



# TOUR20019 *Managing Sustainable Tourism* **Businesses** Term 1 - 2020

Profile information current as at 24/02/2026 07:55 am

All details in this unit profile for TOUR20019 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

The economic viability of tourism is important to the long-term sustainability of the industry, as well as to those businesses and other agencies involved in the management of tourism destinations. This unit provides you with an advanced understanding of the importance of incorporating economically sustainable principles and practice in tourism businesses. From a business perspective, becoming economically sustainable means having the financial capacity to manage other aspects of the business, including the environmental and socio-cultural impacts. To provide you with this in-depth knowledge, topics covered include: corporate social responsibility; role of profit; yield management; sustainable marketing mix (Ps); innovation; business planning; human resource management; and the customer experience.

### Details

Career Level: *Postgraduate*

Unit Level: *Level 9*

Credit Points: 6

Student Contribution Band: 10

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 - 2020

- Cairns
- 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. **Presentation**

Weighting: 20%

#### 2. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 30%

#### 3. **Group Work**

Weighting: 50%

### Assessment Grading

This is a graded unit: your overall grade will be calculated from the marks or grades for each assessment task, based on the relative weightings shown in the table above. You must obtain an overall mark for the unit of at least 50%, or an overall grade of 'pass' in order to pass the unit. If any 'pass/fail' tasks are shown in the table above they must also be completed successfully ('pass' grade). You must also meet any minimum mark requirements specified for a particular assessment task, as detailed in the 'assessment task' section (note that in some instances, the minimum mark for a task may be greater than 50%). Consult the [University's Grades and Results Policy](#) for more details of interim results and final grades.

## 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](#).

## Unit Learning Outcomes

### On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an advanced knowledge of the economic impacts of tourism, across enterprise, industry and destination levels
2. Investigate, analyse and synthesise a range of theories that may be applied to understanding the management of economically sustainable tourism businesses
3. Critically review and evaluate recent developments and future challenges in implementing economically sustainable tourism practices in tourism businesses
4. Critically analyse and communicate the linkages between economic sustainability and socio-cultural and environmental sustainability principles
5. Integrate your advanced knowledge of sustainable practice to research, develop and evaluate a sustainable tourism business plan.

## Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes



### Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes				
	1	2	3	4	5
<b>1 - Written Assessment - 30%</b>	•	•		•	
<b>2 - Presentation - 20%</b>			•	•	
<b>3 - Group Work - 50%</b>	•	•	•		•

### Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Learning Outcomes

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes				
	1	2	3	4	5
<b>1 - Knowledge</b>	○	○	○	○	○
<b>2 - Communication</b>	○	○	○	○	○
<b>3 - Cognitive, technical and creative skills</b>	○	○	○	○	○
<b>4 - Research</b>	○	○	○	○	○
<b>5 - Self-management</b>			○		○
<b>6 - Ethical and Professional Responsibility</b>			○	○	○
<b>7 - Leadership</b>					○
<b>8 - First Nations Knowledges</b>					

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes				
	1	2	3	4	5
<b>9 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures</b>					

## Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Graduate Attributes

Assessment Tasks	Graduate Attributes								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>1 - Written Assessment - 30%</b>	○	○	○	○	○	○			
<b>2 - Presentation - 20%</b>	○	○	○	○	○	○			
<b>3 - Group Work - 50%</b>	○	○	○	○		○	○		

## Textbooks and Resources

### Textbooks

TOUR20019

#### Prescribed

**Sustainable Tourism: Business Development, Operations and Management**  
(2015)

Authors: Carol Patterson  
Human Kinetics Publishers  
Champaign , Illinois , USA  
ISBN: 9781450460033  
Binding: Paperback

#### Additional Textbook Information

An ebook version of the text can be purchased from:

<https://us.humankinetics.com/products/sustainable-tourism-with-web-resource?>

[View textbooks at the CQUniversity Bookshop](#)

### IT Resources

**You will need access to the following IT resources:**

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

## Referencing Style

All submissions for this unit must use the referencing style: [American Psychological Association 6th Edition \(APA 6th edition\)](#)

For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

## Teaching Contacts

**Michelle Thompson** Unit Coordinator  
[m.thompson@cqu.edu.au](mailto:m.thompson@cqu.edu.au)

## Schedule

### Week 1 - 09 Mar 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
An introduction to sustainable tourism - business planning and management.	Chapters 1 and 13 Where required, links to additional readings will be available on Moodle.	

