RSCH20001 *Prepare for Confirmation*
Term 3 - 2022

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 3 - 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 |

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%	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
4 - Research Proposal - 0%	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	

Textbooks and Resources

Textbooks

RSCH20001

Supplementary

The Essential Guide to Doing Your Research Project
4th edition (2021)
Authors: O'Leary , Zina
Sage Publications
Melbourne , Vic , Australia
ISBN: 9781529713466
Binding: Paperback

Additional Textbook Information
Paper copies can be purchased, if preferred, at the CQUni Bookshop here: http://bookshop.cqu.edu.au (search on the Unit code).

View textbooks at the CQUniversity Bookshop

IT Resources

You will need access to the following IT resources:

- CQUniversity Student Email
- Internet
- Unit Website (Moodle)

Referencing Style

No referencing style set.

Teaching Contacts

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

Schedule

Week 1 - 07 Nov 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 - 14 Nov 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Research ethics and integrity	O'Leary (2021) chapters 4 & 6 Plus embedded readings on Moodle	**Literature search strategy and framework** Due: Week 2 Friday (18 Nov 2022) 11:45 pm AEST

Week 3 - 21 Nov 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Writing a literature review to support your research proposal	O'Leary (2021) chapters 3 & 6 Plus embedded readings on Moodle	

Week 4 - 28 Nov 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

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

Vacation Week - 05 Dec 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Week 5 - 12 Dec 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
The role of theory in research design	O'Leary (2021) chapters 8, 9, & 10 Plus embedded readings on Moodle	**Initial literature review** Due: Week 5 Friday (16 Dec 2022) 11:45 pm AEST

Week 6 - 19 Dec 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Research design: understanding research methodologies	O'Leary (2021) chapters 8, 9, & 10 Plus embedded readings on Moodle	

Vacation Week - 26 Dec 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Week 7 - 02 Jan 2023

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

Week 8 - 09 Jan 2023

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Data collection: what, where, why, how and ethical considerations	O'Leary (2021) chapters 11 & 12 Plus embedded readings on Moodle	**Research methodology / design** Due: Week 8 Friday (13 Jan 2023) 11:45 pm AEST

Week 9 - 16 Jan 2023

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	

Week 10 - 23 Jan 2023

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 - 30 Jan 2023

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

Week 12 - 06 Feb 2023

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Review of unit material and final assignment		**Draft Confirmation of Candidature document** Due: Week 12 Friday (10 Feb 2023) 11:45 pm AEST

Exam Week - 13 Feb 2023

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Important note: Any references to 'Annotated bibliography' in this Unit Profile should be disregarded. This is a historical title for the first assignment that has been changed to 'Literature search strategy and framework'. Any reference to 'Annotated bibliography' will be deleted in subsequent offerings.

Textbook: In preparation for this term, it is recommended you acquire access to the textbook below. Check with the University Bookshop (if you wish to buy a copy) or you can borrow a copy from the CQU library. This textbook covers all aspects of undertaking a research project and may provide a source of reference as you progress through your candidature.
Zina O'Leary (2021) *The Essential Guide to Doing Your Research Project* (4th ed). Sage: Melbourne.

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 expected for this assignment.

Title Page
Please ensure that your assignment has a cover page with the unit code, assessment number, proposed thesis title (no more than 25 words, which should be descriptive and unambiguous), your name, student number, student email address, name of the course you are enrolled in (e.g., Masters, Professional Doctorate or Doctor of Philosophy), assessment due date, name(s) of Research Supervisor(s), and Unit Coordinator. If you have an approved assessment extension this needs to be noted on the title page. Add acknowledgements of re-using previous work if applicable.Specify the referencing style you are using (e.g., APA, Harvard, Turabian, Vancouver, IEEE, AGLC, etc.) and provide a short justification for why you are using that style. For example: Supervisor recommended, Style mainly used in this discipline, (or similar). Include the date/s you shared the draft of your assignment with your supervisors and the date you had an appointment with the Library.
Make sure that you send a draft of your assessment to your supervisors well before the Due Date so they have time to provide you with feedback to improve the final draft of your assessment. Include on the assignment cover page the date you first provided a draft of the assignment to your supervisor and any other subsequent dates. Also include the date you had a meeting with a librarian to discuss your search strategy.

