

## Assessment Task Description: Research Project Thesis / Report

<b>Task</b>	Research Project – discipline specific, could include: thesis, research paper, case study, design, creative work, model, simulation or other as negotiated with your major (science) / course (maths & IT) coordinator.
<b>Unit Learning Outcomes Addressed</b>	On completion of this assessment item you should be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Demonstrate independent collection, analysis and synthesis of data and information in a research project in a discipline related context</li> <li>2. Employ logical and sound judgement for informed decision making</li> <li>3. Apply independent research to identify evidence-based solutions for complex problems</li> <li>4. Communicate and justify your research to diverse audiences</li> </ol>
<b>Specifications</b>	This assessment item is worth 70% of your final grade. The final product should conform to the genre and structure specific to your discipline requirements. Theses, research papers (manuscripts), project reports and case studies should be presented in 12 point Times New Roman or Arial font, 1.5 line spacing and should be of an appropriate length in relation to the research topic/question and commensurate with the genre of artefact, to be confirmed by your major or course coordinator.
<b>Overview</b>	
In this assessment item, you are required to investigate a research topic, outlined in your literature review in SEB401. After implementing your research design as developed in the Project Proposal in SEB402 and/or directly guided by your supervisor(s) , you are to systematically collect, analyse and synthesise data, critically analyse the findings, and communicate your conclusions and recommendations in a clear and scholarly manner.	
<b>What you will do</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Investigate a research topic in depth and submit a thesis (dissertation?), research paper or case study which usually follows the format below: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>Title page</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State the title of the thesis, the candidate's name, degree for which it is submitted, the advisor(s), university, school, and year of submission.</li> </ul> </li> <li>b. <b>Contents pages (optional)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Table of Contents, List of Figures, List of Tables, List of Acronyms/Glossary (optional).</li> </ul> </li> <li>c. <b>Abstract</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summarise the topic, argument, major finding/s, and major conclusion/s.</li> </ul> </li> <li>d. <b>Statement of original authorship</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Declare original authorship and sign</li> </ul> </li> <li>e. <b>Acknowledgements (optional)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thank your supporters, sponsors and family</li> </ul> </li> <li>f. <b>Introduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Articulate and explain the thesis topic.</li> <li>• In the case of a manuscript this may also include a short overview of the relevant literature.</li> </ul> </li> <li>g. <b>Literature Review (optional)</b></li> </ol> </li> </ol>	

- Your literature review was already marked in SEB401. You may choose to include an updated version to assist the markers with context but it will not be marked.
- h. **Methodology / Methods** \*Discipline Specific
  - Determine, situate, and synthesise appropriate theoretical concepts within an overall conceptual framework or
  - Describe procedures followed for data collection and analyses. Should provide enough information for the experiment to be replicated.
- i. **Results/ Analysis**
  - Present scholarly findings and argue claims.
- j. **Discussion / Conclusion**
  - Reflect and conclude major findings, key issues, limitations, and future work / recommendations.
- k. **References**
- l. **Appendices (optional)**

Note:

- Citations: Correctly cite and reference all source materials used in the project, ensure that all citations are referenced in the reference list following a consistent, discipline-appropriate referencing style.
- Presentation: Carefully edit your final product to ensure accurate spelling, grammar and punctuation, quotations and references, including cross-references.
- You may be provided with extra guidance by the major / course coordinator that is relevant to your discipline.

#### When and What you will submit

The final product is due on Monday 3rd November (week 15) or a date negotiated with your major coordinator. You will need to submit:

- An electronic copy submitted via the SEB403 Blackboard site.

#### Resources and Useful References

1. SEB400 resources
2. QUT Cite | Write
3. [Writing a thesis for honours students](#)
4. Books

## Criteria and Standards for Grading

Criteria	7 High Distinction	6 Distinction	5 Credit	4 Pass	3 Marginal Fail	2/1 Fail	Weighting
<b>Articulate and explain the research topic</b>	Title succinctly portrays the full dimensions of the paper and has an 'original' perspective	Title succinctly portrays the full dimensions of the paper	Title portrays the full dimensions of the paper.	Title portrays a limited sense of the paper	Title is present but provides minimal information about the paper	There is no title.	
	Provides an abstract that clearly, succinctly and coherently conveys the essential aspects of the project and its outcomes	Abstracts the essence of the project and its outcomes in a coherent manner	Abstracts the essence of the project and its outcomes	Writes an abstract that captures the essential aspects of the project but also includes inappropriate information	Writes an abstract without capturing the essential aspects of the project.	There is no abstract.	
	Identifies unique research question / issue / creative challenge and its significance.	Clearly identifies the research problem and its significance.	Identifies the research problem, and mentions its significance.	Identifies a research problem	A research problem is identified but is not clearly explained	No research problem is identified	
	Clearly, concisely, and explicitly articulates goals / objectives / hypotheses and relate directly to the problem identified	Clearly articulates research hypothesis, the aims and specific objectives and well-specified criteria for success.	States the objectives clearly i.e. audience has no questions or doubts about the key points of the research topic	Identifies goals / objectives / hypothesis	Goals / objectives / hypothesis are not clearly explained	No goals / objectives / hypothesis identified	
	Where appropriate (e.g. manuscript)  Demonstrates a deep and comprehensive knowledge and understanding of relevant literature; critically analyses it, and relates and applies it to the project, providing insightful comparisons.	Where appropriate (e.g. manuscript)  Demonstrates a high level of knowledge and understanding of relevant literature; critically analyses it and relates it to the project.	Where appropriate (e.g. manuscript)  Demonstrates reasonable knowledge and understanding of relevant literature; makes some attempt to critically analyse it and relate it to the project.	Where appropriate (e.g. manuscript)  Demonstrates basic knowledge and understanding of relevant literature, with some attempt to relate it to the project.	Where appropriate (e.g. manuscript)  Demonstrates only a limited knowledge and understanding of relevant literature.	Where appropriate (e.g. manuscript)  Does not discuss relevant literature.	
<b>Articulate Research Design</b> (may include methodology /	Methodology / approach is most appropriate, clearly justified, accurate, thorough, and ideally innovative. and / or	Methodology / approach is appropriate and clearly justified.  and / or	Methodology / approach is appropriate and major steps in the wider framework are clearly outlined. and / or	Methodology / approach is appropriate  and / or	Methodology / approach is missing, incomplete, insufficiently detailed or inappropriate  and / or	No methodology / approach  and / or	

