RSCH20001 *Prepare for Confirmation*
Term 1 - 2022

Profile information current as at 16/05/2024 06:45 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 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 1 - 2022

* 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 Dean, School of Graduate Research

Feedback
There has been ongoing discussion about refining the delivery of RSCH20001 to ensure candidates are well prepared for their Confirmation milestone. This has included trialling of supplementary content delivery by the library and English support teams under the 2021 'Action Learning Project' within Research Division.

Recommendation

Continued adaptation and trialing of unit delivery, to allow for flexible pathways for students and input of expertise from library, English writing and other support areas.

Feedback from Research Course Committee

Feedback

Discussions at RCC have highlighted the importance of supervisor engagement during the unit. This AUER refers to the Term 1 delivery, however in Term 2 delivery, a modification has been implemented to the assessment to require students to engage with and reflect on supervisory imput.

Recommendation

Continued clarification and focus on the respective roles of the Coursework teaching staff and RHD supervisors as a team effort to support student progress and skill development.

Feedback from Melissa Drake

Feedback

A number of students required English language writing support

Recommendation

Include group sessions for students requiring extra writing support with English language.

Feedback from Cheryl Bookalil (casual marker for the unit)

Feedback

Referencing and formatting

Recommendation

Include brief paragraph on choice of referencing style in assignments and inclusion of specific sessions focusing on referencing and literature searches.

Feedback from Library team

Feedback

The library offered support towards RSCH20001 by developing a new RHD Information research skills Moodle site. Scaffolded within the Research cycle, it is a self-paced resource aimed at point of need learning. This has gained good traction with students.

Recommendation

We would recommend that the promotion of the RHD Information research skills Moodle site and supporting Library RHD workshops, be integrated into the RSCH20001 student communications, so student awareness of library supporting resources can be bolstered.

Feedback from Informal supervisor feedback

Feedback

Students are unprepared for depth and detail of work required in assignments. Timelines are very tight. Students who work full time can not meet deadlines within the 12 week course structure

Recommendation

Continue to negotiate individual transfers across sequential terms so enable students to complete the second half of the course with less time pressures.

Feedback from Informal supervisor feedback

Feedback

The feedback I have regarding the delivery of RSCH20001 is all positive. I believe it steps the candidates through the research process just deeply enough for them to gather their thoughts in terms of their project and aids in their ability to articulate their 'road map' to success (research proposal). I totally agree that the candidates should not enrol prior to six months, so they have time to engage with the literature on the topic prior to participating. Two of my most recent attendees did not share their early drafts of assessment 1 and 2 with me, which I was a bit annoyed about, but they grew their work from the feedback they received from the unit coordinator. Thanks for your hard work!

Recommendation

Continue to provide support for students to think through their own projects and develop critical thinking skills to fully understand the different stages of a research project.

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		∘	∘	∘	∘	∘	∘

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

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:

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

For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

Teaching Contacts

Cheryl Bookallil Unit Coordinator
c.bookallil@cqu.edu.au

Schedule

Week 1 - 07 Mar 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
The language of research	chapters 1 & 2 plus embedded readings	

Week 2 - 14 Mar 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Academic standards and integrity, library skills	Chapters 4 & 6 plus embedded readings	**Annotated bibliography** Due: Week 2 Monday (14 Mar 2022) 11:45 pm AEST

Week 3 - 21 Mar 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Doing the literature review	Chapters 3 & 6 plus embedded readings	

Week 4 - 28 Mar 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Establishing a research question	Chapters 3 & 5 -plus embedded readings	

Week 5 - 04 Apr 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
The role of theory	Chapters 11 & 12 plus embedded readings	**Initial literature review** Due: Week 5 Monday (4 Apr 2022) 11:45 pm AEST

Vacation Week - 11 Apr 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Week 6 - 18 Apr 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Research design	Chapters 8 & 9 plus embedded readings	

Week 7 - 25 Apr 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Research design		

Week 8 - 02 May 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Data collection	Chapters 13 & 14 plus embedded readings	

Week 9 - 09 May 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Data handling and initial analysis	Chapter 5 plus embedded readings	**Research methodology / design** Due: Week 9 Friday (13 May 2022) 11:45 pm AEST

Week 10 - 16 May 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Crafting the proposal document	Chapter 15 plus embedded readings	

Week 11 - 23 May 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Overview of Part B requirements	Chapter 16 plus embedded readings	

Week 12 - 30 May 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Final wrap up of course		**Draft Confirmation of Candidature document** Due: Week 12 Monday (30 May 2022) 11:45 pm AEST

Review/Exam Week - 06 Jun 2022		
Module/Topic	**Chapter**	**Events and Submissions/Topic**

Exam Week - 13 Jun 2022		
Module/Topic	**Chapter**	**Events and Submissions/Topic**

Assessment Tasks

1 Annotated bibliography

Assessment Type
Annotated bibliography

Task Description
You need to prepare an annotated bibliography of three (3) journal articles closely related to your proposed research project. Note: The annotations must not simply be a review of just the content of the reference. They need to demonstrate your ability to critically evaluate and analyse the literature and relate its relevance to your proposed research project. It would be expected that the literature used in this assignment would be relevant to assessment items 2, 3 and 4 in this unit. You can choose any standard referencing style, but it must be consistent throughout the entire assignment. Check with your Research Supervisor(s) about which referencing style you should be using for your thesis.