Introduction to the assignment
In this section briefly introduce your proposed research project to provide the context for your literature search. Provide a brief discussion on why a search strategy would be needed for finding relevant literature and the benefits of a structure behind your search. Outline assistance provided by the library to assist your search.

Scope of the literature search
Define the scope of your literature search. Provide a clear description of the criteria used to select the literature (data bases searched, journals searched, search terms applied, any date range limitations, and your inclusion/exclusion criteria). Explain the type of sources used including "grey literature" such as industry or government reports. Develop a diagram that demonstrates your search strategy and quantifies the number of articles your searches returned. Include how many articles you retained for review after applying your inclusion/exclusion criteria.

Conclusion
Provide a conclusion that briefly summarises your research topic, the purpose of your search and the benefits of using a literature search strategy, and the main points covered in your assignment.

Reference list
Provide a list all references cited in-text. Format this list according to the referencing style indicated on your title page.

Assessment Due Date
Week 2 Friday (18 Nov 2022) 11:45 pm AEST

Return Date to Students
Week 4 Friday (2 Dec 2022)
Assignments are returned in order of marking. Early submissions will be marked and returned first.

Weighting
Pass/Fail

Assessment Criteria
Overview of the assessment criteria. (**Note:** All assessments will be checked for plagiarism)
Title page:

- Includes all required information
- Justifies the choice of referencing style
- Lists the date of your appointment with a librarian
- Provides the date/s assignment was shared with supervisor/s

Introduction:

- Briefly introduces your proposed research project to provide the context for your literature search
- Discussed benefits of using a search strategy
- Outlined assistance provided by the Library

Scope of Literature search:

- Search engines used
- Journals searched
- Search terms used
- Limitations and inclusion/exclusion criteria
- Alerts set on specific journals

Search framework:

- Diagram demonstrates scope of the literature search
- Quantifies the different articles returned and how many retained for review

Conclusion:

- Provides a succinct summary of the research topic, the purpose and benefits of using a literature search strategy, and the main points covered in your assignment.

Referencing and formatting style:

- Must be consistent with stated referencing style

Writing style:

- Academic writing that is clear and concise
- Correct grammar and spelling

The assignment will be assessed as 'Satisfactory' or 'Resubmit'. Re-submission is due within seven days of notification.

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
Write an initial literature review (~3,000 words) focusing on previous research related to your proposed study topic. Use the literature to support the identification of your research problem and to highlight the gap/s 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 what other researchers have discovered about your topic. 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.The initial literature review should summarise, critically evaluate, synthesise, identify gaps in the knowledge on your topic, and provide a justification for your research project. The review of the literature should be conducted within an appropriate analytic framework to provide new knowledge (for example, a systematic, integrative, or meta-analysis review), rather than a simple descriptive summary.
Note: If you are using Grounded Theory or another methodological approach where literature reviews not usually undertaken, then please complete this assignment by choosing references about the methodology itself. For example: sources and analyse articles and/or book chapters on the various types of Grounded Theory methodologies and use this to justify your approach.

Make sure that you send a draft of your assessment to your supervisors well before the Due Date so they have time to provide you with feedback to improve the final draft of your assessment. Include on the assignment cover page the date you first provided a draft of the assignment to your supervisor and any other subsequent dates.

Introduction (~10% of word limit)
Introduce your proposed research project, define the purpose and scope of the literature review, and outline the structure of the body of the literature review. Highlight the gap/s in the literature that provides the justification for your study. Include a summary of the analytical framework used to search for literature that your prepared for Asst. 1 which should be a description of the criteria used for your literature selection. You can attach the diagrams demonstrating your framework as appendices. The end of your introduction should include a short paragraph that indicates the structure of the literature review document and describes how you determined the themes used to structure the literature review.

Literature review (~80-85% of word limit)
In the body of the literature review you should use appropriate headings and sub-headings to break the text into sub-sections. Each sub-section should identify and discuss a different theme identified from your readings that is relevant to your research project. To do this, you will need to synthesise several of your references into each sub-section by critically analysing and describing how each reference contributes to the theme you are discussing. Consider the main agreements and disagreements between the different authors. Each theme should conclude with a clear link and an explanation of how the findings in the theme will inform your own research project. The literature review should be written in academic prose (paragraph structure). Avoid dot points unless listing information.

