



BUS710 Research Project T318 - Brief

All information contained within this Subject Outline applies to all students enrolled in the trimester as indicated.

1. General Information

1.1 Administrative Details

Associated HE Award(s)	Duration	Level	Subject Coordinator
MPA	1 trimester	Postgraduate	Dr Ian Benton ian.benton@koi.edu.au P: 92833583 (Ext.156) L: Level 1, 545 Kent St. Consultation: via Moodle or by appointment

1.2 Core / Elective

This is a core subject for the above courses.

1.3 Subject Weighting

Indicated below is the weighting of this subject and the total course points.

Subject Credit Points	Total Course Credit Points
4	MPA: 64

1.4 Student Workload

Indicated below is the expected student workload per week for this subject

No. Timetabled Hours/Week*	No. Personal Study Hours/Week**	Total Workload Hours/Week***
4 hours/week weeks 1, 2, 3 thereafter 1 hour/week in direct consultation with supervising lecturer	6 hours/week weeks 1, 2, 3 thereafter 9 hours/week	10 hours/week

* Total time spent per week at lectures and tutorials

** Total time students are expected to spend per week in studying, completing assignments, etc.

*** Combination of timetable hours and personal study.

1.5 Mode of Delivery On-campus

1.6 Pre-requisites Satisfactory completion of 12 subjects (or 8 subjects with a credit average) including BUS707 Applied Business Research.

1.7 General Study and Resource Requirements

- Students are expected to attend classes with the weekly worksheets and subject support material provided in Moodle. Students should read this material before coming to class to improve their ability to participate in the weekly activities.
- Students will require access to the internet and their KOI email and should have basic skills in word processing software such as MS Word, spreadsheet software such as MS Excel and visual presentation software such as MS PowerPoint.
- Computers and WIFI facilities are extensively available for student use throughout KOI. Students are encouraged to make use of the campus Library for reference materials.

Resource requirements specific to this subject: Specific resources will be identified in discussions with your supervisor. Prescribed readings and research examples will be posted to Moodle for additional guidance and recommended readings listed at section 2.7 will provide useful background reading.

2 Academic Details

2.1 Overview of the Subject

This subject is one of the two alternate capstone subjects for the course and provides experience and supervision in a significant research project related to the course. This subject focuses on both the conceptual and operational aspects of doing research and evaluating existing research in business. This project will be completed in a manner customary to workplace business research. Students will implement the research proposed in their *Research Proposal* from *BUS707 Applied Business Research*. Students will design, trial and implement data collection, analyse findings and document their findings in a written thesis and a presentation at a professional seminar.

Students will work in small groups in conjunction with their supervisor, becoming more deeply involved in the stages of the research process. The emphasis of this subject is on the application of research knowledge gained in other subjects as well as the skills developed in this subject, culminating in presentations at a seminar of their peers and academic staff.

2.2 Graduate Attributes for Postgraduate Courses

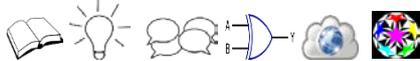
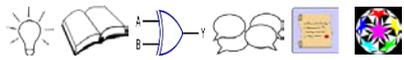
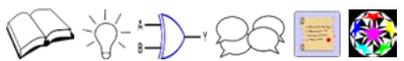
Graduates of Postgraduate courses from King's Own Institute will gain the graduate attributes expected from successful completion of a Master's degree under the Australian Qualifications Framework (2nd edition, January 2013). Graduates at this level will be able to apply an advanced body of knowledge in a range of contexts for professional practice or scholarship and as a pathway for further learning.

King's Own Institute's key generic graduate attributes for a Masters level degree are summarised below:

	KOI Master Degree Graduate Attributes	Detailed Description
	Knowledge	Current, comprehensive and coherent knowledge, including recent developments and applied research methods
	Critical Thinking	Critical thinking skills to identify and analyse current theories and developments and emerging trends in professional practice
	Communication	Communication and technical skills to analyse and theorise, contribute to professional practice or scholarship, and present ideas to a variety of audiences
	Research and information Literacy	Cognitive and technical skills to access and evaluate information resources, justify research approaches and interpret theoretical propositions
	Creative problem Solving Skills	Cognitive, technical and creative skills to investigate, analyse and synthesise complex information, concepts and theories, solve complex problems and apply established theories to situations in professional practice
	Ethical and Cultural Sensitivity	Appreciation and accountability for ethical principles, cultural sensitivity and social responsibility, both personally and professionally
	Leadership and Strategy	Initiative, leadership skills and ability to work professionally and collaboratively to achieve team objectives across a range of team roles Expertise in strategic thinking, developing and implementing business plans and decision making under uncertainty
	Professional Skills	High level personal autonomy, judgement, decision-making and accountability required to begin professional practice