Assessment Due Date
Week 2 Monday (14 Mar 2022) 11:45 pm AEST

Return Date to Students

Assignments are returned in order of marking

Weighting
Pass/Fail

Assessment Criteria
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 used 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
- referencing style for thesis is documented
- journal articles chosen for the annotated bibliography were clearly relevant 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 Satisfactory or Resubmit - Resubmission is due within seven days

Referencing Style

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

Submission
Online

Submission Instructions
Please upload via moodle

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
You are required to write an initial literature review focusing on previous research related to your proposed study. Use the literature to support the identification of your research problem and to highlight the gap in the existing research that needs to be filled. 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. This initial literature review is more than just documenting relevant information, and it should go beyond being a descriptive annotated bibliography. The initial literature review should summarise, critically evaluate, synthesise, and clearly link the literature to your proposed project.

Assessment Due Date
Week 5 Monday (4 Apr 2022) 11:45 pm AEST

Return Date to Students

Assignments will be returned in the order of marking

Weighting
Pass/Fail

Assessment Criteria
The initial 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 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 Satisfactory or Resubmit - Resubmission is due within seven days

Referencing Style

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

Submission
Online

Submission Instructions
please upload via Moodle

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 methodology / 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, you should be able to formulate a research design for your proposed research project. This assignment has two parts:

In Part One of this assignment please provide a short reflective statement (300 words) that demonstrates how consultation with your supervision team has assisted with the development of your research project, since being admitted as a research candidate. Specifically, you should describe the key topics that you have discussed with your supervision panel and how this has contributed to your understanding or clarification of the proposed research. Your reflection should also include a summary of the guidance you have received from your supervision team, after you have shared with them the feedback and learning you have experienced in the RSCH20001unit to date.

In Part Two of this assignment you need to outline 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 paradigm, methodology, research methods and techniques you intend to use to collect and analyse data for your proposed research project. If your project involves animals and/or human participants please address the ethical statement.

Assessment Due Date
Week 9 Friday (13 May 2022) 11:45 pm AEST

Return Date to Students

Assignments will be returned in order of marking

Weighting
Pass/Fail

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

- a clear outline 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;
- statement regarding supervision meetings and focus;
- correct spelling and grammar.

It will be assessed as Satisfactory or Resubmit - Resubmission is due within seven days

Referencing Style

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

Submission
Online

Submission Instructions
Please upload via moodle

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 Confirmation of Candidature document

Assessment Type
Research Proposal

Task Description
This final assessment has been designed to help you to construct 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 draw upon work undertaken in previous Assessment items in this unit (RSCH20001).

It should be noted that a Pass result in RSCH20001 **does not** imply that you will pass your Confirmation of Candidature. The grade awarded in RSCH20001 reflects your ability to meet the learning outcomes, which includes generic skills such as communication and analytical skills. It will be assessed by someone who is typically not a content expert in your field. By contrast, the Confirmation of Candidature document will be assessed against the expectations of a masters or doctoral degree, according to the conventions in your discipline area, and according to the judgement of two experts from the field.

Please note that your final Confirmation of Candidature submission document will need to comply with CQUniversity's [Confirmation of Candidature Procedure](#) which has a Section A and a Section B. Section A only is required for this assessment. When completing your CoC submission you need to ensure that you have fulfilled **ALL** the requirements outlined in the [Confirmation of Candidature Procedure](#).

The format of this assessment will be dependent on both the level of the degree in which you are enrolled (Masters by coursework, Masters by research, Professional Doctorate, or Doctor of Philosophy), and the discipline area of the proposed research project (discipline areas may have specific requirements imposed on their students). You need to consult with your Research Supervisors and Unit Coordinator if you are unsure. You should also consult the University policy regarding the requirements for candidature of the degree in which you are enrolled. See [Research Higher Degree Course Rules Policy and Procedure](#).
Your assessment should provide a rationale for the proposed investigation. It should also justify your choice of research design and selection of research methodology and associated methods. You need to include a comprehensive literature review of previous studies pertinent to your proposed research project and a plan of your thesis (chapter outline). You are strongly encouraged to frequently discuss issues encountered during the development of your assessment submission with your Research Supervisors and/or the Unit Coordinator.

Assessment Due Date
Week 12 Monday (30 May 2022) 11:45 pm AEST

Return Date to Students

Assignments are returned in order of marking

Weighting
Pass/Fail

Minimum mark or grade
Students must receive a Pass for assignment four to achieve a Pass for the course

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 questions 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

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

Submission
Online

Submission Instructions
Please submit via moodle

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