Conclusion: (~5-10% of word limit)
Conclude by reminding the reader of your research topic and the purpose of conducting a literature review. Summarise the major contributions in the literature and the themes identified, gaps or areas for further research and your overall perspective on the topic. Identify the significance of your research topic in relation to the literature and how the literature will inform your proposed research project.

Reference list
Provide a list all references cited in-text. Format this list according to the referencing style indicated on your title page. Reference list commences on a separate page.

Assessment Due Date
Week 5 Friday (16 Dec 2022) 11:45 pm AEST

Return Date to Students
Week 6 Friday (23 Dec 2022)
Assignments will be returned in the order of marking. Early submissions will be marked first.

Weighting
Pass/Fail

Assessment Criteria
Overview of the assessment criteria. (**Note:** All assessments will be checked for plagiarism)

Title page:

- Includes all required information
- Justifies the choice of referencing style
- Provides the date/s assignment was shared with supervisor/s
- Acknowledges use of previous work (if applicable)

Introduction:

- Briefly introduces your proposed research project to provide the context for your literature review
- Defined the purpose of the literature (identifying gaps on the literature or justifying the study and establishing prior background on the topic area)
- Summarised the literature search strategy and framework
- Outlined the structure of the body of the literature review

Literature review:

- Divided into logical themes highlighting key aspects or background studies
- Demonstrated critical analysis of the literature presented in your own words
- Identified influential studies and/or mainstream versus alternative viewpoints
- Discussed agreements and disagreements among the reviewed literature
- Used strong topic sentences to begin each paragraph clearly identifying the theme being discussed
- Concluded each theme with a clear summary of the main arguments presented and links made to your proposed research project

Conclusion:

- Summarises succinctly the major contributions in the literature with respect to your topic, the main agreements and disagreements and any gaps or areas for further research signalling the significance of your project and your overall perspective

Writing: Clear, concise academic writing style with correct grammar and spelling

Referencing and formatting style: Must be consistent with stated referencing style and use appropriate referencing conventions

The assignment will be assessed as 'Satisfactory' or 'Resubmit'. Re-submission is due within seven days of notification.

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 (~4,000 words) requires you to build on the research foundations, research processes, research methods and practices that you have explored in this unit. Guided by theory, and in consultation with your research supervisor(s), apply a research methodology to formulate a clearly described research design for your proposed project. In 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 your philosophical positioning. Explain 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.

A research design (or methodological approach) is a detailed framework or plan to guide you through the research process with the aim of achieving your research objectives. Research designs can range from phenomenology, experimental, simulation studies, population studies, phased sequential mixed methods, narrative inquiry, ethnography to name just a few. Research methods are the different techniques used for collecting and analysing data. Examples are focus groups, interviews, observations that could be subjected to qualitative analysis. You might use experiments or collect quantitative data via a survey and then subject the data to statistical analysis. Your design will depend upon the research question and the discipline you are working in so it is important to work closely with your supervisors during development.

Make sure that you send a draft of your assessment to your supervisors well before the Due Date so they have time to provide you with feedback to improve the final draft of your assessment. Include on the assignment cover page the date you first provided a draft of the assignment to your supervisor and any other subsequent dates.

Presentation and format
The document should be formatted using formatting style (margins, line spacing, font type and size, etc.) in accordance with the referencing style you are using. For example: Harvard has 1.5 line spacing and APA has double line spacing. Other styles are different again. Formatting manuals for the most popular styles can be found on the Moodle site. If using Arial then font size 11 is fine. Times New Roman needs to be 12 point.