# SEB403 Honours Research Project 2014

design approach / methods)	Research methods / experimental design is appropriate, clearly outlined and demonstrates initiative and innovative techniques	Research methods / experimental design is sound, clearly outlined and justified by identifying known methods to the research topic and many of the key issues that bear on such methods.	Research methods / experimental design is sound and clearly outlined.	Research methods / experimental design is appropriate and clearly outlined.	Research methods / experimental design is inappropriate	No research methods / experimental design detailed	
<b>Report results and analysis</b>	Presents results clearly and analyse data critically and comprehensively.  Techniques of analysis address the question, and portray a high degree of validity and reliability.  (where appropriate) Analyse the work of others, identifies and articulates subtleties.	Presents results accurately and analyse data thoroughly.  Relates the analysis directly to the relevant research question/s.	Presents results clearly and shows why the results are important.	Presents results clearly and analyses data to demonstrate validity and reliability.  Produces sufficient evidence to address the question.  Contains no factual errors.	Presents results without critical analysis.  Produces insufficient evidence to address the question.  Contains some factual errors.	Presents few or none of the main results.  Contains some factual errors.	
	Interprets information correctly and in an insightful manner	Interprets information correctly and logically	Interprets information without obvious flaws or omissions	Interprets information mostly sound with some minor flaws and omissions	Interprets information with several flaws and omissions	Incorporates significant misinterpretations or errors	
<b>Discuss and conclude</b>	Makes well developed conclusions with thoroughly convincing justifications including value/significance of the project.  Demonstrates independent and critical thought.  Indicates convincing direction of further research.	Makes sound conclusions with clear justifications; is rigorous in validating claims; and attempts to describe the value of the project.  Indicates direction of further research.	Attempts to validate claims and makes mostly sound conclusions with reasonable justifications.	Makes mostly sound conclusions with some attempts to justify them.	Makes some sound conclusions without justification.	Fails to validate claims; draws unsound or no conclusions.	

# SEB403 Honours Research Project 2014

	Successfully places research outcomes into context of existing literature/knowledge	Relies significantly on existing literature/knowledge to explain research outcomes.	Relies to some extent on existing literature/knowledge to explain research outcomes.	Relevant literature identified in the Introduction/Literature Review has been used minimally to justify conclusions.	Research outcomes are not discussed in relation to existing literature/knowledge.	Research outcomes are not discussed	
<b>Communicate and present in a scholarly manner</b>	Language clearly, concisely, effectively and consistently communicates ideas which can be readily understood by diverse audiences in related fields.	Language generally demonstrates clear and concise expression	Language demonstrates clarity and conciseness of expression in only some aspects of writing	Language communicates the main ideas which can be understood by diverse audiences in related fields.	Language demonstrates limited ability to communicate in written form.	Language obscures meaning for all audiences.	
	The report follows a clear logical progression	The report follows a logical progression	The report follows a sufficient logical progression.	The report follows some logical progression.	The report follows little logical progression.	The report is unfocused.	
	There are minimal grammar and/or spelling errors.	There are minor grammar and/or spelling errors.	There are some grammar and/or spelling errors.	Grammar and/or spelling errors.	Many grammar and/or spelling errors.	Many grammar and/or spelling errors.	
	Presents the thesis/paper according to the style and format required for the discipline area	Presents the thesis/paper with only minor departures from the style and format required for the discipline area	Presents the thesis/paper with some obvious departures from the style and/or format required for the discipline area	Presents the thesis/paper that broadly conforms with the style and/or format required for the discipline area	Presents the thesis/paper with major inconsistencies in the style and/or format required for the discipline area	Does not conform to a structure at all	
	All figures accurate, focussed and informative.	All figures accurate, focussed and informative.	All figures accurate and informative.	Most figures accurate and informative.	Most figures accurate, but not so relevant.	Numerous errors in figures or largely irrelevant.	
	Appropriate referencing and citation style is applied correctly and consistently	Appropriate referencing and citation style is applied correctly and consistently	Appropriate referencing and citation style is applied consistently	Appropriate referencing and citation style is applied, but with some errors	Some referencing, but does not follow the appropriate discipline-specific conventions	No or very little referencing attempted	