Unit Outline

INTR6001 Advanced Individual Project 2
Semester 1, 2016

Unit study package code: INTR6001
Mode of study: Internal
Credit Value: 50.0
Pre-requisite units: 302483 (v.0) Advanced Individual Project 690 or any previous version
OR
INTR6000 (v.0) Advanced Individual Project 1 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 for details.
Unit coordinator:
Title: Mr
Name: Gavin Briggs
Phone: +618 9266 7130
Email: Gavin.Briggs@curtin.edu.au
Location: Building: 209 - Room: 407
Consultation times: Teaching Weeks: Thursday, 03:00pm - 05:00pm

Teaching Staff:

Administrative contact:
Name: MCCA Teaching Support Team
Phone: +618 9266 7598
Email: HUM-MCCATeachingSupport@curtin.edu.au
Location: Building: 208 - Room: 428

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

Further development of project determined in consultation with supervisor(s) relating to the student’s field of specialisation.

Introduction

The Master of International Relations and National Security (MIRNS) is a professional master’s course completed over a period of 18 months. The dissertation-writing component of the course can only be undertaken by those who have successfully completed, in the first 12-months of the course, eight course-work units on a range of topics. These units cover a wide range of topics, and are intended to introduce students to the variety of approaches and topics that constitute the discipline of International Relations and Security Studies.

The Master of International Relations and National Security (MIRNS) involves two-thirds coursework (200 credit points) and one-third project work (100 credit points). As the final part of this course, students must pursue an Advanced Individual Project (AIP), namely this unit (INTR6001) to which this Unit Outline relates to, guided by a supervisor, which entails the successful completion of a substantial 15,000 word (+/- 10 percent) dissertation.

Guidance for the preparation and writing of the dissertation will be provided through individual consultation with a supervisor. Meetings should occur fortnightly, depending on what stage the writing of the dissertation has reached. Meetings may be more frequent, if required.

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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Assess and prioritise research themes or sub-themes and approaches</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Argue and hypothesise the research problem</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Assemble, hypothesise, revise, produce and communicate the findings of the research</td>
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On successful completion of this unit students can:

Graduate Attributes addressed

1. Assess and prioritise research themes or sub-themes and approaches
2. Argue and hypothesise the research problem
3. Assemble, hypothesise, revise, produce and communicate the findings of the research
## Curtin's Graduate Attributes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attribute</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Apply discipline knowledge</td>
<td>(use analytical skills to solve problems)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thinking skills</td>
<td>(confidence to investigate new ideas)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information skills</td>
<td>(apply principles learnt to new situations)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication skills</td>
<td>(confidence to tackle unfamiliar problems)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technology skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>International perspective</td>
<td>(value the perspectives of others)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cultural understanding</td>
<td>(value the perspectives of others)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Skills</td>
<td>(work independently and as a team)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(plan own work)</td>
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Find out more about Curtin’s Graduate attributes at the Office of Teaching & Learning website: [ctl.curtin.edu.au](http://ctl.curtin.edu.au)

## Learning Activities

-
Learning Resources
Other resources
Referencing

Whenever you refer to another person's research and ideas (either by directly quoting or by paraphrasing them) you MUST acknowledge your source. It is necessary for students to acknowledge and identify all quotations and key ideas, arguments, theories, evidence and statistics from their sources that are not their own, and which are not common knowledge. Referencing demonstrates your scope of research to the marker and adds credibility to your thesis.

There is no required referencing style in MIRNS and students should be advised to consistently follow one of the standardised referencing systems. However, The School of Media, Culture and Creative Arts referencing standard is APA 6th Edition.

Referencing style should be advised by the supervisor according to the nature and scope of the thesis topic. The Curtin University Library provides extensive information on referencing on their LibGuides page, available at: http://libguides.library.curtin.edu.au/content.php?id=141214

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism occurs when work or property of another person is presented as one's own, without appropriate acknowledgement or referencing. Plagiarism is a form of fraud and intellectual theft, and is a serious breach of academic integrity. It is each student's responsibility to familiarise themselves with the Student Guidelines for Avoiding Plagiarism, available at: http://academicintegrity.curtin.edu.au/local/docs/StudentPlagiarismGuide.pdf

For more information, refer to the Academic Integrity page, available at: http://academicintegrity.curtin.edu.au/

Turnitin is an online text matching system, available for students on Blackboard. It compares text in a student assignment against a database of sources including electronic text, published works and assignments previously submitted to Turnitin.