Pages should be numbered in the footer as follows:

- Title page has no page number
- Table of contents page, and any other front matter, should have Roman numerals
- Pages containing the text of your assignment should have Arabic numerals commencing at 1

Structure
The structure of this assignment should be that of an academic report. There should be a title page, a table of contents, an introduction preceding the main sections of the report, and a conclusion at the end. As every candidate will have a unique project you should confer with your supervisors about an appropriate format that is suitable for your specific discipline area. A suggested structure would be as follows:

Title page
A cover page with the unit code, assessment number proposed thesis title (no more than 25 words, descriptive and unambiguous), your name, student number, email address, name of the course you are enrolled in (Masters, Professional Doctorate or Doctor of Philosophy), referencing style, assessment due date, names of your Research Supervisors and Unit Coordinator. Date/s on which you shared a draft of your assignment with your supervisor/s. If you have been granted an approved extension then note this on the title page. Also add acknowledgements if re-using previous work.

Table of Contents (and Table of Tables, Table of figures if applicable)
Auto-generated using styles in Word

Introduction
Present the research problem, and the context for your proposed project, with reference to the identified gaps in the literature. Include some background highlighting the significance of your project.

Research aims and objectives
Describe and explain the research aims and objectives of your proposed project. Aims are general statements of what the research sets out to achieve. Objectives are specific statements that describe how you are going to achieve those aims. This should lead into your specific research questions or hypotheses.

Research questions and/or hypotheses (whichever is appropriate)
The research questions should guide and focus your research and enable you to address the research problem. They

should be clear, focused and feasible.

A hypothesis should offer a clear and concise statement of what you expect to find in relation to your variables, and what you plan to test. It is a statement of the proposition that you intend to verify through the application of statistical procedures.

Methodology, Methods and/or Research design (choose the heading appropriate to your study)

This section should provide the framework for your research design and include the rationale behind your chosen research approach (methodology). Discuss your philosophical positioning. This should lead into a discussion of relevant research methods that you propose to use to support your research design. Analyse the advantages and disadvantages of each one and describe how they will allow you to answer the research questions and/or confirm/refute the hypotheses. Justify the research methods by describing how they align with your research approach and research design.

Ethics (Human and/or animal)

Provide a brief statement regarding the need for Animal and/or Human Ethics clearance (but not the application). Include brief details of logistics, resources and compliance.If you believe you will not require ethical clearance then provide a brief statement justifying this.

Conclusion

The conclusion should remind the reader of your research question/s, provide a summary of your research design and discuss how the proposed design will allow you to address the research question/s and/or hypotheses to achieve your research aims and objectives.

References

List all references cited in the text of your document (as per the referencing style stated on your title page). References should start on a new page.

Assessment Due Date

Week 8 Friday (13 Jan 2023) 11:45 pm AEST

Return Date to Students

Week 10 Friday (27 Jan 2023)

Assignments will be marked in order of submission. Early submission will be marked and returned first.

Weighting

Pass/Fail

Assessment Criteria

Title page:

Includes all requested information

Table of contents (and/or Table of Tables, Table of figures as appropriate):

- Main headings sub-headings with corresponding page numbers
- Formatted so hierarchy of topics is clear
- Auto-generated using MS Word

Introduction:

- Outlines the research problem or main focus of the proposed research project
- Provides context and background for the project
- Explains reasons for, and significance of, undertaking the project

Research aims and objectives:

- Provides clearly stated outline of the project aims and objectives
- Aims and objectives are relevant to the chosen topic

Research questions and/or hypotheses (as appropriate):

- Lists appropriate research questions and/or hypotheses that flow from the aims and objectives
- Demonstrates the linkage between the proposed research topic, research design, methodology and methods/techniques

Philosophical positioning:

- Discusses ontology and epistemology being followed
- Explains qualitative (inductive) and/or quantitative (deductive) and justifies reasoning with respect to the project

Methodology, methods, and/or research design (as appropriate):

- Demonstrates linkage between the proposed research topic, research design/research methodology and research methods
- Discussion, analysis and alignment of each research method to your research design/methodology and research

methods
- Justifies how the research design will allow you to address the research problem and answer the research question/s and or prove or disprove your hypotheses

Ethical statement:

- Clearly identifies if you need to seek ethical clearance and how that will be accomplished (low risk pathway or full application)
- States relevant committee (HREC or SEC)
- Or justifies why ethical clearance will not be required

Conclusion:

- Reminds the reader of the research question/s
- Summarises the research design and the suitability of the methods/techniques to the proposed research project
- States the expected outcomes and significance of the research project

References:

- In-text citations acknowledging other author's work
- List of all references cited in-text
- Formatted using the style indicated on your title page
- Reference list commences on a separate page

Academic writing style:

- Within the expected work length (~4,000 words)
- Uses correct spelling and grammar
- Presentation style and format appropriate for a RHD research design

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

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. Maximum word length is between 5,000 and 10,000 words (excluding title page, ToC, abstract, reference list and appendices). 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 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 research candidates). You need to consult with your Research Supervisors 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 research project. 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.

