# Unit Outline

**PSYC3005 Advanced Psychological Science Qualitative Methods**  
**Semester 1, 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Unit study package code:</strong></th>
<th>PSYC3005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mode of study:</strong></td>
<td>Internal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Tuition pattern summary:**  | Note: For any specific variations to this tuition pattern and for precise information refer to the Learning Activities section. Lecture: 1 x 1.5 Hours Weekly  
Computer Laboratory: 1 x 1.5 Hours Weekly  
This unit does not have a fieldwork component. |
| **Credit Value:**             | 25.0      |
| **Pre-requisite units:**      | 311589 (v.0) Psychological Science 220 or any previous version  
OR  
PSYC2002 (v.0) Psychological Science Correlational Methods or any previous version |
| **Co-requisite units:**       | Nil       |
| **Anti-requisite units:**     | Nil       |
| **Result type:**              | Grade/Mark|
| **Approved incidental fees:** | Information about approved incidental fees can be obtained from our website. Visit [fees.curtin.edu.au/incidental_fees.cfm](http://fees.curtin.edu.au/incidental_fees.cfm) for details. |
| **Unit coordinator:**         | **Title:** Dr  
**Name:** Emily Castell  
**Phone:** 9266 7633  
**Email:** Emily.Castell@curtin.edu.au  
**Location:** Building: 401 - Room: 380  
**Consultation times:** By appointment only |
| **Teaching Staff:**           | **Name:** Jess Gilbert  
**Phone:** -  
**Email:** Jess.Gilbert@curtin.edu.au  
**Location:** Building: - - Room: -  
**Name:** Jemma Dessauvagie  
**Phone:** -  
**Email:** Jemma.Dessauvagie@curtin.edu.au  
**Location:** Building: - - Room: - |
| **Administrative contact:**   | **Name:** Teaching Support Officer  
**Phone:** 9266 7279  
**Email:** psych-office@exchange.curtin.edu.au  
**Location:** Building: 401 - Room: 220 (reception) |
| **Learning Management System:** | [Blackboard](http://lms.curtin.edu.au) |

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The only authoritative version of this Unit Outline is to be found online in OASIS.
Acknowledgement of Country
We respectfully acknowledge the Indigenous Elders, custodians, their descendants and kin of this land past and present.

Syllabus
Qualitative design and data analysis in psychological research.

Introduction
Welcome to Advanced Psychological Science Qualitative Methods. In this unit we will explore qualitative methods and methodologies in psychological research. The theoretical perspective provided in the lectures will be supplemented with practical experience in conducting and analysing qualitative research in the laboratories and assessments.

Unit Learning Outcomes
All graduates of Curtin University achieve a set of nine graduate attributes during their course of study. These tell an employer that, through your studies, you have acquired discipline knowledge and a range of other skills and attributes which employers say would be useful in a professional setting. Each unit in your course addresses the graduate attributes through a clearly identified set of learning outcomes. They form a vital part in the process referred to as assurance of learning. The learning outcomes tell you what you are expected to know, understand or be able to do in order to be successful in this unit. Each assessment for this unit is carefully designed to test your achievement of one or more of the unit learning outcomes. On successfully completing all of the assessments you will have achieved all of these learning outcomes.

Your course has been designed so that on graduating we can say you will have achieved all of Curtin’s Graduate Attributes through the assurance of learning process in each unit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>On successful completion of this unit students can:</th>
<th>Graduate Attributes addressed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Discuss the history, philosophy, and ethics of qualitative paradigms in psychology</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Plan and defend qualitative designs for psychological research</td>
<td>✍</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Develop qualitative research questions and appropriate methods</td>
<td>✍</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Analyse and interpret qualitative data</td>
<td>✍</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Report qualitative research findings using appropriate style conventions</td>
<td>✍</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Curtin’s Graduate Attributes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Apply discipline knowledge</th>
<th>Thinking skills (use analytical skills to solve problems)</th>
<th>Information skills (confidence to investigate new ideas)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communication skills</td>
<td>Technology skills</td>
<td>Learning how to learn (apply principles learnt to new situations) (confidence to tackle unfamiliar problems)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International perspective (value the perspectives of others)</td>
<td>Cultural understanding (value the perspectives of others)</td>
<td>Professional Skills (work independently and as a team) (plan own work)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Find out more about Curtin’s Graduate attributes at the Office of Teaching & Learning website: ctl.curtin.edu.au
Learning Activities

The lectures each week are designed to provide information on the various methods and methodologies used in qualitative research within psychology. The laboratories are designed to supplement the lectures by developing your skills to conduct qualitative research. Combined, the lectures and laboratories will provide you with the skills required to complete your assessments.

