RSCH20001 *Prepare for Confirmation*
Term 2 - 2020

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 Assessment Policy and Procedure (Higher Education Coursework).

Offerings For Term 2 - 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: Pass/Fail
2. **Literature Review or Systematic Review**
Weighting: Pass/Fail
3. **Research Assignment**
Weighting: Pass/Fail
4. **Research Proposal**
Weighting: Pass/Fail

Assessment Grading

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

CQUniversity Policies

All University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).
You may wish to view these policies:

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

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

Previous Student Feedback

Feedback, Recommendations and Responses

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

Feedback from Student feedback

Feedback
Good alignment of content to CoC preparation

Recommendation
To maintain the close "fit" of the course materials with teaching delivery focused on the stages of preparing the draft CoC document.

Feedback from Student feedback

Feedback
There was always timely response to students queries

Recommendation
To continue with group and individual emails in response to student queries

Feedback from Course coordinator reflection

Feedback
Timing of assignment submission

Recommendation
Some students find the timing of submission stressful however once they have an understanding of the importance of meeting deadlines this is less problematic. A more individualised timing of the assessment submission across the course could be trialed.

Feedback from Dean of School

Feedback
Current teaching and learning delivery strategies

Recommendation
The current course content and delivery is working well however to cater for both part time and full time students a separate timetable of tutorial content delivery could be trialed.

Feedback from Student feedback

Feedback
Involvement of supervisors with the development of assessment content

Recommendation
A reminder to supervisors at the start of each term will be sent outlining the expectations and commitment required from supervisors to support their postgraduate student during the course.

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.

None to note.

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 - Annotated bibliography - 0%	●						
2 - Literature Review or Systematic Review - 0%		●	●				
3 - Research Assignment - 0%				●	●	●	
4 - Research Proposal - 0%	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

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		○	○	○	○	○	○
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 - Annotated bibliography - 0%	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
2 - Literature Review or Systematic Review - 0%	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
3 - Research Assignment - 0%	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	

Assessment Tasks	Graduate Attributes							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4 - Research Proposal - 0%	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	

Textbooks and Resources

Textbooks

RSCH20001

Prescribed

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

Additional Textbook Information
If you prefer to study with a paper copy you can purchase at the CQUni Bookshop here: http://bookshop.cqu.edu.au (search on the Unit code). eBooks can be purchased at the publisher's website.

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:

- Harvard (author-date)
- American Psychological Association 7th Edition (APA 7th edition)

For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

Teaching Contacts

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

Schedule

Week 1 - 13 Jul 2020		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Communication and the language of research	Chapters 1 & 2 plus Unit Readings	

Week 2 - 20 Jul 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Ethics and academic integrity Information literacy and the place of literature	Chapter 4 & 6 plus Unit Readings	**Annotated Bibliography** Due: Week 2 Monday (20 July 2020) 11:45 pm AEST

Week 3 - 27 Jul 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Positioning your research - using theory	Chapters 11 & 12 plus Unit Readings	

Week 4 - 03 Aug 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Literature reviews	Chapter 3 & 6 plus Unit readings	

Week 5 - 10 Aug 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Research design - developing a good research question	Chapters 3 & 5 plus Unit Readings	**Initial Literature Review** Due: Week 5 Monday (10 Aug 2020) 11:45 pm AEST

Vacation Week - 17 Aug 2020

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

Week 6 - 24 Aug 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Research design - making it practical	Chapter 8 & 9 plus Unit Readings	

Week 7 - 31 Aug 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Research design: data management	Chapters 13 & 14 plus Unit Readings	

Week 8 - 07 Sep 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Data analysis	Chapters 5 plus unit Readings	**Research design** Due: Week 8 Monday (7 Sept 2020) 11:45 pm AEST

Week 9 - 14 Sep 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Crafting the research proposal	Chapter 15 & Unit Readings	

Week 10 - 21 Sep 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Project management	Chapter 16 plus Unit Readings	

Week 11 - 28 Sep 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Bringing it all together: finalise Section A of the CoC document		**Complete unit feedback survey** in Moodle - the red "**Have your say**" button.

Week 12 - 05 Oct 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Work on Confirmation of Candidature (Section A)		**Draft research proposal** Due: Week 12 Monday (5 Oct 2020) 11:45 pm AEST
Review/Exam Week - 12 Oct 2020		
Module/Topic	**Chapter**	**Events and Submissions/Topic**
Exam Week - 19 Oct 2020		
Module/Topic	**Chapter**	**Events and Submissions/Topic**

Assessment Tasks

1 Annotated Bibliography

Assessment Type
Annotated bibliography

Task Description
For this task you are required to prepare an annotated bibliography of three (3) journal articles closely related to your proposed research project. Note: The annotations are not simply a review of the content of the reference. Each annotation needs to demonstrate your ability to critically evaluate and analyse the literature and relate its relevance to your proposed research project. A brief description of the author/s credentials is also required.
For further task details please review the assessment area of the moodle site

Assessment Due Date
Week 2 Monday (20 July 2020) 11:45 pm AEST

Return Date to Students
Week 3 Monday (27 July 2020)
If a Fail grade is awarded students are able to resubmit once more within 7 days

Weighting
Pass/Fail

Minimum mark or grade
Re-submit - Pass

Assessment Criteria
The full assessment specification (requirements and assessment criteria) is available on the moodle unit website
Overview of assessment criteria

- introduction is provided that contextualizes the selection of literature to the proposed research project
- full citation with correct referencing style
- evaluation of author/s credentials
- clear and concise summary of each reference
- linkage of each annotation to the proposed research topic
- critical analysis of each annotation
- clear, concise academic writing
- correct spelling an grammar

