

HLSC4310A: Research Project A

Callaghan

Semester 1 - 2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

OVERVIEW

Course Description This course is Part A of a multi-term sequence. Part B must also be completed to meet the requirements of the sequence.

Students will undertake an individual supervised research project, incorporating self-directed learning, with assistance from their supervisor. Projects will address a health sciences related research question. Students will use evidence based techniques to develop and test a hypothesis. This will ideally be in an area where there is sufficient published literature so that the student is able to critically appraise the topic. In research Project A, students will initiate and progress their project in consultation with their supervisor; they will complete their project in Research Project B.

Academic Progress Requirements Nil

Requisites This course is only available to students enrolled in the programs:

- [12337] Bachelor of Physiotherapy (Honours)
- [12338] Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Honours)
- [12339] Bachelor of Nutrition and Dietetics (Honours)
- [40002] Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science (Honours)(Diagnostic Radiography)
- [40010] Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science (Honours)(Radiation Therapy)
- [40011] Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science (Honours)(Nuclear Medicine)

Assumed Knowledge All core courses in the first three years of the relevant program. HLSC4120 (may be concurrent).

Contact Hours **Callaghan**
Individual Supervision
Face to Face On Campus
140 hour(s) per term
Students will meet with their supervisors regularly.
Lecture
Face to Face On Campus
2 hour(s) per term
Students are expected to spend an average of 120- to 140 hours of effort or total load for this course.
Online Activity
Online
2 hour(s) per term

Seminar
Face to Face On Campus

COURSE OUTLINE

6 hour(s) per term
Students are expected to attend oral presentation sessions.

**Unit Weighting
Workload**

10
Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

**Multi-Term Sequence
Advice**

This course is part of a multi-term sequence. Both Part A and Part B must be completed to meet the requirements of the sequence. Part A and Part B must be completed in consecutive terms. Students must complete Part A before completing Part B. Students must complete the sequence within a twelve month period. If students complete Part A but are unable to complete Part B within the timeframe, they must re-enrol in Part A. Part A cannot be completed as a standalone course, it will only count towards your program once you have successfully completed Part B.

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator

Callaghan
Dr Jennifer St George
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(02) 4921 6690
Consultation:

Teaching Staff

Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.

School Office

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SYLLABUS

Course Content

1. Planning a research question.
2. Critically appraising the literature.
3. Developing a testable hypothesis.
4. Designing a study and selecting a research method.
5. Obtaining ethics approval with support of supervisor (if required).
6. Managing a research project.
7. Presenting research proposals (written and oral).

**Course Learning
Outcomes**

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Develop a research question.
2. Critically appraise the literature related to the research question.
3. Demonstrate the application of research strategies.
4. Collect data appropriately.
5. Analyse and interpret data.
6. Demonstrate advanced oral and written communication skills including the presentation of a research report.

Course Materials

SCHEDULE for HLSC4310A

Week	Week Begins	Key Events
1	26 Feb	Introduction to Honours Lecture, Monday 26 Feb, 8am, GPLG02 Complete the About your Project form Meet with your supervisor*
2	4 Mar	
3	11 Mar	Meet with your supervisor*
4	18 Mar	Drop-In Session with Course Coordinator, Tuesday 19 March, 11am, ZOOM link here Census date Friday 22 March
5	25 Mar	Meet with your supervisor*
6	1 Apr	Complete your Progress Report here
7	8 Apr	Meet with your supervisor*
Mid-Semester Recess		
Mid-Semester Recess		
8	29 Apr	Meet with your supervisor* Drop-In Session with Course Coordinator, Thursday 2 May, 12PM, ZOOM link here
9	6 May	
10	13 May	Meet with your supervisor*
11	20 May	
12	27 May	Assessment Due: Oral Presentations
13	3 Jun	Meet with your supervisor*
Exam week 1	10 Jun	Assessment Due: Introduction & Methods Paper (16 June)
Exam week 2	17 Jun	

*Student and supervisor responsibility to organise meetings according to negotiated schedule