Attendance at lectures is highly recommended to gain maximum benefit from the learning experiences offered by the unit. Please note that although iLecture facilities will be available, we cannot guarantee the quality of these recordings. It is also not possible to capture all questions and class discussion in lecture recordings and any in-class videos cannot be recorded. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you do not rely exclusively on the availability of iLectures to access the lecture material. We advise that iLectures are used most effectively to facilitate revision, rather than as a substitute for attending lectures.

Learning Resources

Library Reserve

There are resources for this unit in the library Reserve collection. To access these resources, please click on the following link:

http://link.library.curtin.edu.au/primo/course?PSYC3005

Essential texts

The required textbook(s) for this unit are:


Other resources

You do not have to purchase the following manual:

Assessment

Assessment schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Value %</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
<th>Unit Learning Outcome(s) Assessed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interview Practical</td>
<td>30 percent</td>
<td>Week: 4&lt;br&gt;Day: Thursday March 24&lt;br&gt;Time: 4:30pm</td>
<td>2,3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Assignment Report</td>
<td>30 percent</td>
<td>Week: 12&lt;br&gt;Day: Friday May 20&lt;br&gt;Time: 4:30pm</td>
<td>1,2,4,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>40 percent</td>
<td>Week: Examination period&lt;br&gt;Day: TBA&lt;br&gt;Time: TBA</td>
<td>1,2,3,4,5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Detailed information on assessment tasks

1. You will be assessed on your qualitative interviewing skills and construction of a qualitative interview guide. The laboratories will provide the opportunity to develop the skills required to complete this practical assessment. Further information on the assessment will be provided during the semester.

2. You will be assessed on your ability to analyse, interpret, and write up qualitative data. Further information on the assessment will be provided during the semester.

3. The two hour exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions, designed to test your understanding of qualitative research. Further information on the exam will be provided during the semester.

Pass requirements

In order to pass this unit you must:

1. Complete and submit ALL pieces of assessment
2. Obtain an overall mark of 50% or higher
3. Complete the research participation requirement

Fair assessment through moderation

Moderation describes a quality assurance process to ensure that assessments are appropriate to the learning outcomes, and that student work is evaluated consistently by assessors. Minimum standards for the moderation of assessment are described in the Assessment and Student Progression Manual, available from policies.curtin.edu.au/policies/teachingandlearning.cfm

Late assessment policy

This ensures that the requirements for submission of assignments and other work to be assessed are fair, transparent, equitable, and that penalties are consistently applied.

1. All assessments students are required to submit will have a due date and time specified on this Unit Outline.
2. Students will be penalised by a deduction of ten percent per calendar day for a late assessment submission (eg a mark equivalent to 10% of the total allocated for the assessment will be deducted from the marked value for every day that the assessment is late). This means that an assessment worth 20 marks will have two marks deducted per calendar day late. Hence if it was handed in three calendar days late and given a mark of 16/20, the student would receive 10/20. An assessment more than seven calendar days overdue will not be marked and will receive a mark of 0.
Assessment extension

A student unable to complete an assessment task by/on the original published date/time (eg examinations, tests) or due date/time (eg assignments) must apply for an assessment extension using the Assessment Extension form (available from the Forms page at students.curtin.edu.au/administration/) as prescribed by the Academic Registrar. It is the responsibility of the student to demonstrate and provide evidence for exceptional circumstances beyond the student’s control that prevent them from completing/submitting the assessment task.

The student will be expected to lodge the form and supporting documentation with the unit coordinator before the assessment date/time or due date/time. An application may be accepted up to five working days after the date or due date of the assessment task where the student is able to provide an acceptable explanation as to why he or she was not able to submit the application prior to the assessment date. An application for an assessment extension will not be accepted after the date of the Board of Examiners' meeting.

PLEASE NOTE THERE IS AN EXCEPTION TO THE ABOVE STANDARD TEXT:

You are expected to lodge the form and supporting documentation with the Student Support Officer (via psych-office@exchange.curtin.edu.au) before the assessment date/time or due date/time. An application MAY be accepted up to five working days after the date or due date of the assessment task where the student is able to provide an acceptable explanation as to why they were not able to submit the application prior to the assessment date. An application for an assessment extension will not be accepted after the date of the Board of Examiners’ meeting. Students will be notified of the outcome of extension requests via the OCC (Official Communications Channel) located within OASIS. If the circumstances for your extension application are likely to impact on multiple units, please also make an appointment to see the course coordinator (A/Professor Natalie Gasson: n.gasson@curtin.edu.au).

Deferred assessments

If your results show that you have been granted a deferred assessment you should immediately check your OASIS email for details.

Deferred examinations/tests will be held from 19/07/2016 to 20/07/2016. Notification to students will be made after the Board of Examiners’ meeting via the Official Communications Channel (OCC) in OASIS.

Supplementary assessments

Supplementary assessments are not available in this unit.

