

## NURS6900: Introduction to Research in Health Care

Callaghan and Online  
Trimester 1 - 2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEWCASTLE  
AUSTRALIA

## OVERVIEW

**Course Description** This course will introduce students to the various approaches to conducting research in health care. Students will learn about study planning and design and will develop an awareness of important considerations in study design. Students will also learn to review and critique published research and reviews of published studies.

**Academic Progress Requirements** Nil

**Assumed Knowledge** Foundational knowledge in the critical appraisal and utilisation of research; including quantitative, qualitative and mixed method approaches, to inform professional practice. Academic reading and writing skills, ability to access and evaluate information from a variety of sources, skills in critical analysis, critical judgement, synthesis and evaluation and expertise using 'Endnote' or similar reference database management program.

**Contact Hours**

**Callaghan**  
**Online Activity**  
Online  
2 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s) starting Week 1

**Self-Directed Learning**  
Self-Directed  
8 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s) starting Week 1

**Tutorial**  
Face to Face On Campus  
2 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s)

**Online Students**  
**Online Activity**  
Online  
2 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s) starting Week 1

**Self-Directed Learning**  
Self-Directed  
8 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s) starting Week 1

**Unit Weighting** 10

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

# COURSE OUTLINE

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# CONTACTS

<b>Course Coordinator</b>	<b>Callaghan and Online</b> Dr Julie Reis <a href="mailto:Julie.Reis@newcastle.edu.au">Julie.Reis@newcastle.edu.au</a> (+61) 2 4921 2096 Consultation: Contact via email to arrange a suitable time. Consultation will occur via Zoom.  <b>NOTE:</b> Responses to emails can be expected within three (3) working days unless the tutor or Course Coordinator is off campus.  Weekly drop-in sessions will be available via Canvas  General Course Questions should be posted to Canvas, where the answer may be of benefit to other students. Students are required to check their UON (University of Newcastle) email account regularly and to use their student-mail accounts for all email correspondence with the University.
<b>Teaching Staff</b>	Teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.
<b>School Office</b>	<b>School of Nursing and Midwifery</b> Richardson Wing University of Newcastle University Drive CALLAGHAN NSW 2308  Central Coast Clinical School 77 Holden Street GOSFORD NSW 2250  <b>Phone:</b> (+61) 2 4921 6304 <b>Web:</b> <a href="http://www.newcastle.edu.au/school/nursing-midwifery">http://www.newcastle.edu.au/school/nursing-midwifery</a>
<b>School Office General Enquiries</b>	<a href="mailto:AskUoN@newcastle.edu.au">AskUoN@newcastle.edu.au</a> (+61) 2 4921 5000
<b>Program &amp; Enrolment Advice</b>	<a href="mailto:ProgramAdvice@newcastle.edu.au">ProgramAdvice@newcastle.edu.au</a>
<b>Student Support</b>	For academic and personal support services for students, visit <a href="https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/support">https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/support</a>

# SYLLABUS

<b>Course Content</b>	This course is presented as the following modules: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Module 1: Introduction to research in health care</li><li>• Module 2: Literature reviews</li><li>• Module 3: Quantitative study design</li><li>• Module 4: Qualitative study design</li><li>• Module 5: Mixed methods study design</li></ul>
<b>Course Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Describe the purpose of undertaking research in health care</li><li>2. Review and critically evaluate a published study or literature review using a recognised</li></ol>

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critical appraisal instrument

3. Outline the components of quantitative, qualitative and mixed method study designs.
4. Identify and describe important considerations in study design including: ethical implications and vulnerable populations including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, and ensuring rigour in research.
5. Develop health care research questions and select study designs and research processes that are suitable for answering them

**Course Materials**

**Required Texts**

Nil

**Recommended Texts**

Evans, D. (2022). *Making Sense of Evidence-based Practice for Nursing: An Introduction to Quantitative and Qualitative Research and Systematic Reviews* (1st ed.). Routledge.

Richardson-Tench, M. & Nicholson, P. (2022). *Research in nursing, midwifery and allied health: evidence for best practice* (7th ed.). Cengage Learning Australia.

**Course Resources**

Course readings and resources will be provided via Canvas

## COMPULSORY REQUIREMENTS

In order to pass this course, each student must complete ALL of the following compulsory requirements:

**Course Assessment Requirements:**

- Assessment 1 - Written Assessment 1: Submit assessment item - Must submit this assessment to pass the course.
- Assessment 2 - Quiz: Submit assessment item - Must submit this assessment to pass the course.
- Assessment 3 - Written Assessment 2: Submit assessment item - Must submit this assessment to pass the course.

# SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Assessment Due
1	29 January	<b>Module 1: Introduction to research in health care</b> Why undertake research in health care?	
2	5 February	Understanding research designs and concepts	
3	12 February	<b>Module 2: Literature reviews</b> Understanding literature reviews	
4	19 February	Undertaking literature reviews	
5	26 February	<b>Module 3: Quantitative study design</b> Understanding quantitative research	Assessment 1: Written Assessment Monday 26 February 2024, 11.00pm (AEDT)
6	4 March	Undertaking quantitative research	
7	11 March	Appraising quantitative research	
8	18 March	<b>Module 4: Qualitative research</b> Understanding qualitative research	Assessment 2: Online Quiz Opens Monday 18 March 9.00am, 2024 (AEDT) Closes Sunday 24 March 2024, 11.00pm (AEDT)
9	25 March	Designing qualitative research	
10	1 April	Appraising qualitative research	
11	8 April	<b>Module 5: Mixed methods study design</b> Understanding mixed methods research	Assessment 3: Written Assessment. Monday 8 April 2024, 11.00pm (AEST)
12	15 April	Research in the health care setting	

# ASSESSMENTS

This course has 3 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Written Assessment 1*	Monday 26 February 2024, 11.00pm (AEDT)	Individual	35%	1, 2
2	Quiz*	Opens Monday 18 March 2024, 9.00am (AEDT) Closes Sunday 24 March 2024, 11.00pm (AEDT)	Individual	15%	1, 3, 4
3	Written Assessment 2*	Monday 8 April 2024, 11.00pm (AEST)	Individual	50%	1, 3, 4, 5

\* This assessment has a compulsory requirement.

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<b>Late Submissions</b>	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.
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## **POST GRADUATE COURSES ASSESSMENT AND REFERENCING ADVICE**

### **ASSESSMENTS**

#### **If you need to apply for an extension for an assessment:**

You should follow the process described in your Course Outline under the heading "Adverse Circumstances". Please note you will be required to submit documents to support your application.

Please do not email your tutor or course coordinator to request an extension because they cannot approve applications for extensions unless they have been submitted using the Adverse Circumstances process.

#### **Formatting your assessments:**

- -General advice - Use standard (default) margins, double line spacing and 12-point font in your assessments.
- -If you have additional instructions about using headings or an essay format or other formats (such as blogs) – please follow instructions provided for individual assessments.

#### **Word Count:**

The length of the assessment is an indication of the number of words needed to address the assessment task. This is a guide however, some students have difficulty keeping their writing within the specified word count. If your assessment exceeds the word count by 10%, the entire assessment will be marked. Tutors may stop marking if your assessment exceeds the word count by more than 10%. Please note the following information from the UON Course Management and Assessment Procedure Manual (Item 250 and 251):

"Word limits include headings, sub-heading, in-text citations, quotes and referencing but does NOT include the list of references, appendices and footnotes. The Course Co-ordinator will allow a tolerance of at least 10% of the word limit". (<https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=183>)

### **REFERENCING**

Your assessments must be appropriately referenced. Assessments that are not correctly referenced may have lower marks awarded.

Assessments that contain information from other sources that have not been referenced and where it appears that the student is presenting another person's work or ideas as their own, will be referred to the SACO officer. This constitutes a potential breach of the Student Academic Integrity Policy (<https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35>)

#### **What should be referenced?**

All sources of published information including textbooks, journal articles, course readings, websites, guidelines, policies and government documents that have been used to prepare an assessment MUST be included in the assessment as an in-text citation AND on the reference list.

Any documents provided to you to use in the preparation of an assessment must be referenced.

Direct quotes MUST be referenced. However, please note direct quotes should be used sparingly and should not constitute more than 10% of an assessment.

Information that you have paraphrased in your assessment must also be referenced. Correct citation of sources and referencing is expected in scholarly writing at Masters level. Assessments that are not correctly referenced may be penalised (lower marks awarded).

#### **Correct Referencing style**

You are required to use APA 7th Referencing Style in all of your assessments (unless otherwise stated). Check this link for details about using APA 7th Style: <https://libguides.newcastle.edu.au/apa-7th>

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## Making Referencing Easier

Referencing your assessments is easier if you use a Reference Management Program such as “Endnote”.

There is information in Canvas that will assist you to access and use the Endnote referencing program. Select: “Library Essentials” at the top right of your screen, then select “Referencing” from the list of options on the left side of the screen, and then scroll down to select “Endnote”. Or click on this link: <http://libguides.newcastle.edu.au/endnote>

## Academic Integrity

All new students must complete the Academic Integrity Module (AIM), which can be accessed via the Dashboard in Canvas.