2.3 Subject Learning Outcomes

Listed below, are key knowledge and skills students are expected to attain by successfully completing this subject:

Subject Learning Outcomes	Contribution to Course Graduate Attributes
a) Design, trial and implement data collection and undertake analysis for the research project as appropriate.	
b) Critically discuss and present the project's aims, methodology, results, and conclusions in a scholarly manner	
c) Critically analyse the impact of research findings in relation to theory and practice.	
d) Present findings at a professionally run seminar to an audience including their peers and academic staff.	

2.4 Subject Content and Structure

Below are details of the subject content and how it is structured, including specific topics covered in lectures and tutorials. Reading refers to the text unless otherwise indicated.

Weekly Planner:

Week	Topic Covered in Each Week's Lecture	Reading(s)	Expected Work
1 05 Nov	Review of Research Proposals from BUS707	Chs 1 - 6 Readings from Moodle	Review research proposals
2 12 Nov	Review of research methods suitable for the project. Ethical dimensions of the specific study.	Chs 7 - 12 Readings from Moodle	Consultation with supervisor Refine research proposals and data collection methods
3 19 Nov	Division of classes into qualitative & quantitative (as skills quite different). Each group has an allotted consultation period with their supervisor to discuss issues, resolutions, approaches and progress	Chs 7 - 12 Readings from Moodle	Consultation with supervisor Refine research proposals and data collection methods
4 26 Nov	Discuss design/progress interview or survey questionnaire & target participants.	Chs 7 - 12 Readings from Moodle	Consultation with supervisor Refine research proposals and data collection methods
5 03 Dec	Progress data collection methods	Chs 7 - 12 Readings from Moodle	Qualitative research proposal with ethics application due; or quantitative data collection methods report due
6 10 Dec	Feedback on Data Collection Methods	Readings from Moodle	Consultation with supervisor Begin research

7 17 Dec	Progress the thesis Monitor progress of data collection	Readings from Moodle	Consultation with supervisor Continue research Begin analysing data
23 Dec 2018 – 06 Jan 2019	Mid-trimester break		
8 07 Jan	Data analysis Findings write up Progress the thesis	Readings from Moodle	Consultation with supervisor Finalise data analysis Discuss findings write up
9 19 Jan	Conclusions determination Presentation considerations for the thesis in readiness for submission	Readings from Moodle	Consultation with supervisor Continue report write up
10 21 Jan	Thesis completion (to include spelling/grammar edits)	Readings from Moodle	Consultation with supervisor Finalise report
11 28 Jan	Discussion and preparation of Oral Defence presentations	Readings from Moodle	Consultation with supervisor Discuss Oral Defence Written Thesis group presentation due
12 04 Feb	Oral Defences - lecture and tutorial sessions		Oral Defence
13 11 Feb	Study Review Week		
14 18 Feb	Final Exam Week	There is no Final Exam for this subject.	
15 25 Feb	Student Vacation begins Enrolments for T119 open		
16 04 Mar	Results Released 05 Mar 2019 Certification of Grades 08 Mar 2019		
T119 begins 11 Mar 2019			
1 11 Mar	Week 1 of classes for T119 Friday 08 Mar 2019 – Review of Grade Day for T318 – see Sections 2.6 and 3.6 below for more information.		

2.7 Teaching Methods/Strategies

Briefly described below are the teaching methods/strategies used in this subject:

UNDERTAKING YOUR RESEARCH - Broad guidance notes - *please note: Phase 1 was completed in BUS707 Applied Business Research, but will be briefly reviewed in this subject.*

PHASE I - The Research Proposal

Phase I, which may be thought of as a topic analysis, will cover three aspects of your ultimate proposal. This phase will involve the determination of an area of interest, a literature search, and the formulation of a problem for research. The proposal should be structured under the following headings.

- (i) Problem and question;
- (ii) Motivation (why and to whom is the research important); and
- (iii) Literature (what is currently in the literature for this area).
 - identification of variables
 - relation among variables
 - operational definition of variables

It will be accompanied by the Ethics Application

PREPARING A RESEARCH PROJECT

PROBLEM, HYPOTHESIS, QUESTION

Adequate statement of the research problem is critical, as it is one of the most important parts of research. There are three criteria for the determination of problems and their statement. The problem:

- (i) should express a relation between two or more variables;
- (ii) should be stated clearly and unambiguously in question form;
- (iii) and the problem statement should be such as to imply possibilities of empirical test.