Referencing style

The referencing style for this unit is APA 6th Ed.

More information can be found on this style from the Library web site:

Copyright

© Curtin University. The course material for this unit is provided to you for your own research and study only. It is subject to copyright. It is a copyright infringement to make this material available on third party websites.

Academic Integrity (including plagiarism and cheating)

Any conduct by a student that is dishonest or unfair in connection with any academic work is considered to be academic misconduct. Plagiarism and cheating are serious offences that will be investigated and may result in penalties such as reduced or zero grades, annulled units or even termination from the course.

Plagiarism occurs when work or property of another person is presented as one’s own, without appropriate acknowledgement or referencing. Submitting work which has been produced by someone else (e.g. allowing or contracting another person to do the work for which you claim authorship) is also plagiarism. Submitted work is subjected to a plagiarism detection process, which may include the use of text matching systems or interviews with students to determine authorship.

Cheating includes (but is not limited to) asking or paying someone to complete an assessment task for you or any
use of unauthorised materials or assistance during an examination or test.

From Semester 1, 2016, all incoming coursework students are required to complete Curtin’s Academic Integrity Program (AIP). If a student does not pass the program by the end of their first study period of enrolment at Curtin, their marks will be withheld until they pass. More information about the AIP can be found at:
https://academicintegrity.curtin.edu.au/students/AIP.cfm

Refer to the Academic Integrity tab in Blackboard or academicintegrity.curtin.edu.au for more information, including student guidelines for avoiding plagiarism.

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Expectations

Curtin students are expected to have reliable internet access in order to connect to OASIS email and learning systems such as Blackboard and Library Services.

You may also require a computer or mobile device for preparing and submitting your work.

For general ICT assistance, in the first instance please contact OASIS Student Support:
oasisapps.curtin.edu.au/help/general/support.cfm

For specific assistance with any of the items listed below, please contact The Learning Centre:
life.curtin.edu.au/learning-support/learning_centre.htm

- Using Blackboard, the I Drive and Back-Up files
- Introduction to PowerPoint, Word and Excel
**Additional information**

**About the Participant Pool**

Research suggests that undergraduate psychology students derive a range of benefits from participating in authentic research (e.g., Dalziel, 1996; Roberts & Allen, 2012, 2013). Their willing participation is also very beneficial to postgraduate students and academic staff who, without the cooperation of undergraduate students, can find it difficult to recruit samples large enough to allow for proper tests of their research hypotheses.

To provide undergraduate psychology students with opportunities to experience real research, and postgraduate/staff researchers with access to potential participants, a participant pool has been established in the School of Psychology and Speech Pathology, which is managed using a software program called SONA (http://curtin.sona-systems.com). As a student in Advanced Psychological Science Qualitative Methods, you have been automatically enrolled in the participant pool (and will receive an email containing your log-in details in the second week of the semester), and will be required to participate in at least '10 points' worth of research (or complete an alternative written activity) before the final day of semester (24th June 2016). **At least FIVE of these points must be from participation in face-to-face studies** (e.g., lab based experiments, focus groups etc.), whilst the remainder can be either face-to-face or online. **This is an essential requirement for passing this unit.**

To encourage professional behaviour and minimize the number of 'no-shows' (which waste researchers' time and prevent other students from accessing SONA timeslots), the participant pool makes use of a penalty system. If you register for a timeslot and then do not attend (or in the case of online research, do not participate within 24 hours of signing up), you will be automatically recorded as an “unexcused absence” in SONA, and penalised 1 point. If you sign up for a timeslot, and then cannot attend, you MUST cancel it prior to the study’s cancellation deadline in SONA. Penalties for no-shows will only be waived in situations where unexpected and unavoidable circumstances have prevented you from cancelling your timeslot in SONA or notifying the researcher in advance of your absence. In these circumstances, you may be asked to provide supporting evidence in the form of a medical certificate or other official documentation.

Researchers have been asked to award participation points within two working days. If you participate in a study as a member of the participant pool and have not received your points after two working days, please contact the relevant researcher. Any matters that cannot be resolved in this way should be directed to the pool manager, Prof. Nikos Chatzisarantis (nikos.chatzisarantis@curtin.edu.au), and NOT the Unit Coordinator. Do not leave this until the end of semester!

To be awarded points for participating in online studies, you MUST provide your name and ID number/email address when asked. If you do not respond to these questions, or you close your browser window before you get to them, you will not receive your participation points.

Finally, please remember that all participation is voluntary, and if you elect not to participate in 10 points worth of research this semester, you can pass this unit by completing an alternative written activity. Full details will be provided on Blackboard.

**Plagiarism**

The School of Psychology and Speech Pathology and the University regard plagiarism as an extremely serious offence. As future professionals, it is indefensible to present the work (either words or ideas) of others, either knowingly or accidentally, as though it is your own. This also applies to self-plagiarism. You cannot use previously submitted assignments (either from this unit or from others) and present it as your current work.