Other Resources:

1. Robertson Library (Curtin)
   Website: http://library.curtin.edu.au/index.cfm
   Information Desk Contact: 9266 7166

   In addition to catalogues of reference materials, databases and electronic journals which may be browsed online, the library also provides students with study and research tools, which can be accessed at: http://library.curtin.edu.au/study-and-research-tools/index.cfm

   The LibGuides available online provide links to workshops improving research skills and multi-disciplinary guides on how to effectively use the library catalogue, etc.

   The Humanities faculty guide contains links to specific majors, and provides links to relevant journals, databases, websites, and referencing guides, and can be viewed online at: http://libguides.library.curtin.edu.au/content.php?id=149854&sid=1272781

   The library also has a range of facilities, including computers, Wi-Fi, photocopying and scanning, which are available to students and can be viewed online at: http://library.curtin.edu.au/facilities/index.cfm

2. Learning Centre
   Website: http://learningcentre.curtin.edu.au/home/index.cfm
   Enquiries: 9266 3855

   The Learning Centre provides free academic support and guidance for all students. Free seminars are available in a range of programs such as Academic Integrity, Grammar Masterclass, Postgraduate Research-Writing Workshops, Humanities Writing Workshops, and PowerPlus Essay/Writing Programs. The full list of detailed available programs can be viewed online at: http://learningcentre.curtin.edu.au/orograms/index.cfm
3. **Office of Research and Development**

The Office of Research and Development (ORD) provides some useful links to seminars and training sessions covering topics as varied as Managing and Annotating Long Documents in Word, Copyright, Plagiarism and Self Plagiarism and Quantitative and Qualitative Research Techniques, etc. These seminars aim to enrich postgraduate learning and teaching but may be of use to Honours students. Previous lectures and seminars which have been recorded may also be accessed. A detailed calendar of seminars can be viewed online at: [http://research.curtin.edu.au/seminars/#calendar](http://research.curtin.edu.au/seminars/#calendar)

Also provided by the ORD are detailed forms, policies, procedures, guidelines and dates relevant to managing research at a professional level, accessible online at: [http://research.curtin.edu.au/guides/forms/forms.cfm](http://research.curtin.edu.au/guides/forms/forms.cfm)

4. **Humanities Office of Research and Graduate Studies**

Website: [http://hgso.curtin.edu.au/](http://hgso.curtin.edu.au/)

The Humanities Office of Research and Graduate Studies is dedicated to helping Higher Degree by Research (HDR) students in the Faculty of Humanities. The office provides regular research skills and careers workshops for students. Such topics include Ways of knowing: methods of research, The ‘thinking artist’: writing from practice, editing your thesis – being kind to your audience, and a full calendar of scheduled workshops can be viewed online at: [http://hgso.curtin.edu.au/student_info/workshops.cfm](http://hgso.curtin.edu.au/student_info/workshops.cfm)

FactPack: A Guide for Humanities Higher Degree by Research Students, published annually, is an indispensable guide for Humanities students covering a range of topics including research facilities, examination processes, consumable entitlements and candidacy proposals, and may be downloaded in full or as sections in pdf format. For more details see: [http://hgso.curtin.edu.au/student_info/factpack.cfm](http://hgso.curtin.edu.au/student_info/factpack.cfm)

5. **Journals (full text)**

Curtin University has access to more than 450 databases containing journals, reports and more. You should familiarise yourself with the most appropriate databases for research in your discipline.


JSTOR is a digital library of more than 1,500 academic journals, books, and primary sources and represents a valuable resource for Humanities students.


Informit is the leading source of online full text, multimedia and index databases that deliver the most up-to-date and authoritative research from Australia, New Zealand and the Asia Pacific Region.

6. **espace@Curtin**

Website: [http://espace.library.curtin.edu.au/R?func=search&local_base=gen01-era02](http://espace.library.curtin.edu.au/R?func=search&local_base=gen01-era02)

Curtin’s institutional repository, espace, is an open access digital collection containing the research output of Curtin staff and students. Included are digital theses, journal articles, conference papers, book chapters and more.
Dissertation

The process by which your 15,000 word (+/- 10 percent) dissertation will be examined deserves some explication. The School will arrange for two examiners to assess the dissertation, usually on the advice of the supervisor. In most cases, one will be from within the Department of Social Sciences and Security Studies, and one from outside the Department. This process ensures that the standard of our work remains high. The reports are returned to the student unless the examiner specifically requests that this should not be done. Examiners have the option of remaining anonymous.

