Units of study

Time-based research units
At the time of commencement you are enrolled in a degree program according to your department of registration, for example, PhD in Biology (PHD,BIOL), MPhil in International Studies (MPHIL,INTS). You are also enrolled in a research unit, which is referred to as a 'time-based unit', according to your research discipline within the department of registration, for example, BIOL990, ASST995. Candidates who are within the standard period of their degree candidature will continue to be automatically re-enrolled in the time-based unit from year to year subject to satisfactory progress and payment of any outstanding fees. When a candidate has reached the maximum candidature period for their degree, their enrolment will cease. Out-of-time candidates will be required to formally apply for approval in order to be re-enrolled.

Higher Degree Compulsory Coursework units
Some research programs incorporate coursework units as a core part of the program. These units are referred to as Higher Degree Compulsory Coursework (HDCC) units. The structure of the programs and the units in which you must enrol are listed in the ‘Faculties and departments’ section of this prospectus. If enrolling in these programs you must consult the appropriate departmental advisor for advice or information on the units in which you should enrol. Continuing candidates undertaking such programs are required to enrol each year in the appropriate coursework units for the degree. Research degrees which incorporate HDCC units are:

Combined Research and Coursework Degrees
Doctor of Philosophy/Master of Clinical Neuropsychology
Doctor of Philosophy/Master of Clinical Psychology
Doctor of Philosophy/Master of Organisational Psychology

Higher Degree Research Training units
Some departments require you to enrol in seminar units and/or additional coursework units which are not part of the core degree requirements but are recommended for your particular program of research. These units are referred to as Higher Degree Research Training (HDRT) units. Seminar units generally have no credit point weighting and are exempt from fees. The coursework units are credit- and fee-based, however, the units are exempt from fees for HDR candidates, and can only be added to your research program if your supervisor and the department certify that the units are essential for your research program.

Any additional units of enrolment required for either the research program or specific to you are listed in your Letter of Offer and are also summarised in the enrolment information for higher degree research candidates.

Unit descriptions
The following is a list of short unit descriptions. Included are units required for the research programs that have a compulsory coursework component, as well as seminar units which you are expected to undertake as part of your program. More detailed descriptions of these units are available from the relevant faculty and department. For more information on postgraduate coursework units visit handbook.mq.edu.au/2011

Faculty of Arts

ANTH894 Field and Related Methodologies
Designed to introduce and facilitate research and writing by preparing candidates for field work and individual projects including the development of the research proposal and seminar presentation.

ANTH895 Theoretical Perspectives in Anthropology
This seminar focuses on current theoretical issues relevant to writing contemporary ethnography. The material is designed to expose candidates to a wide range of critical writings, genres and styles emerging from seminal debates within the writing of culture.

LAW901 Legal Research 1 – Advanced Legal Research Methods
This compulsory unit will be undertaken through participation in seminars conducted in the Macquarie Law School during the first year of candidature. The seminars will focus on research methodology and differing theoretical approaches in legal discourse. The unit is compulsory for all research candidates.

LAW902 Legal Research 2 – Legal Theory and Writing in Law
This compulsory unit will be undertaken through participation in seminars conducted in the Macquarie Law School. It will be offered after completion of LAW901 Legal Research 1 and will normally be undertaken in the first two years of candidature, and will be run in the second half-year. The seminars will focus on the role of legal theory in a thesis. The unit is compulsory for all research candidates.

LAW903 Legal Research 3 – Legal Research Colloquium
This compulsory unit will be undertaken through participation in seminars conducted in the Macquarie Law School, attendance at the Faculty Seminar Series, and a presentation at the Annual Postgraduate Colloquium held by the faculty. The unit will be offered after completion of LAW901 Legal Research 1 and LAW902 Legal Research 2, and will normally be undertaken in the third year of candidature. The unit is compulsory for all research candidates.

MMCS901 Media, Music and Cultural Studies Postgraduate Research Seminar
This unit aims to deepen candidates’ knowledge of relevant critical theories and research methodologies. It also addresses thesis project management and writing skills, and provides a forum for candidates to discuss their work-in-progress.
Units of study

PHIL896 Philosophy Postgraduate Research Seminar
This unit combines instruction in research methods, project management and thesis writing with a forum for the presentation of research in progress. It is a compulsory component of the PhD and MPhil program in philosophy for internal students.

SOC864 Reading and Method Research
This unit is designed to deepen candidates’ knowledge and skills in reading and research techniques across a range of areas in the social sciences. Particular attention will be paid to writing strategies in relation to thesis preparation.