Assessments that contain information from other sources that have not been referenced and where it appears that the student is presenting another persons’ work or ideas as their own, will be referred to a Student Academic Conduct Officer (SACO). This constitutes a potential breach of the Student Academic Integrity Policy.

The Student Academic Integrity Policy is available via this link: <https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35>

## Assessment 1 - Written Assessment 1

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Written Assignment
<b>Description</b>	In this assessment you will review and critique a <b>systematic literature review</b> . You will be provided with a published systematic literature review that <b>must be referenced</b> in the assignment submission. The assignment will consist of short answer questions that will be used to critique the systematic review. The questions are adapted from the JBI Checklist for systematic reviews and research syntheses (JBI 2020). Further instructions and an assessment template (containing the questions) will be provided on the Canvas site under Assignments.
<b>Weighting</b>	35%
<b>Compulsory Requirements</b>	Submit assessment item - Must submit this assessment to pass the course
<b>Length</b>	1500 words (+/- 10% for allowance)
<b>Due Date</b>	Monday 26 February 2024, 11.00pm Australian Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT)
<b>Submission Method</b>	Via Canvas
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	Located on Canvas
<b>Return Method</b>	Via Canvas
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Via Canvas 15 University working days after submission
<b>Opportunity to Reattempt</b>	Students WILL NOT be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment

## Assessment 2 - Quiz

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Quiz
<b>Description</b>	This assessment provides you with the opportunity to demonstrate understanding of key concepts covered in modules one (1) to three (3). The online quiz consists of 15 multiple choice questions. Once commenced, students will have 30 minutes to complete and submit the quiz. Questions will be presented one at a time, with no opportunity to revise answered questions. No marks will be awarded for an online quiz if it is not attempted or remains in progress when the quiz closes. Only one attempt within the designated week is available.
<b>Weighting</b>	15%
<b>Compulsory Requirements</b>	Submit assessment item - Must submit this assessment to pass the course

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<b>Length</b>	15 multiple choice questions, 30 minutes
<b>Due Date</b>	Opens Monday 18 March 2024, 9.00am Australian Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT) Closes Sunday 24 March 2024, 11.00pm Australian Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT)
<b>Submission Method</b>	Via Canvas
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	N/A
<b>Return Method</b>	Via Canvas
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Via Canvas
<b>Opportunity to Reattempt</b>	Students WILL NOT be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment

## Assessment 3 - Written Assessment 2

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Written Assignment
<b>Description</b>	For this assessment task, you will choose a research topic and plan a <b>qualitative study</b> to address the topic chosen.

The research plan must include the following components:

1. Background (approximately 500 words): discuss the background for this qualitative study and provide a justification for why the research is needed (supported by high quality contemporary literature)
2. Research Question (approximately 50 words): state a qualitative research question on the selected topic that clearly identifies the study population and phenomenon of interest.
3. Study Design (approximately 700 words):
  - a. Describe an appropriate methodology to address the research question for this qualitative study.
  - b. Describe the study population, eligibility criteria, study sample, sampling method and recruitment methods for this qualitative study.
  - c. Describe what methods you will use to collect and analyse the data for this qualitative study
4. Study limitations and rigour (approximately 150 words): discuss the rigour/trustworthiness and limitations for this qualitative study (supported by high quality contemporary literature).
5. Ethical Considerations (approximately 200 words): Discuss the ethical implications for this qualitative study including vulnerable populations (such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples) where applicable. This is to be supported by high quality contemporary literature and relevant state or national research polices.

Further instructions and an assessment template will be provided on the Canvas site under Assignments.

<b>Weighting</b>	50%
<b>Compulsory Requirements</b>	Submit assessment item - Must submit this assessment to pass the course
<b>Length</b>	1600 words (+/- 10% for allowance)
<b>Due Date</b>	Monday 8 April 2024, 11.00pm Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST)
<b>Submission Method</b>	Via Canvas
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	Located on Canvas
<b>Return Method</b>	Via Canvas
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Via Canvas 15 University working days after submission
<b>Opportunity to Reattempt</b>	Students WILL NOT be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## Grading Scheme

This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.

\*Skills are those identified for the purposes of assessment task(s).

## Withdrawal from Course

You can withdraw from a course without financial penalty on or before the census date Friday 23 February 2024. If you withdraw after this date, it is considered you have been enrolled in the course and will be liable for the course fees.

## Communication Methods

Communication methods used in this course include:

- Canvas Course Site: Students will receive communications via the posting of content or announcements on the Canvas course site.
- Email: Students will receive communications via their student email account.
- Face to Face: Communication will be provided via zoom

## 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).



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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/no-room-for/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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