Please ensure that you know what constitutes plagiarism and how it can be avoided (i.e., through proper referencing). More information about academic integrity and plagiarism can be found here: http://academicintegrity.curtin.edu.au/

**Enrolment**

It is your responsibility to ensure that your enrolment is correct - you can check your enrolment through the eStudent option on OASIS, where you can also print an Enrolment Advice.
Student Rights and Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of every student to be aware of all relevant legislation, policies and procedures relating to their rights and responsibilities as a student. These include:

- the Student Charter
- the University’s Guiding Ethical Principles
- the University’s policy and statements on plagiarism and academic integrity
- copyright principles and responsibilities
- the University’s policies on appropriate use of software and computer facilities

Information on all these things is available through the University’s “Student Rights and Responsibilities” website at: students.curtin.edu.au/rights.

Student Equity

There are a number of factors that might disadvantage some students from participating in their studies or assessments to the best of their ability, under standard conditions. These factors may include a disability or medical condition (e.g. mental illness, chronic illness, physical or sensory disability, learning disability), significant family responsibilities, pregnancy, religious practices, living in a remote location or another reason. If you believe you may be unfairly disadvantaged on these or other grounds please contact Student Equity at eesi@curtin.edu.au or go to http://eesj.curtin.edu.au/student_equity/index.cfm for more information.

You can also contact Counselling and Disability services: http://www.disability.curtin.edu.au or the Multi-faith services: http://life.curtin.edu.au/health-and-wellbeing/about_multifaith_services.htm for further information.

It is important to note that the staff of the university may not be able to meet your needs if they are not informed of your individual circumstances so please get in touch with the appropriate service if you require assistance. For general wellbeing concerns or advice please contact Curtin’s Student Wellbeing Advisory Service at: http://life.curtin.edu.au/health-and-wellbeing/student_wellbeing_service.htm

Recent unit changes

Students are encouraged to provide unit feedback through eVALUate, Curtin’s online student feedback system. For more information about eVALUate, please refer to evaluate.curtin.edu.au/info/.

To view previous student feedback about this unit, search for the Unit Summary Report at https://evaluate.curtin.edu.au/student/unit_search.cfm. See https://evaluate.curtin.edu.au/info/dates.cfm to find out when you can eVALUate this unit.

Recent changes to this unit include:

1. Theoretical and research content has been revised and updated
2. Additional resources have been developed to support student approach and engagement with assessment tasks
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Begin Date</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Pre-readings</th>
<th>Laboratory</th>
<th>Assessment Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orientation</td>
<td>22 February</td>
<td>Orientation Week</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>29 February</td>
<td>Topic 1: Qualitative Philosophy and Ethics</td>
<td>Chapters 2 &amp; 6</td>
<td>Ethics and Epistemology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>7 March</td>
<td>Topic 2: Qualitative Research Design</td>
<td>Chapters 3 &amp; 4</td>
<td>Constructing Interview Guides</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>14 March</td>
<td>Topic 3: Qualitative Data Collection</td>
<td>Chapters 5 &amp; 7</td>
<td>Interviewing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>21 March</td>
<td>No face-to-face lecture due to public holiday</td>
<td>Consult reading list</td>
<td>No face-to-face laboratory</td>
<td>Assessment 1 Due Thursday March 24th by 4:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Topic 4: Quality</td>
<td></td>
<td>NVivo Materials available online</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lecture only</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>28 March</td>
<td>Tuition Free Week</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>4 April</td>
<td>Topic 5: Thematic Analysis</td>
<td>Consult reading list</td>
<td>Thematic Analysis (1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>11 April</td>
<td>Topic 6: Reporting Qualitative Research</td>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
<td>Thematic Analysis (2)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>18 April</td>
<td>Tuition Free Week</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>25 April</td>
<td>Topic 7: Phenomenology</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
<td>Writing Up Qualitative Research (1)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>2 May</td>
<td>Topic 8: Grounded Theory</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
<td>Writing Up Qualitative Research (2)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>9 May</td>
<td>Topic 9: Causal Layered Analysis</td>
<td>Consult reading list</td>
<td>Finalising the Qualitative Research Report</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>16 May</td>
<td>Topic 10: Case Study</td>
<td>Consult reading list</td>
<td>Critical Review</td>
<td>Assessment 2 Due Friday May 20th by 4:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>23 May</td>
<td>Topic 11: Action Research</td>
<td>Consult reading list</td>
<td>Focus Groups</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>30 May</td>
<td>Topic 12: Review</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Examination Preparation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6 June</td>
<td>Study Week</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>13 June</td>
<td>Examinations</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 June</td>
<td>Examinations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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