

Unit Outline

PRJM6006 Project Management Research 1 Semester 2, 2016

Unit study package code:	PRJM6006
Mode of study:	Internal
Tuition pattern summary:	Note: For any specific variations to this tuition pattern and for precise information refer to the Learning Activities section. Workshop: 1 x 3 Hours Weekly This unit does not have a fieldwork component.
Credit Value:	25.0
Pre-requisite units:	Nil
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 for details.
Unit coordinator:	Title: Dr Name: Jane Matthews Phone: +618 9266 4056 Email: jane.matthews@curtin.edu.au Location: Building: 201 - Room: 226
Teaching Staff:	Name: James Alexander Phone: na Email: James.Alexander@curtin.edu.au Location: Building: 402 - Room: na
Administrative contact:	Name: Dean Johnson Phone: +618 9266 4023 Email: SoBE-TSO@curtin.edu.au Location: Building: 201 - Room: 320
Learning Management System:	Blackboard (lms.curtin.edu.au)

Acknowledgement of Country

We respectfully acknowledge the Indigenous Elders, custodians, their descendants and kin of this land past and present.

Syllabus

Preparation for individual research project to be completed in Project Management Research 2. Students are introduced to the concepts, methods, tools and techniques of research. Production of research problem, research design and methodology and literature review.

Introduction

Project Management Research 1 (PMR1) is the first of two integrated research units on the course. PMR1 is a prerequisite unit for the second research unit, Project Management Research 2 (PMR2). These units require students to undertake a major integrated research work that requires significant and sustained effort over the periods of both units.

Normally, PMR1 and PMR2 are completed over two successive semesters, and students submit a substantial research dissertation at the end of the second unit. However, it is possible to undertake both units concurrently in one semester, though this does require considerable effort by students.

PMR1 introduces students to the concepts, steps and requirements for planning, undertaking and reporting a well-considered and well-designed research project. The assignments in this unit take you through the preliminary steps of identifying and justifying a suitable research project, identifying and reviewing suitable literature related to the project and incorporating information from the literature into a literature review, and establishing an outline research proposal which will essentially be your plan for continuing the research in PMR2.

In PMR2, students are appointed a personal supervisor who will provide guidance and feedback about their performance and progress through the stages of their research and the production of their dissertation. Generally, there is no class work and there are no additional learning materials for PMR2 - the learning materials issued in PMR1 also cover the work that students will be doing in PMR2.

If you are undertaking PMR1 and PMR2 concurrently, you will be appointed a supervisor as soon as you have identified the likely topic area of your research. This may be before or shortly after the start of the semester, depending when you are in a position to confirm your likely topic area. Your supervisor will mark your PMR1 assignments and provide you with feedback. You will have to significantly accelerate the submission of the PMR1 assignments so they are handed to your supervisor well before the hand-in dates set out in this unit outline. You should agree these hand-in dates with your supervisor during your first meeting.

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.

On successful completion of this unit students can:		Graduate Attributes addressed
1	Create a well-defined and justified research question related to a research project	  
2	Synthesise and critically evaluate the literature as a foundation for a research project	  
3	Create an appropriate research and study design based on ethical principles	  

Curtin's Graduate Attributes

	Apply discipline knowledge		Thinking skills (use analytical skills to solve problems)		Information skills (confidence to investigate new ideas)
	Communication skills		Technology skills		Learning how to learn (apply principles learnt to new situations) (confidence to tackle unfamiliar problems)
	International perspective (value the perspectives of others)		Cultural understanding (value the perspectives of others)		Professional Skills (work independently and as a team) (plan own work)
Find out more about Curtin's Graduate attributes at the Office of Teaching & Learning website: ctl.curtin.edu.au					

Learning Activities

The Learning Modules and associated materials are available for all students through Blackboard.

The unit is substantially structured according to a standard research process format. Some materials are following the prescribed unit text by Ranjit Kumar (latest edition). This text is concise and easy to read. It provides a useful grounding for students who have no previous research experience, and is also useful as a refresher for students with some previous experience, eg students who previously completed an undergraduate dissertation. There are additional Learning Modules that will direct you to read particular sections of the Kumar text, and also answer a number of questions from the reading. They also include additional reading that expands on the content of the Kumar text. Some of this additional reading is incorporated directly into the Learning Modules and some is in external sources which are identified in the Modules. It is useful that you keep up to date with this reading. Unlike other units on the course, everything we cover in this unit is directly related to assessable work (in PMR1 and PMR2).

Generally, students attending classes will not be issued with hard copies of materials. All materials needed for the unit are available through Blackboard. Already the early stages of the unit in particular gets you into the identification of your research topic, followed by the production of the literature review (Assignments 1 and 2). It is very easy to underestimate the time and effort involved in identifying your research topic and producing the literature review. To achieve a successful outcome, you are advised to work consistently each week on the unit materials (including the additional ones).

The Learning Modules and associated materials are essentially structured in a self-contained study framework that will be relevant to all students no matter their mode of study. These materials and the unit assignments promote a student-centred learning experience that encourages and requires students to take responsibility for their own learning.