Faculty of Business and Economics

ACCG805 Research Methodology in Finance
This unit introduces candidates to the methodology of research in finance, examining theoretical and empirical issues related to the pricing of securities and the nature of risk in financial markets.

ACCG807 Research Seminar in Accounting and Finance
This unit requires candidates to attend and participate in the Research Seminar Series of the department and to prepare written critiques on selected papers presented in the series. Pre-seminar classes are held for selected papers to assist the critique process.

ACCG893 Research Methodology in Accounting
This unit examines experimental, survey, field and archival (historical) research methods as used in accounting and related research, and is designed to develop analytical and critical thinking skills.

ECON900 Special Topics in Economics I
For details of this unit candidates are asked to contact their research supervisor.

ECON901 Special Topics in Economics II
For details of this unit candidates are asked to contact their research supervisor.

ECON902 Special Topics in Economics III
For details of this unit candidates are asked to contact their research supervisor.

Faculty of Human Sciences

PSY907 Research Training I (Year 1)
This unit teaches generic skills required for conducting academic research and helps prepare for an academic career. Contents include IT training, faculty commencement seminar, submission of research plan and literature review, attendance at departmental seminars, and participation in the Faculty Research Festival.

PSY908 Research Training II (Year 2)
This unit continues from PSY907. Completion requirements: presentation of an external conference paper or submission of a journal article, attendance at departmental colloquia, participation in the Faculty Research Festival, joining a professional/scholarly association.

PSY909 Research Training III (Year 3)
This unit continues from PSY908. Completion requirements: preparation of research grant application through the Macquarie University Postgraduate Research Fund Grant, attendance at departmental colloquia and research meetings, and participation in the Faculty Research Festival.

PSY910 Research Training IV (Year 4)
This unit continues from PSY909. Completion requirements: preparation of research grant application using the Macquarie University Early Career Researcher Grant Scheme or external grant, presentation of an external conference paper or submission of a journal article, attendance at departmental colloquia and research meetings, and participation in the Faculty Research Festival. Submission of Final Report form: Higher Degree Research Grant – www.psy.mq.edu.au/courses/pdf/final_report.dot

Faculty of Science

BIOL801 Biology Seminar
All candidates are required to give one seminar each year in the BIOL801 Postgraduate Seminar series, conducted during the November examination period. All members of the department attend this unit.

BIOL805 Postgraduate Research Report
All candidates undertaking their degrees by thesis must submit a report on their research work to their supervisor in order to progress to the following year. The report should be as concise as possible and written in the same format as a scientific paper. It will be assessed on its literary and scientific content.

CBMS901 Annual Research Presentation
This is a co-requisite of research programs in CBMS. All candidates are required to give one research presentation each year to the department at a designated time. The presentation performance and the research progress are then reviewed by the department.
CBMS902 Annual Research Report
This is a co-requisite of research programs in CBMS. All research candidates are required to provide a research progress report each year in October. The research progress is evaluated by the principal supervisor and validated by the faculty and University.

CHIR901 Postgraduate Seminar
All candidates are required to give one seminar each year at the Research Student Seminar Series, conducted during October/November. The seminar provides a forum for ideas, a critical review and feedback on research projects, and develops research presentation skills.

CHIR905 Research Student Report
All candidates must submit a written report of their research work each academic year to be assessed by the supervisor and the research director. Format for the report would preferably be that of a biomedical journal paper. This unit documents completed and proposed activities.

COMP901 Academic Presentation and Writing Skills
This unit has two strands; one on research communication and one on research methods. In the former, candidates will be acquainted with the standards of academic writing and presentation. In the latter, candidates will cover topics such as experimental method and evaluation, reviewing and critiquing research, the ethics of research, choosing a good research topic, and time management.

GSE898 Research Management
This is a co-requisite unit for all candidates in their first semester. A pass grade is required to progress. This unit provides an introduction to environmental research and consists of tutorials on research methodology, conducting literature reviews, refining the research proposal and applying for funding.

GSE899 Research Communication
This is a co-requisite unit for all candidates for the duration of enrolment. This unit requires attendance at workshops on oral and written communication early in candidature and requires the presentation of a seminar once per year. Progress is also monitored within this unit: candidates submit a progress report and are interviewed by a panel once a semester.

MATH843 Mathematics Research Training
Topics include an introduction to a mathematical typesetting language, a software package and use of web.

PHYS802 Physics Research Skills (Year 1)
The unit addresses bibliographic, writing and speaking, and grant-writing skills, and offers guidance in research and research management, ethics, intellectual property and innovation. Thesis writing and examination processes are also discussed.