



## Unit Guide

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**FIT5190**

**Introduction to IT research methods**

**Semester 1, 2018**

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The information contained in this unit guide is correct at time of publication. The University has the right to change any of the elements contained in this document at any time.

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*Status: Approved*

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# Unit handbook information

## Synopsis

This unit introduces students to IT research. Specifically, it introduces major research methods that are used by IT researchers including experiments, surveys, case studies, and design science. It also addresses the collection and analysis of quantitative and qualitative data. Students will learn how to effectively communicate research. Skills developed and knowledge acquired from this unit will prepare students to conduct their own research, as well as to be knowledgeable consumers of others' research.

## Mode of delivery

Suzhou (On-campus)

## Workload requirements

Minimum total expected workload equals 12 hours per week comprising:

(a.) Contact hours for on-campus students:

- Two hours of lectures
- One 2-hour studio/tutorial

(b.) Additional requirements (all students):

- A minimum of 8 hours independent study per week for completing lab and project work, private study and revision.

See also Unit timetable information

## Unit relationships

### Prerequisites

None

### Prohibitions

FIT4005, FIT5125, FIT5143, FIT5185

### Co-requisites

None

## Chief Examiner

## Campus Lecturer(s)

### Suzhou

Name: Associate Professor Chung-Hsing Yeh

Email: [ChungHsing.Yeh@monash.edu](mailto:ChungHsing.Yeh@monash.edu)

Consultation hours: Friday - one hour before the lecture and one hour after the tutorial

## Tutor(s)

### Suzhou

Chung-Hsing Yeh

## Academic overview

### Learning outcomes

On completion of this unit, students will be able to understand:

1. the major philosophies and principles of research;
2. the major research methods used in IT research,;
3. when a particular method is appropriate for a particular project;
4. how to collect and analyse quantitative and qualitative research data;
5. how to communicate research findings to a variety of audiences;
6. how to critically review research designs and literature.

### Teaching approach

#### Lecture and tutorials or problem classes

This teaching and learning approach provides facilitated learning, practical exploration and peer learning.

### Assessment summary

In-semester assessment (assignments and class tests): 100%

Assessment task	Value	Due date
Assignment 1: Research Writing Tasks	30% (10% for each task)	Task 1 (29 March 2018); Task 2 (20 April 2018); Task 3 (14 May 2018)

Assessment task	Value	Due date
Assignment 2: Critical Review of Published Research	30%	11 May 2018
Assignment 3: Overview of a Research Project - In-Class Oral Presentation	10%	18 May 2018 and 25 May 2018
Assignment 3: Overview of a Research Project - Report	30%	25 May 2018

# Unit schedule

For units with on-campus classes, teaching activities are normally scheduled to start on the hour (teaching will commence on the hour and conclude 10 minutes prior to the scheduled end time).

Week	Activities	Assessment
0		No formal assessment or activities are undertaken in week 0
1	Unit Overview; The Nature of Research	
2	Research Project Design and Planning, and Research Proposals	
3	Literature Review - Setting the Context	
4	Communication of Research - Publication and Oral Presentations	
5	Writing Journal Papers	Assignment 1 - Task 1 due 29 March 2018
6	The Nature of Evidence	
7	Experiments	Assignment 1 - Task 2 due 20 April 2018
8	Quantitative Data Analysis - Probability and Hypothesis Testing	
9	Quantitative Data Analysis - Distributions and Hypothesis Testing	
10	Quantitative Data Analysis - Correlation and Regression	Assignment 2 due 11 May 2018
11	Research Publication Matters - On the Publication Road	Assignment 1 - Task 3 due 14 May 2018 Assignment 3 In-Class Oral Presentations
12	Qualitative Data Collection and Analysis	Assignment 3 In-Class Oral Presentations Assignment 3 Report due 25 May 2018
	SWOT VAC	No formal assessment is undertaken in SWOT VAC.
	Examination period	LINK to Assessment Policy: <a href="http://policy.monash.edu.au/policy-bank/academic/education/assessment/assessment-in-coursework-policy.html">http://policy.monash.edu.au/policy-bank/academic/education/assessment/assessment-in-coursework-policy.html</a>

\*Unit Schedule details will be maintained and communicated to you via your learning system.

# Assessment requirements

## Faculty Unit Assessment Pass Policy

To pass a unit which includes an examination as part of the assessment, a student must obtain, unless otherwise approved and published:

- 40% or more in the unit's examination, and
- 40% or more in the unit's total non-examination assessment, and
- an overall unit mark of 50% or more.

If a student does not achieve 40% or more in the unit examination or the unit non-examination total assessment, and the total mark for the unit is:

- equal to or greater than 50%, then a mark of 49-N will be recorded for the unit.
- less than 50% then the actual mark for the unit will be recorded.