Make sure that you send a draft of your assessment to your supervisors well before the Due Date so they have time to provide you with feedback to improve the final draft of your assessment. Include on the assignment cover page the date you first provided a draft of the assignment to your supervisor and any other subsequent dates.

Presentation

Your Draft CoC Part A document should be formatted with margins, line spacing, font type and size in keeping with the format style that pairs with your referencing style. Pages should be numbered in the footer as follows: Title page has no number, abstract and Table of contents should be in Roman numerals and the main text in Arabic numerals commencing at 1.

Format

Written in the style of an academic report and follow the requirements stated in Section A of the 'Confirmation of Candidature Procedure'.

Title page:

A cover page with unit code, assessment number, the proposed thesis title (no more than 25 words, descriptive and unambiguous), your name, student number, email address, name of the course you are enrolled in (Masters or PhD), referencing style, assessment due date, name(s) of supervisor(s) and the Unit Coordinator. Include on the cover page the date you first provided a draft of the assignment to your supervisor and any other subsequent dates. If you have an approved assessment extension this needs to be noted on the title page. Add acknowledgements of re-using previous work if applicable.

Abstract:

The abstract is designed to give the reader a 'snapshot' or summary of the entire research project. It should contain: purpose of the study; basics of the research design; and significance of the proposed research and/or proposed contribution to the literature. It should be about 250 words – one page maximum.

Table of contents

Auto-generated using MS-Word.

Introduction

Clearly set out what you intend to investigate. Briefly describe the background to your study and provide a context for your investigation. Provide a clear statement of the overarching purpose of the study or statement of the problem. This should be followed by the rationale or justification fro the proposed study. Tell the reader why the problem needs to be solved. Clearly indicate the significance of your research project. The introduction should include the aims and objectives and the research questions and /or hypotheses (whichever is appropriate). Provide a brief outline of the following sections of your document as the final paragraph of the introduction section.

Literature review

Include a paragraph at the beginning of the section that introduces the literature review. Define the purpose of the literature review, outline the scope the scope by including search terms, data bases, and time boundaries. Provide the analytical framework used and outline the structure of the section.

The main purpose of the literature review is to demonstrate your knowledge of the research area and to acknowledge other authors who have already written on your research topic. Critically analyse and synthesise the literature into themes that relate to your proposed research topic. Present these themes in a logical order that identifies the conclusions that can be drawn from the groups of references.

The literature review section should conclude with a summary of how the literature will inform your proposed research project.

Proposed contribution to the field of research

Describe the importance of the expected research outcomes, including a statement of the proposed contribution to the field of research (FoR descriptors are available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) web site www.abs.gov.au . Provide a statement of how your project aligns with one of CQU's research strengths.

https://www.cqu.edu.au/research/organisations/research-excellence/strengths

Methodology, Methods and/or research design

Note: *This heading is from the Confirmation of Candidature Procedure Document. You should choose what heading best suits your proposed research project. For example: Methodology or Research design.*
Include a paragraph at the beginning of the section that introduces the contents.
This section should outline your research design, including the research methodology (research approach/philosophy) and the research methods (data collection and/or data analysis instruments and techniques) that you will employ when conducting your research. You should describe how you plan to collect and analyse data in order to answer the research questions. It should be a detailed framework or plan that guide you through the research process. Provide enough detail to allow an assessment of the feasibility of the proposed project and appropriate match with the stated research questions and/or hypotheses. Including a diagram is encouraged to help the reader visualise your research design. Justify your research design with a rationale as to how your research design aligns with your research methodology. The section should conclude with a summary of how the design will generate answer/s to your research question/s.

