Write using the language of research

### Graduate Attributes

- Knowledge
- Communication
- Cognitive, technical and creative skills
- Research
- Self-management
- Ethical and Professional Responsibility
- Leadership

## 2 Annotated Bibliography

### Assessment Type

Annotated bibliography

### Task Description

An annotated bibliography is a list of reference materials that includes a summary of the main ideas presented in each reference and evaluates how useful the reference is for your purposes. Each entry is comprised of basic bibliographical information presented in a standard referencing style (e.g. Harvard, APA) followed by a brief note or "annotation". The annotation usually provides a summary of key points and an evaluation or critique of the ideas discussed in the reference. In addition, you should state how it relates to your proposed research topic.

Annotated bibliographies can vary in style depending on the purpose and the referencing style used. They are usually arranged in alphabetical order by author.

You were required to choose a (preliminary) research topic by the end of Week 2 in consultation with your research supervisor(s). Prepare an annotated bibliography of 10-15 high quality journal articles, conference papers and/or books closely related to your proposed research topic. Use the standard referencing style for your research discipline area as advised by your research supervisor(s).

The full assessment specification is available on the Moodle unit website.

### Assessment Due Date

Week 5 Friday (6 Apr 2018) 4:00 pm AEST

### Return Date to Students

Week 7 Friday (27 Apr 2018)

### Weighting

10%

### Assessment Criteria

The annotations must **not** simply be a review of the content. **You need to demonstrate your ability to critically evaluate and analyse the literature and explain how it is relevant to your proposed research topic.** It would be expected that the literature discovered in this assignment would also be relevant to assessment items 3 and 4 in this unit.

Overview of the assessment criteria:

- introduction linking annotated bibliography to the proposed research project;
- clear, concise summary of each reference;
- evaluation of author(s)' credentials;
- linking the annotations to your proposed research topic;
- critical analysis of the references;
- use of an appropriate referencing style;
- correct spelling and grammar.



The full description of the assessment details and assessment criteria are available on the Moodle unit website. It will be assessed as Pass or Fail.

### Referencing Style

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

### Submission

Online

### Submission Instructions

Upload your assessment as a MS-Word file onto the Moodle unit website.

### Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Construct a Literature Review by critically analysing and synthesising references that have been located manually and/or electronically from a variety of sources
- Critique a range of research approaches and paradigms that guide the systematic approach to conducting a research project

### Graduate Attributes

- Knowledge
- Communication
- Cognitive, technical and creative skills
- Research
- Self-management
- Ethical and Professional Responsibility
- Leadership

## 3 Research design

### Assessment Type

Report

### Task Description

This assessment item requires you to build on the research foundations, research processes, research methods and practices that you have explored in this unit. It is expected that by this time you will have a clearly defined research project in consultation with your research supervisor(s). Guided by theory and your examination of the research methodologies used by authors in the references you have analysed, you should be able to formulate a research design for your proposed research project.

This assessment item requires you to describe the overall research strategy that you will employ to integrate the various components of your proposed research project in a logical and coherent manner. The research design must ensure that you will effectively address the research problem you have identified. It must include an outline of the research questions and/or hypotheses you propose to answer and the research methodology, research methods and techniques you intend to use to collect and analyse data. You should identify one or two research questions and/or hypotheses, and two or three research methods/techniques that you intend to utilise to collect and analyse data for your proposed research project. Note that hypotheses are not always required, if they are it is usually for Quantitative research. Some references annotated in Assessment item 2 may be further analysed in terms of the research design, methodology and methods/techniques that were utilised to collect and analyse data. This not only helps you to select the most appropriate research design for your proposed research project, it also allows you to track the research frontier in a specific area of research.

### Assessment Due Date

Week 9 Friday (11 May 2018) 4:00 pm AEST

### Return Date to Students

Week 11 Friday (25 May 2018)

### Weighting

15%

### Assessment Criteria

Overview of the assessment criteria:

- clear description of your proposed research project, aims and objectives;
- appropriateness of your research questions and/or hypotheses;
- linkage between the proposed research topic and the research design, methodology and methods;
- analysis of research methods/techniques;

- rationale for your research design;
- justification of the suitability of the methods/techniques to the proposed research project;
- conclusion accurately sums up your research design;
- use of an appropriate referencing style;
- academic writing style suitable to a RHD thesis;
- correct spelling and grammar.