Learning Resources

Other resources

The following text books are available at Curtin Library and can be purchased from most well-equipped book stores,

- Kumar, Ranjit. 2011. Research methodology: a step-by-step guide for beginners. 3rd ed. London: Sage Publications Ltd.
- Booth, Wayne C.; Colomb, Gregory G.; Williams, Joseph M. 2008. The craft of research. Ebooks Corporation. 3rd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Creswell, John W. 2009. Research design: qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches. 3rd ed. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage Publications.

Curtin offers online support for academic/report writing:

<http://academicintegrity.curtin.edu.au/students/writing.cfm>

<http://life.curtin.edu.au/learning-support/writing-skills.htm>

Online, self-paced courses on writing are available at <http://learningcentre.curtin.edu.au/online/>

You can search the Robertson Library collection for these and other research related texts using this link:

http://library.curtin.edu.au/find_information/catalogue/index.html.

To help you identify an appropriate research topic, acquaint with research in the field and check how research reports and articles are structured and written, refer to two main journals focusing specifically on project management research.

- Project Management Journal [http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/\(ISSN\)1938-9507](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/(ISSN)1938-9507)
- International Journal of Project Management <http://www.journals.elsevier.com/international-journal-of-project-management/>

You can search the Robertson Library collection for hard copy and electronic journals by using this link: http://library.curtin.edu.au/find_information/catalogue/index.html. Also journals on construction management, business and public sector management, organisations, etc. include topics related to project management.

Assessment

Assessment schedule

	Task	Value %	Date Due	Unit Learning Outcome(s) Assessed
1	Report (Research Proposal)	10 percent	Week: 3 Day: Sunday Time: Midnight	1
2	Exercise	10 percent	Week: 6 Day: Sunday Time: Midnight	2
3	Dissertation Essay	70 percent	Week: 11 Day: Sunday Time: Midnight	2
4	Report (Research Design)	10 percent	Week: 13 Day: Sunday Time: Midnight	3

Detailed information on assessment tasks

1. Understanding how to create and demonstrating a well-defined and justified research question, incorporating main objectives and sub-objectives
 Produce a research proposal for a specific project management issue.
 Assignment brief with Marking Criteria provided on Blackboard under Assignments, Assignment 1
2. First 300 words of literature review. .
 Produce the preliminary framework for a literature review for a specific project management issue
 Assignment brief with Marking Criteria provided on Blackboard under Assignments, Assignment 2
3. Literature Review - Synthesise and critically evaluate the literature to justify the research
 Produce a literature review for a specific project management issue.
 Assignment brief with Marking Criteria provided on Blackboard under Assignments, Assignment 3
4. Report (Research Design)
 Produce a research design for the unit Project Management Research 2.
 Assignment details provided in Blackboard, under "Assessments"

Pass requirements

To pass this unit you must complete all the assessments set out below. There is no minimum mark for each assessment, but you must achieve an overall minimum mark of 50% for the unit overall.

All assessments in this unit are compulsory. A student cannot pass this unit unless they submit all assessments.

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/submitted 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.

Deferred assessments

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

Supplementary assessments

Supplementary assessments are not available in this unit.

Reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities/health circumstances likely to impact on studies

A [Curtin Access Plan](#) (CAP) is a document that outlines the type and level of support required by a student with a disability or health condition to have equitable access to their studies at Curtin. This support can include alternative exam or test arrangements, study materials in accessible formats, access to Curtin's facilities and services or other support as discussed with an advisor from [Disability Services](#) (disability.curtin.edu.au). [Documentation](#) is required from your treating Health Professional to confirm your health circumstances.

If you think you may be eligible for a CAP, please contact [Disability Services](#). If you already have a CAP please provide it to the Unit Coordinator at the beginning of each semester.

Referencing style

The referencing style for this unit is Chicago.

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

<http://libguides.library.curtin.edu.au/referencing>.

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
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Additional information

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.

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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 eesj@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.
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Recent changes to this unit include:

This unit has been aligned with other version of the Project Management Research units.

Program calendar

Wk	Date	Tutorial	Assignment due
1.	1 Aug	Introduction to unit, materials Work plan, dates, and practicalities Overview of research process Research strategies & approaches	
2.	8 Aug	Searching Electronic Data Bases (1 hour) Formulating a research problem Scoping research and topic	
3.	15 Aug	Reviewing literature and writing a literature review	A1 (Topic selection) 21.8. (Sunday)
4.	22 Aug	Using EndNote (1.5 hrs) Support Session in classroom after Library session	
5.	29 Aug	Tuition Free Week	
6.	5 Sep	Research Design and Selecting a Study Design	A2a (Literature Review). 11.09 (Sunday)
7.	12 Sep	Constructing an Instrument for Data Collection	
8.	19 Sep	Tuition Free Week	
9.	26 Sep	Sampling	
10.	3 Oct	Collecting Data	
11.	10 Oct	Processing and Displaying data	A2b (Literature Review) 16.10 (Sunday)
12.	17 Oct	Ethics	
13.	24 Oct	Working on Assignments	A3 (Research plan) 30.10 (Sunday)
14.	31 Oct	Feedback Preparing for PMR2	