RSCH20001 *Prepare for Confirmation*
Term 3 - 2018

Profile information current as at 01/05/2024 10:59 pm

All details in this unit profile for RSCH20001 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

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 3 - 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](#).

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
Having lectures/tutorials or something similar.

Recommendation
Will implement Q&A session for assessments 2, 3 and 4 the week before they are due so that students may ask questions to clarify the assessment requirements.

Feedback from Unit evaluations.

Feedback
Having more assessment exemplars available.

Recommendation
Will seek permission from past students to upload their assessments as exemplars and provide links to the CoC exemplars in Research Moodle.

Feedback from Unit evaluations.

Feedback
Involving an expert in mathematical or engineering research.

Recommendation
Will explore creating video resources of experts talking about how to plan out research projects in mathematics and engineering.

Feedback from Unit evaluations.

Feedback
The assessments in this unit helped to pull the supervisor's focus to the student project.

Recommendation
Continue to work closely with RHD supervisors to ensure consistent and constructive feedback is provided to each student.

Feedback from Unit evaluations.

Feedback
The constructive feedback and support provided in this unit helped to frame the project plan and scaffold writing Section A of the CoC submission. The unit helped students to understand the language of research and make the CoC process less daunting.

Recommendation
Continue to provide clear, constructive feedback to improve the students' academic writing skills and build their confidence when writing. Ensure students understand the importance of their writing being able to be understood by a lay-person.

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

—	N/A Level	○	Introductory Level	●	Intermediate Level	●	Graduate Level	○	Professional Level	○	Advanced Level

Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes						
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**
1 - Written Assessment - 5%	●						
2 - Annotated bibliography - 10%		●	●				
3 - Report - 15%				●	●	●	
4 - Research Proposal - 70%	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Learning Outcomes

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes						
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**
1 - Knowledge	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
2 - Communication	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
3 - Cognitive, technical and creative skills	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
4 - Research	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
5 - Self-management	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
6 - Ethical and Professional Responsibility	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
7 - Leadership		○	○	○	○	○	○

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 - 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
1 - Written Assessment - 5%	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
2 - Annotated bibliography - 10%	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
3 - Report - 15%	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
4 - Research Proposal - 70%	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	

Textbooks and Resources

Textbooks
RSCH20001

Prescribed

The essential guide to doing your research project
Edition: 3rd (2017)
Authors: Zina O'Leary
Sage Publications Ltd
London , UK
ISBN: 978-1-4739-5208-9
Binding: Paperback

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 writing your research proposal. You will be able to use this book for the rest of your study. Copies are available at the CQUni Bookshop here: http://bookshop.cqu.edu.au (search on the Unit code).

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

Bobby Harreveld Unit Coordinator
b.harreveld@cqu.edu.au

Schedule

Week 1 - 05 Nov 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Research foundations: Topic 1 - The language and process of research	Chapters 1 & 2	

Week 2 - 12 Nov 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Research foundations: Topic 2: Developing your research questions and/or hypotheses	Chapter 3 plus Unit readings	**Preliminary research topic** Due: Week 2 Friday (16 Nov 2018) 4:00 pm AEST

Week 3 - 19 Nov 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Research foundations: Topic 3 - Information literacy and reviewing the literature	Chapter 6 plus Unit readings	

Week 4 - 26 Nov 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Research processes: Topic 4 - Crafting the research proposal Topic 5 - Ethics and academic integrity	Chapters 4 & 5 plus Unit readings	

Vacation Week - 03 Dec 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Non-teaching week		

Week 5 - 10 Dec 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Research processes: Topic 6 - Research design	Chapter 7 plus Unit readings	**Annotated Bibliography/Initial Literature Review** Due: Week 5 Friday (14 Dec 2018) 4:00 pm AEST

Week 6 - 17 Dec 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Research processes: Topic 7 - Research paradigms	Chapters 8, 9 & 10 plus Unit readings	

Week 7 - 31 Dec 2018

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Research processes: **Topic 8 - Collection of data**	Chapters 11, 12 & 13 plus Unit readings	

Week 8 - 07 Jan 2019

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
The research thesis: **Topic 9 - Analysis of data**	Chapters 14 & 15 plus unit readings	