MOTIVATION

The more substantial grounds for doing a study are best described by some illustrations. Four are offered here, but they are not intended to be exhaustive.

1. Frequently, disagreements emerge in the literature. Two (or more) researchers may study the same question and arrive at differing results. A study designed to illustrate or resolve the conflict would be worthwhile.
2. You may conclude that the research methods employed in a particular study were not the most advantageous, given the research question. A study designed to overcome these shortcomings is a common motivation.
3. Often, researchers arrive at the same conclusions without knowing it. This can be because they use different theories, research approaches, or disciplines. A study integrating different pieces of research is worthwhile.
4. You find that an issue, or a variable, is missing from the theoretical views contained in the literature. A project designed to show how this issue or variable is important to the theory would be worthy.
5. You may identify a problem in a business context that has not been addressed satisfactorily. A project designed to apply relevant research to the situation would be worthy.

Whatever the basis of your justification of the issue as important, such a justification requires explicit statement in the topic analysis. Remember the key question to ask yourself is "Why is this research topic worth studying?" Once again, native curiosity is not a sufficient motivation.

LITERATURE SEARCH

Your coverage of prior research need not be exhaustive at this stage. An investigation of the major research should be adequate.

Often the study's motivation will derive in some way from prior research. This prior research would form the central focus of the Literature Search section. One purpose of the literature search is avoiding the problem of reinventing the wheel.

POSSIBLE PROJECTS

The project should be linked to the course you are studying. The list of possible projects will be refined and expanded in discussions with potential supervisors. Some initial suggestions are:

- Analysis of a significant project in their work experience such as
 - Accountancy education to include suitability for student purpose, career prospects, global nature
 - Accounting standards
 - Accounting regulation in Australia
 - Accounting and/or Auditing ethics
 - Use of financial ratios in corporate accounting
 - Multidimensional performance assessment, for example, using the balanced scorecard to evaluate performance on financial and non-financial bases
- The effect of accounting information and auditing on the design of organisations, and on the ensuing behaviour of individuals and groups
- Accountants and/or auditors responsibilities and contributions towards corporate governance
- Application of accounting and economic research to a specific business problem, e.g. a sustainability initiative
- Research based on cases reported by the courts, ASIC, APRA, ASX, etc.
Projects may also be identified from the suggestions for further research from articles published in relevant academic journals

PHASE II - Conducting your research project

The work to date forces some closure on the proposed area of study. It establishes the boundaries of the topic area and identifies what is contained within those boundaries. The development of a research proposal covers each of the following criteria.

- (i) A statement of the basic research question.
- (ii) A statement of the motivation for the study.
- (iii) A statement of the study's hypothesis (hypotheses).
- (iv) A description and justification of the research method proposed.
- (v) Anticipated data problems.
- (vi) The limitations of the proposed study.

Research project overview

The logical structure of the research project can be described as follows. Identify the research problem.

1. Identify the research problem
2. Develop the conceptual and theoretical structure
3. Operationalize the theoretical constructs and relations and state the specific hypotheses to be tested
4. Construct the research design
5. Implement this design by sampling and gathering data
6. Analyse observations in order to test hypotheses
7. Evaluate the results
8. Consider and specify limitations and constraints

2.8 Student Assessment

Provided below is a schedule of formal assessment tasks and major examinations for the group project subject.

Assessment Type	When Assessed	Weighting	Learning Outcomes Assessed
Engagement in weekly group meeting with supervisor	Weekly from week 2	15%	b, c
Design, test and refine data collection method(s) - group report (2500 words)	Week 5	15%	a, b
Written Thesis) – group report (5000-7000 words)	Week 11	60%	a, b, c
Oral Defence) – group presentation (15 minutes)	Week 12	10%	a, b, d

Requirements to Pass the Subject:

To gain a pass or better in this subject, students must gain a *minimum of 50%* of the total available subject marks.

2.9 Prescribed and Recommended Readings

Provided below, in formal reference format, is a list of the prescribed and recommended readings.

Prescribed text for quantitative research project:

Zikmund, WG, Babin, BJ, Carr, JC and Griffin, M, (2013) Business Research Methods, 9 ed. Cengage

Highly recommended reading for quantitative research project:

Perry, C., 2013. *Efficient and effective research: A toolkit for research students and developing researchers*. Australia: AIB Publications.