

Profile information current as at 02/05/2024 01:27 am

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 proposal. The unit has four assessments that will scaffold you through the process of writing Section A of the Confirmation of Candidature portfolio 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 <u>Assessment Policy and Procedure (Higher Education Coursework)</u>.

Offerings For Term 1 - 2020

Online

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. Annotated bibliography

Weighting: 5%

2. Literature Review or Systematic Review

Weighting: 10%

3. Research Assignment

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 Discussions with students in Zoom-enabled classes. Feedback from Dean, School Graduate Research, DDRs, RHD Leads, and Supervisor survey.

Feedback

The feedback on marked assessments was easy to understand and relevant. The assessments provided detailed quidance about what was needed for Section A of the CoC.

Recommendation

Keep providing targetted, formative feedback on the assessments to help students to construct Section A of the CoC. Assessments 1 and 2 were amended in Term 2, 2019. A1: Annotated Bibliography. A2: Initial Literature Review.

Feedback from Unit Evaluations

Feedback

Enhance the information on the assessment criteria in the assessment specifications.

Recommendation

Update and enhance the assessment criteria and requirements.

Feedback from Unit Evaluations

Feedback

Weekly News Forum posts were very helpful in keeping the students on track to complete their work and the assessments.

Recommendation

Keep posting regularly to the News Forum.

Feedback from Unit Evaluations Discussions with students in class.

Feedback

The Zoom Confirmation Conversations were very helpful and great that the recordings were made available to watch later. When students are sharing their work on Zoom they tended to go over time. Students sharing their work on the General Discussion Forum was easier to follow and allowed us to keep a record of feedback.

Recommendation

Keep running the Zoom-enabled classes. Set clear guidelines for students when presenting in class. Create more opportunities to share student work on the General Discussion Forum.

Feedback from Unit Evaluations

Feedback

It would be good to involve the supervisors more in this unit so that they can better support the students. The Unit Coordinator and supervisors could help construct an individual learning plan for each student. There is a lot of information on the Moodle site.

Recommendation

The Unit Coordinator and Dean Graduate Research are exploring the option of making this unit available as a fully flexible unit that would support the implementation of an individual, self-paced learning program.

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



Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1 - Annotated bibliography - 5%	•						
2 - Literature Review or Systematic Review - 10%		•	•				
3 - Research Assignment - 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	0	o	0	0	0	0	o
2 - Communication	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 - Cognitive, technical and creative skills	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 - Research	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 - Self-management	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6 - Ethical and Professional Responsibility	0	0	0	0	0	0	o
7 - Leadership		0	0	0	٥	0	o

Graduate Attributes		I	Learn	ing O	utcomes				
			1 2	2 3	4	5	6	7	
8 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures									
Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Graduate	e Attribut	es							
Assessment Tasks	Graduate Attributes								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1 - Annotated bibliography - 5%	1 0	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1 - Annotated bibliography - 5% 2 - Literature Review or Systematic Review - 10%	_							8	
	0	٥	٥	o	o	o	o	8	

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 styles below:

- American Psychological Association 6th Edition (APA 6th edition)
- Harvard (author-date)

For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

Teaching Contacts

Teresa Moore Unit Coordinator t.moore@cqu.edu.au

Schedule

Week 1 - 09 Mar 2020

Module/Topic

Chapter

Events and Submissions/Topic

Topic 1: Communication and the language of research	Chapters 1 & 2 plus Unit Readings	
Week 2 - 16 Mar 2020		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Topic 2 - Ethics and academic integrity Topic 3: Information literacy and the place of literature	Chapter 4 & 6 plus Unit Readings	Annotated Bibliography Due: Week 2 Monday (16 Mar 2020) 11:45 pm AEST
Week 3 - 23 Mar 2020		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Topic 4: Using literature to develop research questions and/or hypotheses	Chapter 3 & 6 plus Unit readings	
Week 4 - 30 Mar 2020		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Topic 5: research design - developing aims/objectives to fit your Research Question	Chapters 3 & 5 plus Unit Readings	
Week 5 - 06 Apr 2020		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Topic 6: Research design - making it practical	Chapter 8 & 9 plus Unit Readings	Initial Literature Review Due: Week 5 Monday (6 Apr 2020) 11:45 pm AEST
Vacation Week - 13 Apr 2020		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Non-teaching week		
Week 6 - 20 Apr 2020		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Topic 7: Positioning your research and the role of theory	Chapters 11 & 12 plus Unit Readings	
Week 7 - 27 Apr 2020		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Topic 8: Data collection methods	Chapters 13 & 14 plus Unit Readings	
Week 8 - 04 May 2020		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Topic 9: Data analysis	Chapters 5 plus unit Readings	Research Design Due: Week 8 Monday (4 May 2020) 11:45 pm AEST
Week 9 - 11 May 2020		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Topic 10: Crafting the research proposal	Chapter 15 & Unit Readings	
Week 10 - 18 May 2020		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Topic 11: Project management	Chapter 16 plus Unit Readings	
Week 11 - 25 May 2020		
Module/Topic		

Topic 12: Bringing it all toge Work on Confirmation of Candidature (Section A)	ther	Complete unit feedback survey in Moodle - the red "Have your say" button.
Week 12 - 01 Jun 2020		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Work on Confirmation of Candidature (Section A)		Confirmation of Candidature (Section A) Due: Week 12 Monday (1 June 2020) 11:45 pm AEST
Review/Exam Week - 08 Jun 20	020	
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Exam Week - 15 Jun 2020		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Assessment Tasks

1 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 evaluation or critique of the ideas discussed in the reference. In addition, you should state how it relates to your proposed research topic. The Annotated Bibliography needs to demonstrate your ability to critically evaluate and analyse the literature and relate its relevance to your proposed research project.