Referencing Style

- Harvard (author-date)
- American Psychological Association 7th Edition (APA 7th edition)

Submission
Online

Submission Instructions
Submission of assessment is via moodle upload

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
For this task you are required to present an initial literature review, the content of which is a pre-cursor to what you intend to submit in the Literature Review section of your final assessment. It should document the connections you have made between the source texts that you draw upon and where you position your research among the extant 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 summarize, critically evaluate, synthesize, 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. That is, you should do one of the following:

- Use the literature to support the identification of your research problem and use it to highlight the gap in the existing research that needs to be filled; or
- Use the literature to contextualize your study in the theoretical literature by describing and analyzing the theoretical perspective(s) that will inform your proposed study; or
- Use the literature to support the choice of methodology and methods you propose to use in your study.

For further task details please review the assessment area of the moodle site

Assessment Due Date
Week 5 Monday (10 Aug 2020) 11:45 pm AEST

Return Date to Students
Week 6 Monday (24 Aug 2020)
If a Fail grade is awarded students are able to resubmit once more within 7 days

Weighting
Pass/Fail

Minimum mark or grade
Re-submit - Pass

Assessment Criteria
The full assessment specification (requirements and assessment criteria) is available on the moodle unit website

Overview of the assessment criteria

- introduction described the purpose of the review and links review ti the proposed research project
- provided the context for selection of literature and a clear description of the search criteria
- synthesized literature into relevant themes with each theme linked to proposed research topic
- critical analysis of the reviewed literature
- conclusion that summed up the major contributions of the literature and clearly identified the significance of the literature to the research proposal
- correct layout of a literature review
- used a relevant and consistent referencing style
- correct spelling and grammar

Referencing Style

- [Harvard (author-date)](#)
- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition (APA 7th edition)](#)

Submission
Online

Submission Instructions
Submission of assessment is via moodle upload

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
For this task you are required to provide an overview of your research design that identifies the research paradigm, methodology and subsequent research methods (to be used for data collection and/or data analysis) intended for use in your proposed research project. Your choice of research design should build on the research paradigms, approaches or methodology discussed in the unit materials. The overall research strategy that you will employ to integrate the various components of the proposed research project needs to be in a logical and coherent order and must include a statement addressing the aim/s, objectives, the research question/s and/or hypothesis of the project.
For further task details please review the assessment area of the moodle site

Assessment Due Date
Week 8 Monday (7 Sept 2020) 11:45 pm AEST

Return Date to Students
Week 10 Monday (21 Sept 2020)
If a Fail grade is awarded students are able to resubmit once more within 7 days

Weighting
Pass/Fail

Minimum mark or grade
Re-submit - Pass

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 the research project with statement of aim/s and objectives
- appropriateness of the research question/s and /or hypothesis to the proposed project
- the link between the research topic and proposed project design, including methodology, methods /techniques
- analysis and justification of the methodology and methods
- conclusion accurately summing up the research design
- relevant and consistent referencing style
- academic writing style suitable for a RHD thesis

- correct spelling and grammar

Referencing Style

- [Harvard (author-date)](#)
- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition (APA 7th edition)](#)

Submission
Online

Submission Instructions
Submission of assessment is via moodle upload

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 Draft research proposal

Assessment Type
Research Proposal

Task Description
For this task you are required to construct a draft copy of Section A of your CoC submission. It aligns with the requirements of the CoC Submission described in the Confirmation of Candidature Procedure. To construct this assessment, you should draw upon work undertaken in previous Assessment items in this unit (RSCH20001).
The draft Confirmation of Candidature document (section A) should be between 5,000 - 10,000 words and contain the following structure:

- thesis title (no more than 25 words that are descriptive and unambiguous
- thesis abstract (no more than 250 words)
- table of contents
- introduction
- statement of aim/s, objectives, research question/s and/or hypothesis
- literature review containing an appropriate analytical framework (systematic, meta-analysis, integrative, critical review)
- contribution to the field (significance of the proposed research)
- the research design containing research paradigm, methodological approach, methods of data collection and initial analysis
- thesis plan (outlining proposed chapters and possible publication)
- conclusion
- references

For further task details please review the assessment area of the moodle site

Assessment Due Date
Week 12 Monday (5 Oct 2020) 11:45 pm AEST
Please note that extensions will not be approved unless there are extenuating circumstances supported by a medical certificate. Any late submissions will result in a "Fail" grade for this assessment. Unfortunately as per the Higher Education Assessment Policy this also means a grade of Fail for the course.

Return Date to Students
Week 12 Monday (5 Oct 2020)
assignments will be uploaded once marking is complete

Weighting
Pass/Fail

Minimum mark or grade
Pass

Assessment Criteria
The full assessment specification (requirements and assessment criteria) is available on the moodle unit website

Overview of the assessment criteria

- abstract accurately summarizes the proposed research project
- table of contents wit correct headings and sub-headings
- introduction clearly introduces the study
- realistic aim/s and objectives that link to anticipated outcomes
- research question/s and/or hypothesis that address the research problem
- critical analysis of the literature
- accurate statement of proposed contribution to the field
- the research design is clearly articulated and justified
- appropriateness of the research design to the project
- realistic thesis plan
- conclusion summarizing the main points of the research design
- correct formatting and layout
- written in an academic style suitable for a thesis document
- correct spelling and grammar

Referencing Style

- [Harvard (author-date)](#)
- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition (APA 7th edition)](#)

Submission
Online

Submission Instructions
Submission of assessment is via moodle upload

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