## Assessment tasks

**Assessment title:** Assignment 1: Research Writing Tasks

**Learning outcomes:** On completion of this assignment, students will be able to understand

- the key elements of a journal publication for a research project;
- how to develop good writing styles including being concise, specific, consistent, and to the point;
- how to summarise a research project for journal publication;
- how to identify and state the main research problem with research questions or issues to be addressed;
- how to place a research project in context and justify its contribution.

**Details of task:** The purpose of this assignment is to learn how to write up key elements of your research for journal publication, with focus on the development of good writing styles including being concise, specific, consistent, and to the point. You are strongly encouraged to write about a research project that you are conducting or intend to conduct. This assignment consists of three writing tasks: Task 1 - Summarise your research, Task 2 - State the problem, and Task 3 - Place your research in context.

**Value:** 30% (10% for each task)

**Hurdle requirements:** N/A

**Individual assessment in group tasks:** N/A

**Criteria for marking:** The assignment will be assessed by logic of structure, clarity, conciseness,



consistency, quality of arguments, and standard of English expression.

**Due date:** Task 1 (29 March 2018); Task 2 (20 April 2018); Task 3 (14 May 2018)

**Estimated return date:** Task 1 (12 April 2018); Task 2 (27 April 2018); Task 3 (21 May 2018)

**Additional information:** N/A

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**Assessment title: Assignment 2: Critical Review of Published Research**

**Learning outcomes:** On completion of this assignment, students will be able to

- understand a significant area of IT research by critical review of research publications;
- develop the capability to clearly understand and critically analyse published research.

**Details of task:** The purpose of this assignment is to learn about a significant area of IT research by undertaking a literature review of research publications in the area. The learning objective of this assignment is to ensure that you are capable of clearly understanding and critically analysing published research. In this assignment, you will select a topic in IT research and conduct a critical review of the key published literature such as journal and conference papers on the topic. The topic for the review must be approved by the unit lecturer.

**Value:** 30%

**Hurdle requirements:** N/A

**Individual assessment in group tasks:** N/A

**Criteria for marking:** The assignment will be assessed by logic of structure, clarity of presentation, clarity of scope and method, level of critical analysis, quality of interpretation and conclusion, referencing consistency, and standard of English expression.

**Due date:** 11 May 2018

**Estimated return date:** 23 May 2018

**Additional information:** N/A

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**Assessment title: Assignment 3: Overview of a Research Project - In-Class Oral Presentation**

**Learning outcomes:** On completion of this assignment, students will be able to understand

- how to prepare an effective presentation about a research project for use as seminar talk;
- how to give a good research talk.

**Details of task:** Give an oral presentation about a research project suitable for use as a seminar talk.

**Value:** 10%

**Hurdle requirements:** N/A

**Individual assessment in group tasks:** N/A

**Criteria for marking:** The in-class oral presentation will be assessed by both content and presentation.

**Due date:** 18 May 2018 and 25 May 2018

**Estimated return date:** 18 May 2018 and 25 May 2018

**Additional information:** The in-class oral presentations will be held over two weeks within tutorial.

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**Assessment title:** Assignment 3: Overview of a Research Project - Report

**Learning outcomes:** On completion of this assignment, students will be able to understand

- the major research tasks of a research project;
- how to write up a research project for journal publication.

**Details of task:** Write an overview report of a research project that you are conducting or intend to conduct. The report should have an appropriate title and include the abstract, introduction (background), objectives, methodology, novelty, significance, conclusion and references sections.

**Value:** 30%

**Hurdle requirements:** N/A

**Individual assessment in group tasks:** N/A

**Criteria for marking:** The research project report will be assessed by logic of structure, clarity of objectives and methodology, justification of novelty and contribution, quality of conclusion and significance, referencing consistency, and standard of English expression.

**Due date:** 25 May 2018

**Estimated return date:** 8 June 2018

**Additional information:** N/A

## Extensions and penalties

Submission must be made by the due date otherwise penalties will be enforced.

You must negotiate any extensions formally with your campus unit lecturer via the in-semester special consideration process: <http://www.monash.edu.au/exams/special-consideration.html>

Penalties for late submission: 5% per day including weekends & public holidays.

## Returning assignments

Students can expect assignments to be returned within two weeks of the submission date or after receipt, whichever is later.

## Referencing requirements

To build your skills in citing and referencing, and using different referencing styles, see the online tutorial Academic Integrity: Demystifying Citing and Referencing at <http://www.lib.monash.edu/tutorials/citing/>

## Assignment submission

It is a University requirement (<http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/conduct/student-academic-integrity-managing-plagiarism-collusion-procedures.html>) for students to submit an assignment coversheet for each assessment item. Faculty Assignment coversheets can be found at <http://www.infotech.monash.edu.au/resources/student/forms/>. Please check with your Lecturer on the submission method for your assignment coversheet (e.g. attach a file to the online assignment submission, hand-in a hard copy, or use an electronic submission).

**Please note:**

- 1. It is your responsibility to retain copies of your assessments.**
- 2. Assessments submitted without an assignment coversheet will not be marked.**

**Online submission:** If Electronic Submission has been approved for your unit, please submit your work via the learning system for this unit, which you can access via links in the my.monash portal.