Ethics (Human and/or animal)
Provide a brief statement regarding the need for Animal and/or Human Ethics clearance (but not the application). Include brief details of logistics, resources and compliance.If you believe you will not require ethical clearance then provide a brief statement justifying this.

Limitations
Limitations are influences that the researcher cannot control. Any limitation that might influence the results should be mentioned.

Delimitations
Delimitations are under the control of the researcher and allow you to define the parameters of the investigation.

Thesis plan
Should contain an outline of the proposed chapters in your thesis and identification of prospective publications arising from your research. Chapter outlines **-** one brief paragraph per chapter with details specific to your thesis or a flow chart with broad overview sentences covering the contents of each chapter. Prospective publications - provide the proposed title of the article/paper and name of the journal or conference where you propose submitting the article/paper.

Conclusion
This section should provide a succinct summary of the research proposal and discussion of how the proposed research project design will allow you to solve the research problem and achieve the research aims and objectives through addressing the research questions/hypotheses. Briefly summarise the contribution to knowledge of your proposed research project.

References
List all references cited in the text of your document (as per the referencing style states on your title page). References should start on a new page.

Appendices (if appropriate)
Appendices contain information that is likely to be of secondary importance to the reader. For example: a questionnaire or large diagram or large table.

Assessment Due Date
Week 12 Friday (10 Feb 2023) 11:45 pm AEST

Return Date to Students

Assignments will be marked in order of submission and returned in order of marking. Early submissions will be marked first.

Weighting
Pass/Fail

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

Assessment Criteria
RSCH20001 - Asst.4 'Draft CoC Part A' Marking Criteria

Criteria	Evaluation Satisfactory or Needs revision	Comments
Title page has all appropriate information.		
Abstract is an accurate summary of the proposed research project and covered: · purpose of the study, · the research design, · significance of the proposed research, and/or proposed contribution to the literature. One page maximum. No more than 250 words.		
Table of Contents included the main headings and subheadings with corresponding page numbers. Format made the hierarchy of topics clear. Auto generated using MS Word.		

Criteria	Evaluation Satisfactory or Needs revision	Comments
Introduction provided background information for the research topic and explained the context of the study. Clear statement of purpose, rationale/justification and significance of the proposed project.		
Aims, objectives and anticipated outcomes of the investigation were clearly articulated.		
The research questions/hypotheses clearly link to the research problem. The research questions/hypotheses are clear, focused, and feasible and clearly indicate what kind of data is required to answer the research questions or confirm/refute the hypotheses.		
Literature review: _· Purpose of the review_ _· Range of literature sources_ _· Relevance to the chosen topic_ _· Use of appropriate analytical framework to evaluate and synthesise the literature (for example, a systematic, integrative or meta-analysis review)._ _· Critical analysis of the literature_ _· Synthesis and drawing of appropriate conclusions relating to your proposed research project_		
Proposed contribution to the field of research: · Clearly identified the field(s) of research; · Described the importance of the expected research outcomes; and · Stated alignment with one of CQU's research strengths.	·	
Research design clearly articulated and justified: · Demonstrated linkage between the proposed research topic, research methodology, research design and research methods. · Discussion, analysis and alignment of each research method to your research methodology/research design. · Justification of how the research design will allow you to address the research problem.	.	
Ethical statement · Clearly identifies the need to seek ethical clearance and how that will be accomplished · Should state relevant committee: HREC or AEC · Or justifies why ethical clearance would not be required		
Limitations and delimitations of the investigation are provided		
Thesis plan (chapter outline and prospective publications) is reasonable and achievable.		
Conclusion clearly summarised the main points and justified how your research design will allow you to solve the research problem and summed up how your proposed research project will contribute to new knowledge.		
Likelihood of project success and completion.		
Used appropriate referencing conventions. **Citations** and **reference list** are accurate and consistent with referencing style		
Used references to support, extend, and inform, but not substitute writer's own development of ideas.		
Correct grammatically and in the use of English expression.		
Writing style was precise and coherent.		
Academic writing style appropriate to level of program of study e.g., PhD, Masters or Prof Doc.		
Presentation style and format is appropriate for Confirmation of Candidature submission.		
Assessment Result = Satisfactory or resubmit (Re-submission is expected within seven days of notification)		

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