



# RSCH20001 Prepare for Confirmation

## Term 2 - 2022

Profile information current as at 01/05/2024 07:39 pm

All details in this unit profile for RSCH20001 have been officially approved by CQU University and represent a learning partnership between the University and you (our student). The information will not be changed unless absolutely necessary and any change will be clearly indicated by an approved correction included in the profile.

### General Information

#### Overview

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

**Feedback**

Need to learn more about how to use data bases for literature search

**Recommendation**

Assignment one changed to 'Literature search strategy' and students required to organise an appointment with a librarian to discuss methods to search for literature on their chosen topic.

#### Feedback from Student feedback

**Feedback**

Need to learn about analysing qualitative data

**Recommendation**

Include more information and guidance on research using qualitative data including how to conduct a thematic analysis

#### Feedback from Student feedback

**Feedback**

It would be helpful to have all the assessment information in a downloadable PDF format

**Recommendation**

Include complete information on assessment items into the unit profile as well as on the Moodle site

#### Feedback from Student feedback

**Feedback**

Upload videos to on place every week instead of under the weekly material

**Recommendation**

Provide a folder on the Moodle site that contains all weekly recorded sessions as well as uploading the videos under the weekly material

## 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



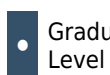
N/A  
Level



Introductory  
Level



Intermediate  
Level



Graduate  
Level



Professional  
Level



Advanced  
Level



## 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

No referencing style set.

## Teaching Contacts

**Cheryl Bookallil** Unit Coordinator  
[c.bookallil@cqu.edu.au](mailto:c.bookallil@cqu.edu.au)

## Schedule

### Week 1 - 11 Jul 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
The language of research and literature search strategies	O'Leary (2021) chapters 1 & 2 Plus embedded readings on Moodle	

### Week 2 - 18 Jul 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Academic standards and integrity, library skills	O'Leary (2021) chapters 4 & 6 Plus embedded readings on Moodle	<b>Literature search strategy and framework</b> Due: Week 2 Friday (22 July 2022) 11:45 pm AEST

### Week 3 - 25 Jul 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Doing the literature review	O'Leary (2021) chapters 3 & 6 Plus embedded readings on Moodle	

### Week 4 - 01 Aug 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Establishing a research question	O'Leary (2021) chapters 3 & 7 Plus embedded readings on Moodle	

### Week 5 - 08 Aug 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
The role of theory	O'Leary (2021) chapters 8, 9, & 10 Plus embedded readings on Moodle	<b>Initial literature review</b> Due: Week 5 Friday (12 Aug 2022) 11:45 pm AEST

### Vacation Week - 15 Aug 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

### Week 6 - 22 Aug 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Research design O'Leary (2021) chapters 8, 9, & 10  
Plus embedded readings on Moodle

#### Week 7 - 29 Aug 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Research design	O'Leary (2021) chapters 5 & 7 Plus embedded readings on Moodle	

#### Week 8 - 05 Sep 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Data collection	O'Leary (2021) chapters 11 & 12 Plus embedded readings on Moodle	

#### Week 9 - 12 Sep 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Types of data to suit your research question/s	O'Leary (2021) chapters 12, 13 & 14 Plus embedded readings on Moodle	<b>Research methodology / design</b> Due: Week 9 Friday (16 Sept 2022) 11:45 pm AEST

#### Week 10 - 19 Sep 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Data handling and initial analysis	O'Leary (2021) chapters 15 & 16 Plus embedded readings on Moodle	

#### Week 11 - 26 Sep 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Crafting the proposal document	O'Leary (2021) chapters 5 & 7 Plus embedded readings on Moodle	

#### Week 12 - 03 Oct 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Review of unit material and final assignment		<b>Draft Confirmation of Candidature document</b> Due: Week 12 Friday (7 Oct 2022) 11:45 pm AEST

#### Review/Exam Week - 10 Oct 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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#### Exam Week - 17 Oct 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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## Assessment Tasks

### 1 Literature search strategy and framework

#### Assessment Type

Annotated bibliography

#### Task Description

Prepare a literature review framework (~1000 words) that defines the scope of your literature search and provides a clear description of the criteria used to select literature relevant to your area of research. Explain the criteria for selecting the literature, search engines used, journals searched, search terms used, date range, inclusion/exclusion criteria. Develop a diagram showing how the search was conducted and the number of articles it returned. It would be expected that the literature sourced for 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. Gaining the assistance of CQU Library staff is recommended for this assignment.

#### Assessment Due Date

Week 2 Friday (22 July 2022) 11:45 pm AEST

## Return Date to Students

Assignments are returned in order of marking

### Weighting

Pass/Fail

### Assessment Criteria

Overview of the assessment criteria

- introduction provided the context for selecting the references
- referencing style for thesis is documented and justified
- search terms clearly relevant to the proposed research project;
- clear, concise academic writing;
- correct spelling and grammar.

It will be assessed as Satisfactory or Resubmit. Re-submission is due within seven days

### 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 Friday (12 Aug 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
- used a formatting style consistent with referencing style
- correct spelling and grammar.

It will be assessed as Satisfactory or Resubmit. Re-submission is due within seven days

### **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 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 (16 Sept 2022) 11:45 pm AEST

### **Return Date to Students**

Assignments will be marked in order of submission and 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. Re-submission is due within seven days

### 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 Friday (7 Oct 2022) 11:45 pm AEST

### **Return Date to Students**

Assignments will be marked in order of submission and 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 Satisfactory (Pass) or Unsatisfactory (Fail).

### **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