The full descriptions of the assessment details and assessment criteria are available on the Moodle unit website. It will be assessed as Pass or Fail.

### Referencing Style

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

### Submission

Online

### Submission Instructions

Upload your assessment as a MS-Word file onto the Moodle unit website.

### Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Integrate theory into the design of a research project
- Apply critical and analytical skills and academic standards to research project design and thesis writing
- Evaluate data collection and analysis methods

### Graduate Attributes

- Knowledge
- Communication
- Cognitive, technical and creative skills
- Research
- Self-management
- Ethical and Professional Responsibility
- Leadership

## 4 Confirmation of Candidature (Section A)

### Assessment Type

Research Proposal

### Task Description

This assessment item requires you to complete the equivalent of Confirmation of Candidature (Section A) for your proposed research project. You should draw upon work undertaken in Assessment items 2 and 3 to assist in writing this assessment item. The Confirmation of Candidature (Section A) assessment aligns with the requirements for the Confirmation of Candidature submission as per CQUniversity's Confirmation of Candidature Procedure. The level of detail required in the Confirmation of Candidature (Section A) assessment will depend on both the nature and level of the research project you are undertaking (ie, Masters by Research, Doctor Professional Studies, Doctor of Education or Doctor of Philosophy) and other specific requirements required by your research supervisor(s) and the University's policies.

The Confirmation of Candidature (Section A) assessment should be approximately 5,000 words and contain:

- A Thesis Title, of no more than 25 words, which should be descriptive and unambiguous;
- A Thesis Abstract of no more than 250 words;
- A Table of Contents;
- An Introduction;
- A statement describing the Aims, Objectives and Research Questions and/or Hypotheses;
- A Review of Literature, which should be conducted within an appropriate analytical framework to provide new knowledge (for example, a systematic, integrative or meta-analysis review), rather than a descriptive summary;
- A statement of the candidate's proposed contribution to the field of research (appropriate to the degree being sought);
- A description of the project methodology, methods and/or research design;
- A thesis plan (chapter outline and identification of prospective publications arising);
- Conclusion; and
- References.

You are encouraged to frequently discuss issues encountered during the development of your Confirmation of

Candidature (Section A) with your research supervisor(s). You should also consult University policies and procedures regarding the requirements for the degree in which you are enrolled.

**Assessment Due Date**

Review/Exam Week Friday (8 June 2018) 4:00 pm AEST

**Return Date to Students**

Certification Day Friday July 6 2018

**Weighting**

70%

**Minimum mark or grade**

Pass

**Assessment Criteria**

Overview of assessment criteria:

- abstract accurately summarises the proposed research project;
- table of contents contains the main headings and sub-headings;
- introduction clearly introduces the proposed research project;
- realistic aims and objectives linking to your anticipated outcomes;
- research questions and/or hypotheses that address the research problem;
- critical analysis of the literature;
- accurate statement of proposed contribution to the field of research;
- research design is clearly articulated and justified;
- appropriateness of the research design/methodology, methods;
- realistic thesis plan;
- conclusion summarises the main points;
- use of an appropriate referencing style;
- correct formatting and layout (including Title Page and electronically generated Table of Contents);
- academic style, correct spelling and grammar.

The full description of the assessment details and assessment criteria are available on the Moodle unit website. It will be assessed as Pass or Fail.

**Referencing Style**

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

**Submission**

Online

**Submission Instructions**

Upload your assessment as a MS-Word file onto the Moodle unit website.

**Learning Outcomes Assessed**

- Write using the language of research
- Construct a Literature Review by critically analysing and synthesising references that have been located manually and/or electronically from a variety of sources
- Critique a range of research approaches and paradigms that guide the systematic approach to conducting a research project
- Integrate theory into the design of a research project
- Apply critical and analytical skills and academic standards to research project design and thesis writing
- Evaluate data collection and analysis methods
- Create a research proposal.

**Graduate Attributes**

- Knowledge
- Communication
- Cognitive, technical and creative skills
- Research
- Self-management
- Ethical and Professional Responsibility
- Leadership

## 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