Please keep a copy of tasks completed for your records.

## Feedback to you

Informal feedback on progress in labs/tutes  
Graded assignments with comments  
Interviews

## Learning resources

### Reading list

Blaxter, L., Hughes, C., Tight, M.(2010). How to Research, 4th Edition. Open University Press, Maidenhead, UK.

Creswell, J.W. (2009). Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches. Sage, Thousand Oaks, California, USA.

Dawson, C. (2009). Introduction to Research Methods: A Practical Guide for Anyone Undertaking a Research Project, 4th Edition. How To Books, Oxford, UK.

Leedy, P.D., Ormrod, J.E. (2013). Practical Research: Planning and Design, 10th Edition, Pearson, Boston, USA.

Zikmund, W.G., Babin, B.J., Carr, J.C., Griffin, M. (2010). Business Research Methods, 8th Edition. South-Western, Cengage Learning, Mason, OH., USA.

Additional readings will be provided for each lecture. See the unit Moodle site for further details.

Monash Library Unit Reading List (if applicable to the unit): <http://monash.rl.talis.com/index.html>  
Research and Learning Online: [www.monash.edu/rlo](http://www.monash.edu/rlo)

## Required resources

Students generally must be able to complete the requirements of their course without the imposition of fees that are additional to the student contribution amount or tuition fees. However, students may be charged certain incidental fees or be expected to make certain purchases to support their study. For more information about this, refer to the Higher Education Administrative Information for Providers, Chapter 18, Incidental Fees at <http://education.gov.au/help-resources-providers>.

Please check with your lecturer before purchasing any required resources. Limited copies of prescribed texts are available for you to borrow in the library, and prescribed software is available in student labs.

## Your feedback to us

One of the formal ways students have to provide feedback on teaching and their learning experience is through the Student Evaluation of Teaching and Units (SETU) survey. The feedback is anonymous and provides the Faculty with evidence of aspects that students are satisfied with and areas for improvement.

## **Previous student evaluations of this unit**

In response to previous SETU results of this unit, the following changes have been made:

In its previous offerings at the SEU-Monash Joint Graduate School in Suzhou, this unit has achieved a student evaluation score of above 4.8 (out of 5) for the quality of the unit. Student feedback has shown that this unit is well structured and no changes are required for this semester. In particular, students are happy with the encouragement and helpful feedback they receive from the lecturer for their active participation in this unit.

If you wish to view how previous students rated this unit, please go to;  
<http://www.monash.edu/ups/setu/setu-results/unit-evaluation-reports>

## **Other information**

### **Policies**

Monash has educational policies, procedures and guidelines, which are designed to ensure that staff and students are aware of the University's academic standards, and to provide advice on how they might uphold them. You can find Monash's Education Policies at:  
<http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/index.html>

### **Student Academic Integrity Policy**

[www.monash.edu/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/801841/Student-Academic-Integrity-Policy.pdf](http://www.monash.edu/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/801841/Student-Academic-Integrity-Policy.pdf)

### **Special Consideration**

For information on applying for special consideration, please visit: <http://www.monash.edu/exams/changes/special-consideration>

### **Graduate Attributes Policy**

[http://www.monash.edu/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/786969/Course-Design-Policy.pdf](http://www.monash.edu/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/786969/Course-Design-Policy.pdf)

### **Student Charter**

<http://www.monash.edu/students/policies/student-charter.html>

### **Student Services**

The University provides many different kinds of services to help you gain the most from your studies. Contact your tutor if you need advice and see the range of services available at

<http://www.monash.edu/students>.

For Malaysia see <http://www.monash.edu.my/Student-services>, and for South Africa see <http://www.monash.ac.za/current/>.

## Monash University Library

The Monash University Library provides a range of services, resources and programs that enable you to save time and be more effective in your learning and research.

Go to <http://www.monash.edu/library> or the library tab in my.monash portal for more information.

At Malaysia visit the Library and Learning Commons at <http://www.lib.monash.edu.my/>.

At South Africa visit <http://www.lib.monash.ac.za/>.

## Disability Support Services

Students who have a disability, ongoing medical or mental health condition are welcome to contact Disability Support Services.

Disability Support Services also support students who are carers of a person who is aged and frail or has a disability, medical condition or mental health condition.

Disability Advisers visit all Victorian campuses on a regular basis.

- Website: [monash.edu/disability](http://monash.edu/disability)
- Telephone: 03 9905 5704 to book an appointment with an Adviser, or contact the Student Advisor, Student Community Services at 03 55146018 at Malaysia
- Email: [disabilitysupportservices@monash.edu](mailto:disabilitysupportservices@monash.edu)
- Drop In: Level 1, Western Annexe, 21 Chancellors Walk (Campus Centre) Clayton Campus, or Student Community Services Department, Level 2, Building 2, Monash University, Malaysia Campus

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