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 3 high-quality journal articles closely related to your proposed research topic. Use the standard referencing style for your research discipline area as advised by your research supervisor(s).

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.

You should submit a draft of your assessment to your supervisors and allow enough time for them to provide feedback before you submit this assessment for marking.

Note: Always submit your assessments in the correct Assessment link on the RSCH20001 Moodle site.

Assessment Due Date

Week 2 Monday (16 Mar 2020) 11:45 pm AEST

Return Date to Students

Week 4 Monday (30 Mar 2020)

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

Weighting

5%

Assessment Criteria

The full description of the assessment requirements and assessment criteria is available on the Moodle unit website.

The annotations must not simply be a review of the content of the references. 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 2, 3 and 4 in this unit.

Overview of the assessment criteria

- introduction provided the context for selecting the references and linked the annotated bibliography to the proposed research project;
- a clear, concise summary of each reference;
- clear, concise academic writing;
- evaluation of the author(s) credentials;
- linkage of each annotation to your proposed research topic;
- critical analysis of the references;
- correct layout for an annotated bibliography;
- used an appropriate referencing style;
- correct spelling and grammar.

It will be assessed as Commendable (Pass), Satisfactory (Pass) or Unsatisfactory (Fail).

Referencing Style

- American Psychological Association 6th Edition (APA 6th edition)
- Harvard (author-date)

Submission

Online

Submission Instructions

Upload your assessment as an MS-Word file in the Assessment 1 link in the Assessment block of 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 Initial Literature Review

Assessment Type

Literature Review or Systematic Review

Task Description

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:

- (a) highlight the gap in the existing research that needs to be filled; or
- (b) contextualise your study in the theoretical literature; or
- (c) support the choice of methodology and methods you propose to use in your study.

Remember to submit a draft of your assessment to your supervisors and allow enough time for them to provide feedback before you submit this assessment for marking.

Assessment Due Date

Week 5 Monday (6 Apr 2020) 11:45 pm AEST

Return Date to Students

Week 6 Monday (20 Apr 2020)

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

Weighting

10%

Assessment Criteria

The full description of the assessment requirements and assessment criteria is available on the Moodle unit website.

The literature review must **not** simply be a review of the content of the references. **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. It should go beyond being a descriptive annotated bibliography. It should **synthesise the literature into themes**.

Overview of the assessment criteria

- introduction described the purpose of the literature review and linked the literature review to the proposed research project;
- provided the context for selecting the references and a clear description of the criteria used to select the literature:
- used clear, concise academic writing;
- synthesised the literature into themes and linked each theme to your proposed research topic;
- critical analysis of the references;
- conclusion summed up the major contributions of the literature and clearly identified the significance of the literature to your proposed research topic;
- correct layout for a literature review;
- used an appropriate referencing style;
- correct spelling and grammar.

It will be assessed as Commendable (Pass), Satisfactory (Pass) or Unsatisfactory (Fail).

Referencing Style

- American Psychological Association 6th Edition (APA 6th edition)
- Harvard (author-date)

Submission

Online

Submission Instructions

Upload your assessment as an MS-Word file in the Assessment 2 link in the Assessment block of 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

Research Assignment

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.

You need 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 items 1 and 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 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. Remember to allow time to submit a draft of your assessment to your supervisors to allow them to provide feedback before you submit this assessment for marking.

Assessment Due Date

Week 8 Monday (4 May 2020) 11:45 pm AEST

Return Date to Students

Week 10 Monday (18 May 2020)

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

Weighting

15%

Assessment Criteria

The full assessment specification (requirements and assessment criteria) is available on the Moodle unit website.

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.

It will be assessed as Commendable (Pass), Satisfactory (Pass) or Unsatisfactory (Fail).

Referencing Style

- American Psychological Association 6th Edition (APA 6th edition)
- Harvard (author-date)

Submission

Online

Submission Instructions

Upload your assessment as an MS-Word file in the Assessment 3 link in the Assessment block of 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 1, 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 5,000-10,000 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. Remember to allow time to submit a draft of your assessment to your supervisors to allow them to provide feedback before you submit this assessment for marking.

Please note, that for this final assessment extensions will be approved in extenuating circumstances only and must be supported by evidence, for example, a Doctor's certificate.

Assessment Due Date

Week 12 Monday (1 June 2020) 11:45 pm AEST

Return Date to Students

Review/Exam Week Monday (8 June 2020) Certification Day: Friday March 6, 2020

Weighting

70%

Minimum mark or grade

Pass

Assessment Criteria

The full assessment specification (requirements and assessment criteria) is available on the Moodle unit website.

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 guestions and/or hypotheses that address the research problem;
- critical analysis of the literature;
- an accurate statement of the 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.

It will be assessed as Commendable (Pass), Satisfactory (Pass) or Unsatisfactory (Fail).

Referencing Style

- American Psychological Association 6th Edition (APA 6th edition)
- Harvard (author-date)

Submission

Online

Submission Instructions

Upload your assessment as an MS-Word file in the Assessment 4 link in the Assessment block of 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 <u>Academic Learning Centre (ALC)</u> 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