Week 9 - 14 Jan 2019

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
The research thesis: **Topic 10 - Structure of a thesis**	Unit readings	**Research design** Due: Week 9 Friday (18 Jan 2019) 4:00 pm AEST

Week 10 - 21 Jan 2019

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
The research thesis: **Topic 11 - Project planning and management** **Topic 12 - The writing process and disseminating your work**	Chapter 16 plus Unit readings	

Week 11 - 28 Jan 2019

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Work on Confirmation of Candidature (Section A)		

Week 12 - 04 Feb 2019

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. **Confirmation of Candidature (Section A)** Due: Week 12 Friday (8 Feb 2019) 4:00 pm AEST

Exam Week - 11 Feb 2019

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Term Specific Information

Unit Coordinator's contact details:
Professor Bobby Harreveld
Email: b.harreveld@cqu.edu.au
Telephone: +61 7 49232391
Address: Room 2.37, Building 33, Rockhampton North

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 Nov 2018) 4:00 pm AEST

Return Date to Students
Week 4 Friday (30 Nov 2018)
Assessments are usually marked and returned in the order they were submitted for marking.

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. The full assessment specification is 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/Initial Literature Review

Assessment Type
Annotated bibliography

Task Description
You have two options for this assessment.
Option A: Annotated Bibliography
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 are required to prepare an annotated bibliography of 10-15 high-quality journal articles, refereed 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).
Option B: Initial Literature Review
A Literature Review is a written report of previous research, theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches related to your proposed study. It should document the connections you have made between the source texts that you draw upon and where you position your research among the existent literature. It should demonstrate to the reader that you have engaged with, understood and responded to the relevant body of knowledge underpinning your proposed research project. The Literature Review should summarise, critically evaluate, synthesise, and clearly link the literature

to your proposed project.

For this assessment it is suggested that you focus upon one aspect of the Literature Review e.g. (a) highlight the gap in the existing research that needs to be filled; (b) contextualise your study in the theoretical literature; (c) support the choice of methodology and methods you propose to use in your study.

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

Assessment Due Date

Week 5 Friday (14 Dec 2018) 4:00 pm AEST

Return Date to Students

Week 7 Friday (4 Jan 2019)

Assessments are usually marked and returned in the order they were submitted for marking.

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 provided the context for selecting the references and linked the annotated bibliography/literature review to the proposed research project;
- clear, concise academic writing;
- evaluation of author(s) credentials;
- linkage of each annotation to your proposed research topic (Option A), linkage of each theme to your proposed research topic (Option B);
- critical analysis of the references;
- correct layout for an annotated bibliography or literature review;
- used an appropriate referencing style;
- correct spelling and grammar.

The full description of the assessment requirements 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 the research aims and objectives, 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 for your proposed research project.

Note that hypotheses are not always required. If they are it is usually for Quantitative research.

Some references used 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 may help you to select the most the appropriate research design for your proposed research project, it also allows you to track the research frontier in a specific area of research.

You should work closely with your supervisory team to construct this assessment.

Assessment Due Date
Week 9 Friday (18 Jan 2019) 4:00 pm AEST

Return Date to Students
Week 11 Friday (1 Feb 2019)
Assessments are usually marked and returned in the order they were submitted for marking.

Weighting
15%

Assessment Criteria
Overview of the assessment criteria:

- a clear description of your proposed research project, aims and objectives;
- appropriateness of your research questions and/or hypotheses;
- the linkage between the proposed research topic and the research design, methodology and methods/techniques;
- analysis and justification of research methods/techniques;
- justification of the suitability of the methods/techniques to the proposed research project;
- conclusion accurately sums up your research design;
- used an appropriate referencing style;
- academic writing style suitable to an RHD thesis;
- correct spelling and grammar.

The full assessment specification (requirements and assessment criteria) is 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 Central Queensland University'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 (i.e. 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 6,000 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 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
Week 12 Friday (8 Feb 2019) 4:00 pm AEST

Return Date to Students

Certification Day: Friday March 1, 2019

Weighting
70%

Minimum mark or grade
Pass

Assessment Criteria
Overview of assessment criteria:

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

The full assessment specification (requirements and assessment criteria) is 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