

# Master Qualifying Program (MQP)

Unit code: XDP 702

**Unit name: Academic Writing and Research Skills Development for Postgraduate Study**

**Length of course:**

12 Weeks

**Contact Hours:**

4 hours class contact time per week

**Class Size:**

10 -18 students

**Broad aim of course:**

To develop the academic writing, research and critical thinking skills needed to successfully undertake post graduate study at Deakin University.

**Rationale:**

The Academic Writing and Research unit is a skills-based course designed to develop international students writing, research, and critical thinking skills in preparation for successful post graduate study. An active and critical approach to study forms the basis of the course and is an integral part of the tasks and activities that are undertaken to provide awareness of the expectations and conventions of academic study.

**Staffing**

The course will be delivered by experienced TESOL teachers

**Where delivered**

Burwood and Online

**Pre-requisites:**

Students enrolled in this course will have met the English language requirements for entry to undergraduate award courses at Deakin University

**Course Description:**

The course aims to develop analytical reading, critical thinking, academic writing and research skills through analysing academic texts and carrying out a research project.

**Course Outcomes**

This course will enable students to:

Use catalogue and database searching techniques to locate relevant articles  
Critically analyse research articles  
Paraphrase and summarise information  
Negotiate a research proposal with a group  
Synthesise information.  
Edit and re-draft information  
Identify and use different genres of writing  
Develop teamwork skills  
Use appropriate referencing techniques  
Recognise and avoid plagiarism  
Write a literature review  
Negotiate procedures and outcomes in small groups  
Develop time management and study skills

**Assessment:**

To successfully complete this program student will need to obtain an overall grade of 60%. MBA students need to obtain an overall grade of 65%.

**Summary of Assessment:**

Students will be assessed through:

1. The critique of a text evaluating strengths of evidence and argument (20%)
2. Write a clear and concise summary of a journal article (20%)
3. A literature review completed from information in a series of research articles (30%)
4. A written description of data in diagrammatic form (30%)

## Outline of Trimester Unit

Week	Theme	Skills	Objectives	Assessment
1.	<b>Introduction</b> Overview of course and orientation to Australian study	Understanding task requirements Reading for gist and identifying ideas	Complete list of goals and strategies for academic progress Comprehending short written texts	
2.	<b>Reading strategies 1</b> Deconstructing texts and identifying arguments	Critically reading a text and analysing arguments Note taking	Identifying main ideas in research articles and academic texts.	
3.	<b>Reading strategies 2</b> Making inferences. Making counter arguments	Identifying an argument and evaluating its merit Using academic vocabulary	Identifying main ideas in research articles and academic texts. Evaluating arguments and counter arguing	
4.	<b>Critically Reading</b> Analysing an argumentative text and counter arguing	Identifying a source Comprehending an argument and summarising it	Summarising an academic text Constructing a counter argument	Critique a text and evaluate the merits of its arguments. (20%)
5.	<b>Academic research</b> Locating resources for research and identifying relevant information.	Using searching techniques to find relevant literature. Reading and note taking	Selecting a relevant article for research. Taking notes from an article and referencing	
6.	<b>Summary writing.</b> Critically reading and summarising a text. Correctly referencing for academic writing.	Critically reading a journal article. Note taking and summary writing	Identifying main ideas in research articles and academic texts. Writing a summary of a research article	
7.	<b>Paraphrasing</b> Interpreting a text and paraphrasing with correctly formatted citation	Effectively paraphrasing information from an article. Using Harvard referencing effectively	To interpret an article and write a clear summary of it. Evaluating the appropriateness of sources.	
8.	<b>Academic writing.</b> Understanding academic writing conventions and applying academic integrity	Academic conventions for referencing. Planning a research assignment	Correctly formatting a reference list and using in-text citations. Organising research and collating resources for a research assignment	Written summary of a journal article (20%)

<b>9.</b>	<b>Research Writing</b> Using empirical research in academic writing task	Synthesising information from a range of sources. Using academic vocabulary	Writing a synthesis of information found from research. Planning a literature review	
<b>10.</b>	<b>Literature Review</b> Completing a literature review	Completing a reference list Editing an assignment	Effective use of Harvard referencing. Redrafting a literature review	Literature review. (30%)
<b>11.</b>	<b>Data Description</b> Identify trends in data	Academic vocabulary for data. Constructing a descriptive paragraph	Understanding data presented in diagrammatic form. Writing a description of a graph or data	
<b>12.</b>	<b>Academic writing.</b> Describing statistical data.	Effective use of grammatical structures. Appropriate use of academic vocabulary	Complete an academic style graph or data description.	Written description of data presented in diagrammatic form (30%)

## COURSE REFERENCE LIST

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- Cottrell S (2017) *Critical Thinking Skills: effective analysis, argument and reflection*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edn, Palgrave Macmillan Education, London
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- De Chazel E and Rogers L (2013) *Oxford EAP: A course in English for academic purposes*, Oxford University Press, Oxford UK.
- Deakin Study Support (ND), *Literature Review*, Deakin University
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- McCarter E McCarter S Ash JE and Ash J (2009) *A book for IELTS*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Intelligence, U.K.
- Pathare E and Pathare G (2018) *Skillful Listening and Speaking 4*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn, MacMillan Education, London
- PFEC Global (2021) *Top 7 Challenges for International Students Who Study in Australia*, PFEC Global
- Rogers L and Zemach DE (2018) *Skillful Reading and Writing 3*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn, Macmillan Education, London