ASSESSMENTS

This multi-sequence course has 4 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Part A - Presentations – In person	Semester 1 Week 12 – exact time and date TBA, see Canvas	Individual	Formative	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
2	Part A - Introduction and Method of the research project	Semester 1 Sunday June 16 2024, 11.59PM (end of Exam week 1)	Individual	20%	1, 2, 3, 6
3	Part B - Research project thesis/dissertation	Semester 2 Monday 21 October 2024, 11.59PM	Individual	60%	1, 2, 3, 4, 6
4	Part B - Oral Presentation (project results)	Semester 2 Exam week 4-8 Nov 2024, exact time and date TBC, see Canvas	Individual	20%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Late Submissions

The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 10% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late. Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days.

Assessment 1 - Oral Presentations – In Person

Assessment Type	Presentation
Purpose	For students to demonstrate their ability to communicate orally the rationale for their research project, the research question, and the research methodology.
Description	Students will present in person, their research project, primarily the introduction, methods and ethical considerations to their peers and relevant academics. Each student will present for 10 minutes, with 5 minutes scheduled for questions.
Weighting	This is a formative assessment and will not contribute to your final grade.
Length	10-minute presentation + 5 minutes for questions
Due Date	Week 12, starting 28 May, 2024, as per timetable Individual times will be confirmed by Course Coordinator. You are expected to attend the full session for your Discipline, as per timetable. Submit PowerPoint by 31 May, 2024, 11.59PM
Submission Method	In Class Students will present in person on a scheduled day to their peers and relevant academics, using the PowerPoint presentation software. Presentation via ZOOM may be feasible, depending on Public Health rules and student requirements. Submit Submit the Presentation PowerPoint as .ppt or .pdf to the Canvas portal.
Assessment Criteria	Students will be provided feedback on their oral presentation and scientific communication skills. A rubric is on the Canvas site.
Return Method	Online/email
Feedback Provided	Online. Students will receive a copy of the feedback form via email. Oral feedback will also be provided to each discipline on the day of the seminar, and an overall summary provided on Canvas.

Assessment 2 - Introduction and Method of the research project

Assessment Type	Written Paper
Purpose	For students to demonstrate their ability to communicate in written form the rationale for their research project, the research questions, and the methods used.
Description	Students will submit the Introduction and Methods section of their research manuscript, formatted as a manuscript for submission to a relevant peer reviewed journal. (Includes title page, introduction, methods, references and any required tables and figures). There are other requirements, see Canvas.
Weighting	20%
Length	As relevant % of journal guidelines, not including reference list, approx.. 2000 words
Due Date	Sunday June 16 2024, 11.59PM
Submission Method	Online Submission to Assignments (Turnitin) on the Canvas site File naming convention: e.g., SMITH, J_Introduction and Methods
Assessment Criteria	Students will be assessed on their review and critique of existing literature and the framing of an appropriate research question, clear and concise description of the study methods, and scientific writing skills. The marking rubric is on the Canvas site.
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online. Students will receive feedback and a copy of their marks as per the marking rubric via Canvas. An overall summary of feedback (i.e., collective strengths and areas for improvement) will be provided on Canvas.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grading Scheme	This course is Part A of a multi-term sequence. A grade will be awarded at the completion of Part B.
Communication Methods	Communication methods used in this course include:
Course Evaluation	Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement.
Oral Interviews (Vivas)	As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination (viva) may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the Oral Examination (viva) Procedure . In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the Student Conduct Rule .
Academic Misconduct	All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment.

Academic Integrity policies apply to all students of the University in all modes of study and in all locations. For the Student Academic Integrity Policy, refer to <https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35>.

**Adverse
Circumstances**

The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s). Applications for special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where:

1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or
2. the assessment item is a minor assessment item and the Course Co-ordinator has specified in the Course Outline that students may apply the online Adverse Circumstances system;
3. you are requesting a change of placement; or
4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement.

Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstance Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at:

<https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236>

**Important Policy
Information**

The Help button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures at <https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/respect-at-uni/policies-and-procedures> that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.

This course outline was approved by the Head of School. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Head of School approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original.

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