



UNSW Course Outline

EDST5889 Minor Thesis - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : EDST5889

Year : 2024

Term : Term 3

Teaching Period : T3

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture

Academic Unit : School of Education

Delivery Mode : Research

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : Distance Education

Campus : Sydney

Study Level : Postgraduate

Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

In this course, you will have an opportunity to build on or extend interests developed in your specialist area of education by undertaking a self-directed minor thesis, supported by a supervising academic, in your area of specialisation. The minor thesis must demonstrate synthesis and application of knowledge and skills developed in coursework components of your

specialisation to address a particular problem or issue.

This is a 12UOC course. You will enrol in 6UOC in two successive terms, with the result for the course reported at the end of the second 6UOC course.

Entry into this course is conditional on the following:

- The achievement of at least a WAM of 75 (or equivalent) in the Master of Education/ Master of Educational Leadership for courses studied up to the term immediately preceding the term in which EDST5889 is commenced (students must have completed 24UOC of study in the Master of Education/Master of Educational Leadership and the approved 6UOC research methods course prior to the commencement of EDST5889). For students who wish to study EDST5889 as part of the Educational Research specialisation of the Graduate Certificate in Education, a WAM of at least 75 (or equivalent) must be achieved in most recently completed degree.
- Successful performance in an interview where questions will be asked about the student's interest in, and commitment to, studies in research
- Availability of a suitable supervisor

Consent may be obtained by completing an [Expression of Interest form](#) and sending it to the EDST5889 Convenor (jae.jung@unsw.edu.au).

The course provides students with the opportunity to complete an individual research project. Upon successful completion of the course and relevant program (i.e., Master of Education, Master of Educational Leadership or the Educational Research specialisation of the Graduate Certificate in Education), students may be eligible to be considered for entry into research degree programs (e.g., Ph.D.) at UNSW and other universities (subject to WAM and any other entry requirements of these research degree programs).

Course Aims

This course aims to provide students with an opportunity to undertake an independent supervised research project in a specific area of their specialisation in education.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CL01 : Specify a suitable topic for a minor thesis research project and justify its significance, relevance and feasibility.
CL02 : Locate and critically evaluate a wide range of literature relevant to a topic of interest in education.
CL03 : Use appropriate research methodology to obtain and analyse data in an investigation of a topic of interest in education.
CL04 : Report and interpret the significance of the findings in relation to underlying theory and practice.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CL01 : Specify a suitable topic for a minor thesis research project and justify its significance, relevance and feasibility.	• Project proposal and report
CL02 : Locate and critically evaluate a wide range of literature relevant to a topic of interest in education.	• Project proposal and report
CL03 : Use appropriate research methodology to obtain and analyse data in an investigation of a topic of interest in education.	• Project proposal and report
CL04 : Report and interpret the significance of the findings in relation to underlying theory and practice.	• Project proposal and report

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Learning and Teaching in this course

Rationale

This course is being offered to provide students with an opportunity to undertake an independent supervised research project (equivalent to an honours thesis) in a specific area of their specialisation in education. The course will also enable students to develop a deeper reflective approach to education and demonstrate the ability to analyse, evaluate, synthesise and apply knowledge and skills from earlier stages of their program.

Teaching strategies

You will work independently and have access to a project supervisor throughout two consecutive

terms. One-on-one meetings with supervisors may cover any issues relating to the conduct of an independent research project in your area of specialisation, including a review of the literature, the formulation of research questions, research design, ethical approval, research instruments, data collection, data analyses, interpretation of data analyses, and the write up of research.

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Project proposal and report Assessment Format: Individual	100%	Due Date: See Moodle

Assessment Details

Project proposal and report

Assessment Overview

A. Proposal

Length: 1,000 words. Formative feedback provided by your supervisor.

B. Report

Length: 12,000-15,000 words. Feedback provided within 10 days of submission. A report in a form appropriate to the nature of the study. The report should be double-spaced and written in APA style.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Specify a suitable topic for a minor thesis research project and justify its significance, relevance and feasibility.
- CL02 : Locate and critically evaluate a wide range of literature relevant to a topic of interest in education.
- CL03 : Use appropriate research methodology to obtain and analyse data in an investigation of a topic of interest in education.
- CL04 : Report and interpret the significance of the findings in relation to underlying theory and practice.

Detailed Assessment Description

The due date will depend on whether this is the first or second term of the EDST5889 (Minor Thesis). For students in their first term, the Project Proposal is due on the Friday of Week 3. For students in their second term, the Project Report is due on the Monday of Week 11. Please refer

to the Moodle site for precise dates.

Assessment Length

Part A: 1,000 words, Part B: 12,000-15,000 words

Assessment information

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RUBRIC/FEEDBACK SHEET EDST5889 UNSW SCHOOL OF EDUCATION• Assessment Task 1: Project Proposal and Report• Specific Criteria and Grading (FL/PS/CR/DN/HD)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding of the question or issue and the key concepts involved• Understanding of the topic and its relationship to relevant areas of theory, research, and practice• Clarity and significance of the aim of the study and the research questions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Depth of analysis and critique in response to the task• Alignment of methodology to the questions posed, including use of relevant ethical protocols• Understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the method(s) for data collection and/or analysis in relation to the context and key questions• Credibility and depth of analysis and interpretation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Familiarity with and relevance of professional and/or research literature used to support response• Selection and range of key references in the area of the study• Use of the relevant literature (both theoretical and methodological) to support the analysis and investigation of the key problem/issue	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Structure and organisation of response• Appropriateness of overall structure of response• Clarity and coherence of organisation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of response according to appropriate academic and linguistic conventions• Clarity, consistency, and appropriateness of conventions for quoting, paraphrasing, attributing sources of information, and listing references• Clarity and consistency in presenting the research study• Clarity and appropriateness of sentence structure, vocabulary use, spelling, punctuation, and word length	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General comments/recommendations for next time:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lecturer:• Recommended: /20 (FL PS CR DN HD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Date:• Weighting: 100%
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NB: The ticks in the various boxes are designed to provide feedback to students; they are not given equal weight in determining the recommended grade. Depending on the nature of the assessment task, lecturers may also contextualise and/or amend these specific criteria. The recommended grade is tentative only, subject to standardisation processes and approval by the School of Education Learning and Teaching Committee.	