### Week 2 - 16 Mar 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Strategic planning for sustainability in tourism businesses.	Chapter 2 Where required, links to additional readings will be available on Moodle.	

### Week 3 - 23 Mar 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Sustainability in practice - Operational development, certification and accreditation in tourism business.	Chapters 3 and 4 Where required, links to additional readings will be available on Moodle.	

### Week 4 - 30 Mar 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Financial sustainability of tourism businesses - Micro and macro economic perspectives.	Chapter 9 Where required, links to additional readings will be available on Moodle.	<b>Presentation</b> Due: Week 4 Monday (30 Mar 2020) 9:00 am AEST

### Week 5 - 06 Apr 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Human resources - Planning, management and sustainability issues.	Chapter 11 Where required, links to additional readings will be available on Moodle.	

### Vacation Week - 13 Apr 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

### Week 6 - 20 Apr 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Principles of sustainable product and experience marketing for tourism businesses.	Chapter 5 Where required, links to additional readings will be available on Moodle.	

### Week 7 - 27 Apr 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Strategic marketing perspectives for sustainable tourism businesses.	Chapters 6, 7 and 8 Where required, links to additional readings will be available on Moodle.	

### Week 8 - 04 May 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Guest lecture/field trip - Dependent on speaker availability.		<b>Business Memo</b> Due: Week 8 Friday (8 May 2020) 11:45 pm AEST

### Week 9 - 11 May 2020

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Delivering on the marketing message - Customers, expectations and service delivery implications.	Chapter 10 Where required, links to additional readings will be available on Moodle.	
<b>Week 10 - 18 May 2020</b>		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Impact of innovation, disruption and risk management on business sustainability.	Chapter 12 Where required, links to additional readings will be available on Moodle.	
<b>Week 11 - 25 May 2020</b>		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Business planning and sustainability principles in a changing business environment.	Chapter 13 Where required, links to additional readings will be available on Moodle.	
<b>Week 12 - 01 Jun 2020</b>		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
The future sustainability of the tourism industry and businesses - Challenges and opportunities.	Where required, links to additional readings will be available on Moodle.	<b>Sustainable Tourism Business Plan</b> Due: Week 12 Friday (5 June 2020) 11:45 pm AEST

## Assessment Tasks

### 1 Presentation

#### Assessment Type

Presentation

#### Task Description

The economic sustainability of businesses is vital to the long-term sustainability and competitiveness of tourism destinations. Additionally, economic sustainability also enhances a business' ability to apply sustainable business practices that promote environmental and socio-cultural benefits. This assessment is designed to assess your presentation skills, and your ability to formulate and communicate a clear and concise argument. You are required to demonstrate your knowledge of theoretical sustainability principles and how these principles are applied by tourism businesses within the industry.

You are required to give a 15 minute presentation on a selected tourism business that you believe demonstrates the three core sustainability principles of the triple bottom line - economic, environmental and socio-cultural sustainability. During the presentation, you should also consider and discuss the role of governance in a business's ability to achieve its sustainability principles and practices. You are also required to submit a hard copy of your visual aids (Powerpoint slides) and reference page.

The presentation should address the following:

- Introduce theoretical concepts including sustainability principles
- Clearly identify the tourism business being discussed/analysed
- Demonstrate how the tourism business has applied theoretical principles with practical examples
- Consider additional sustainability initiatives that the tourism business may introduce (if relevant)

Format of the presentation:

- 15 minute presentation which may be supported with visual aids (eg Powerpoint slides, with questions to follow)
- Copy of Powerpoint slide presentation
- Title page with name of tourism business, student name, student number, due date
- Reference page listing key sources of information referenced in APA format (min 10 academic references)

Submission of the presentation:

- A copy of the Powerpoint slides, including a reference page, is to be submitted on the day of the presentation (hard copy).
- Distance students submit their presentations by uploading a voice over with PPT slides to the Moodle page.

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**Assessment Due Date**

Week 4 Monday (30 Mar 2020) 9:00 am AEST

Presentations will take place in Weeks 4 and 5. Presentation slides to be uploaded via Moodle by 9:00am on Monday, 30 March 2020.

**Return Date to Students**

Week 7 Monday (27 Apr 2020)

via TurnItIn (Grademark)

**Weighting**

20%

**Assessment Criteria**

The following criteria will be assessed, with a full allocation of marks available via the marking rubric on Moodle:

- Identification and overview of tourism business being analysed
- Identification and understanding of theoretical sustainability principles - economic, environmental, socio-cultural and governance (including references)
- Critical evaluation of sustainability principles - demonstrate how these have been applied by the tourism business with examples
- Content development - logical flow and clarity of argument throughout presentation
- Style and conventions - formal and informal rules inherent in expectations for a presentation, including appropriate use of support materials (visual aids)
- Syntax and mechanics - of visual aids: sentence construction, grammar, punctuation and spelling, sources supported and referenced using APA format and minimum number required

**Referencing Style**

- [American Psychological Association 6th Edition \(APA 6th edition\)](#)

**Submission**

Offline Online

**Submission Instructions**

Presentations will take place during lecture/tutorial, PPT slides to be uploaded to Moodle on Monday of Week 10

**Learning Outcomes Assessed**

- Critically review and evaluate recent developments and future challenges in implementing economically sustainable tourism practices in tourism businesses
- Critically analyse and communicate the linkages between economic sustainability and socio-cultural and environmental sustainability principles

**Graduate Attributes**

- Knowledge
- Communication
- Cognitive, technical and creative skills
- Research
- Self-management
- Ethical and Professional Responsibility

## 2 Business Memo

**Assessment Type**

Written Assessment

**Task Description**

Tourism businesses face many challenges that threaten their economic viability and sustainability. This unit provides you with an understanding of the competitive environment in which tourism businesses operate, and the importance of incorporating economically sustainable principles and practice. This assessment is designed to assess your critical thinking by identifying a problem and possible solutions to enhance the sustainability of tourism businesses.

Imagine you are the manager of a particular type of tourism business (eg a tour operator). You are required to prepare a 1500 word staff memo that outlines one of the key challenges that your business is facing to become economically sustainable. The memo should justify why the business should be sustainable, and include references throughout to

support your arguments. The memo should also describe how you plan to overcome this challenge by outlining the particular principle and/or practice you will introduce into your business operations. Key issues to address may include: triple-bottom line approach; corporate social responsibility; risk assessment; financial instability; identifying key markets; business planning or lack thereof; an environmental or community-based initiative; or human resources practice.

The memo should address the following:

- Clearly identify and analyse the key challenge being addressed, including references to the tourism literature
- Critically justify why the business should be more sustainable
- Describe your proposed solution/initiative, and how this enhances your business' sustainability
- Provide an example of this initiative that demonstrates how it enhances sustainability

Format of the memo:

- Memo title, including student name, student number, due date
- Memo should be between 1500 words in length (excluding references)
- The memo can include pictures and other media where appropriate, to support the message
- References to sources used in the memo should be listed at the end in APA format (min. 8 academic references)

### **Assessment Due Date**

Week 8 Friday (8 May 2020) 11:45 pm AEST

Submission via Moodle

### **Return Date to Students**

Week 10 Friday (22 May 2020)

via TurnItIn (Grademark)

### **Weighting**

30%

### **Assessment Criteria**

The following criteria will be assessed, with a full allocation of marks available via the marking rubric on Moodle:

- Issue identification – clearly identify and describe the sustainability issue using key terms
- Critical analysis – outline the proposed initiative, include examples/media to demonstrate critical thinking
- Critical evaluation – justify the need for sustainability and the proposed solution
- Content development – logical flow, critical analysis, clear, concise and cohesive, use of sources and evidence
- Style and conventions – formal and informal rules inherent in expectations for writing a business memo to staff
- Syntax and mechanics – sentence construction, grammar, punctuation and spelling, references formatted in APA and meets minimum 8 required

### **Referencing Style**

- [American Psychological Association 6th Edition \(APA 6th edition\)](#)

### **Submission**

Online

### **Submission Instructions**

via Moodle

### **Learning Outcomes Assessed**

- Demonstrate an advanced knowledge of the economic impacts of tourism, across enterprise, industry and destination levels
- Investigate, analyse and synthesise a range of theories that may be applied to understanding the management of economically sustainable tourism businesses
- Critically analyse and communicate the linkages between economic sustainability and socio-cultural and environmental sustainability principles

### **Graduate Attributes**

- Knowledge
- Communication
- Cognitive, technical and creative skills
- Research
- Self-management
- Ethical and Professional Responsibility

## 3 Sustainable Tourism Business Plan

### Assessment Type

Group Work

### Task Description

This unit examines how the long-term sustainability of the tourism industry and tourism destinations is reliant upon tourism businesses incorporating sustainable principles and practices into their operations. This assessment is designed to assess your ability to apply a theoretical understanding of sustainability principles, specifically focusing on economic sustainability, in the development of a business plan for a sustainable tourism enterprise.

In groups (2-3), you are required to prepare a business plan for a sustainable tourism business that you would like to start, have knowledge of or is fictitious. The business plan template is provided as part of the text book, with each topic of the unit incorporating key aspects that will be included in the business plan.

For distance students, an online Moodle forum will be used as a platform to enhance group formations. If required, there will be a capacity to complete this assessment individually, subject to prior approval of the Unit Co-ordinator.

The business plan should address the following:

- Business description
- Products and services
- Marketing
- Management and legal structure
- Operations
- Financial management

Format of the report:

- Follow the template provided via the Moodle page
- No longer than 3000 words (excluding title page and references)
- Title page with business name, student name/s, student number, due date
- Main body of the report should be word-processed, with appropriate layout and use of headings/sub-headings, one-and-a-half line spacing (as per business plan template)
- Page of references at the end of the report that is correctly formatted using APA (10 minimum required references).

Submission of the report:

- Online – Business plans are to be uploaded to Moodle as a Word document.

### Assessment Due Date

Week 12 Friday (5 June 2020) 11:45 pm AEST

Submission via Moodle (one submission per group)

### Return Date to Students

Exam Week Friday (19 June 2020)

As there is no exam for this unit, the formal results for this assessment will be available on Certification of Grades.

### Weighting

50%

### Assessment Criteria

The following criteria will be assessed, with a full allocation of marks available via the marking rubric on Moodle:

- Identification and description of business - clear identification and explanation of the tourism business, products and services
- Identification and critical analysis of external environment, including market demand, competitive environment (SWOT), and risk assessment
- Identification and critical analysis of marketing, management, operational (including HRM) and financial practices that demonstrate sustainability
- Content development - logical flow, clarity and consistency of business throughout document
- Style and conventions - formal and informal rules inherent in expectations for writing a business plan
- Syntax and mechanics - sentence construction, grammar, punctuation and spelling, references formatted in APA (minimum. 10 references)

### Referencing Style

- [American Psychological Association 6th Edition \(APA 6th edition\)](#)

**Submission**

Online

**Submission Instructions**

Online via Moodle

**Learning Outcomes Assessed**

- Demonstrate an advanced knowledge of the economic impacts of tourism, across enterprise, industry and destination levels
- Investigate, analyse and synthesise a range of theories that may be applied to understanding the management of economically sustainable tourism businesses
- Critically review and evaluate recent developments and future challenges in implementing economically sustainable tourism practices in tourism businesses
- Integrate your advanced knowledge of sustainable practice to research, develop and evaluate a sustainable tourism business plan.

**Graduate Attributes**

- Knowledge
- Communication
- Cognitive, technical and creative skills
- Research
- 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