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Hurdle rules

A hurdle requirement or hurdle rule is a course requirement that must be fulfilled in order to pass the course. In all courses within the School of Education, all assessments (regardless of their weighting) are hurdle requirements. That is, all assessments in a course must receive a pass mark in order to pass the course. Where a student has failed to meet the requirements of an assessment, they may still be deemed to have met the hurdle requirement if the failure was due to a late penalty and if the overall mark for the course is still greater than 50.

Generative AI Permission Level

Simple Editing Assistance

In completing this assessment, you are permitted to use standard editing and referencing functions in the software you use to complete your assessment. These functions are described below. You must not use any functions that generate or paraphrase passages of text or other media, whether based on your own work or not.

If your Convenor has concerns that your submission contains passages of AI-generated text or media, you may be asked to account for your work. If you are unable to satisfactorily demonstrate your understanding of your submission you may be referred to UNSW Conduct & Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.

For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see [here](#).

General Assessment Information

Students are required to follow their course convenor's instructions when submitting their work for assessment. All assessment task/s are to be submitted online via Moodle by 5pm. Students are also required to retain all drafts, original data, and other evidence of the authenticity of the work for at least one year after submission/examination. For more detailed information about submission, late penalties, special consideration, and the like, visit the School of Education website on policies and procedures: [SED Policies and Procedures \(unsw.edu.au\)](https://www.unsw.edu.au/school-of-education/policies-and-procedures).

Grading Basis

Standard

Course Schedule

Attendance Requirements

The School of Education has a minimum attendance requirement of 80% for classes, including lectures, tutorials, seminars, and other learning activities – irrespective of delivery mode. The attendance requirement is a minimum threshold for engagement and ensures that programs meet the requirements of external accreditation authorities (i.e., NESAs), and for a range of programs (e.g., initial teacher education programs and other accredited postgraduate coursework specialisations). Students must register their attendance according to the course convenor’s directions.

General Schedule Information

This course outline sets out the description of classes at the date the outline is published. The nature of classes may change during the term after the course outline is published. Moodle should be consulted for up-to-date class descriptions. If there is an inconsistency in the description of activities between the University timetable and the course outline (as updated in Moodle), the description in the course outline on Moodle applies.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

Suggested resources

- Bryman, A. (2016). *Social research methods*. Oxford University Press.
- Cohen, L., Manion, L. & Morrison, K. (2011). *Research methods in education*. RoutledgeFalmer.
- Creswell, J. W. (2020). *Educational research: Planning, conducting, and evaluating quantitative and qualitative research*. Pearson Higher Education.
- Field, A. (2018). *Discovering statistics using IBM SPSS Statistics* (5th ed). Sage.
- Yin, R.K. (2012). *Case study research: Design and methods*. Sage.

Course Evaluation and Development

Student feedback will help shape future iterations of the course.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Jae Jung		Ground Floor, Morven Brown Building		Email to arrange an appointment	No	Yes

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

Due to evolving advice by NSW Health, students must check for updated information regarding online learning for all Arts, Design and Architecture courses this term (via Moodle or course information provided).

Please see: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines> for essential student information relating to:

- UNSW and Faculty policies and procedures;
- Student Support Services;
- Dean's List;
- review of results;
- credit transfer;
- cross-institutional study and exchange;
- examination information;
- enrolment information;
- Special Consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;

And other essential academic information.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

- Copying: Using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This includes copying materials, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document, presentation, composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original information, structure and/or progression of ideas of the original without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new

whole, without appropriate referencing.

- Collusion: Working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student for the purpose of them plagiarising, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.
- Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.
- Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): Submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

The UNSW Academic Skills support offers resources and individual consultations. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study. One of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items. UNSW Library has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW, but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time
- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Use of AI for assessments

As AI applications continue to develop, and technology rapidly progresses around us, we remain committed to our values around academic integrity at UNSW. Where the use of AI tools, such as ChatGPT, has been permitted by your course convener, they must be properly credited and your submissions must be substantially your own work.

In cases where the use of AI has been prohibited, please respect this and be aware that where

unauthorised use is detected, penalties will apply.

[Use of AI for assessments | UNSW Current Students](#)

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au

Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin, you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support, you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone, you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, alternative submission details will be stated on your course's Moodle site. For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

Late Submission Penalty

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per calendar day,
- for all assessments where a penalty applies,
- capped at five calendar days (120 hours) from the assessment deadline, after which a student cannot submit an assessment, and
- no permitted variation.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request [Special Consideration](#) as early as possible before the deadline. Support with [Time Management is available here](#).

School-specific Information

Policies and Procedures

For more detailed information about School of Education policies and procedures visit the following website: [SED Policies and Procedures \(unsw.edu.au\)](https://www.unsw.edu.au/education/policies-and-procedures).

School Contact Information

School of Education. Arts, Design and Architecture. Ground Floor, Morven Brown Building (Map Reference F20).

- T: +61 2 93851977
- E: education@unsw.edu.au
- W: <https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/education>