Examiners have the option of remaining anonymous.

The examiner must provide a numerical score (0-100). The expected merit criteria are as follows:

- 90-100 for Exceptional
- 80-89 for High Distinction
- 75-79 for Distinction
- 65-74 for Credit
- 50-64 for Pass
- 0-49 for Fail

There will be two Turnitin submission points provided for the Advanced Individual Project 2 (INTR6001) in Blackboard.

The first is a Revision (or DRAFT) submission point where you can submit your drafts for this assessment. MULTIPLE submissions are allowed, for which you will receive formative feedback from Turnitin in the form of an Originality report. Note in busy periods an Originality report may take Turnitin up to 24 hours to generate. Late submissions to this point are NOT allowed. Assessments submitted here will NOT be marked.

The second is a FINAL submission point where you can submit your final version of this assessment. ONE submission only is allowed, for which you will receive formative feedback from Turnitin in the form of an Originality report. Note in busy periods an Originality report may take Turnitin up to 24 hours to generate. Late submissions to this point are allowed (and will be subject to penalties as per the Late Assessment policy in this unit outline). The assessment submitted here will be marked. The assessment submitted here will be marked as per ‘examination’ in the Unit Outline under ‘Additional information’.

Pass requirements

There are two requirements to achieve a ‘pass’ grade in the unit.

1. An overall mark of 50% across the different assessments in the unit; and
2. All assessments must be attempted and submitted.

Failure to attempt and submit an assessment will result in a ‘Fail-incomplete’ grade for the unit irrespective of the mark achieved.

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.

If you and your supervisor agree that you need an extension beyond the MIRNS project due date, you must apply to the MIRNS Thesis Coordinator in writing with a supporting letter from your supervisor explaining why the extension is needed. This must be done prior to the due date.

In order to be eligible for an extension, the Dissertation Coordinator must be satisfied that the reason a student was not able to complete an assessment task was due to exceptional circumstances beyond the student’s control.

Application for Assessment Extension, available at:

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

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

Supervision
The student/supervisor relationship is the single most important aspect of the Advanced Discipline Project units. Students should work closely with their supervisors when carrying out research and writing their dissertation. AIP 1 & AIP 2 involves one-to-one supervision of the student by a member of academic staff.

Allocation of Supervisor
Students will be allocated a supervisor by the Head of Department, relevant to discipline. Students will be advised of supervision arrangements by the Unit Coordinator. Usually the supervisor should be confirmed by the end of the first week of semester (i.e. Week One). If you have not been assigned a supervisor by the end of week one, please urgently contact the Unit Coordinator.

Supervisory Relationship
The supervisory relationship is a critical one, and the ground rules for sound and effective communication should be established early. You are encouraged to work closely with your supervisor to tailor the project to best support you in achieving your targets. The amount of guidance to be provided and the level of independence expected of the student should generally be discussed between supervisor and student at an early stage.

Your supervisor will act as a mentor, helping you to navigate the various academic challenges of your dissertation/creative work and exegesis. Every student/supervisor relationship is unique and, as such, it is important that there is clear communication about how they might best support the development of your project. One of your initial tasks will involve working with your supervisor to form a timeline and set some intermediate goals or milestones to ensure your ongoing progress.

In the event of a supervisor taking leave from the University for a period of two weeks or more, it is their responsibility to notify the student of their unavailability as soon as the details of the leave are arranged. Should the supervisor need to take leave for a period of more than four weeks during the period of supervision, an alternative supervisor should be appointed. This should be done in consultation with the MIRNS (i.e. AIP 1 & AIP 2) Unit Coordinator and relevant Head of Department/School.

For additional information on the roles and responsibilities of students and supervisors, please refer to the Guidelines for Establishing the Higher Degree by Research Supervisory Relationship, which also applies to AIP students: 
http://research.curtin.edu.au/postgraduate-research/hdr-staff/supervisor/

For more general information on student responsibilities and expectations, please refer to the Student Charter, available at:
http://students.curtin.edu.au/rights/student_charter.cfm

The following check-list should be taken to the first supervision meeting and reviewed with your supervisor.

Roles and Responsibilities of the Student

- Attend scheduled meetings, and ensure you notify your supervisor ahead of time if you need to cancel a meeting
- Prepare specific questions and issues to be raised in each meeting
- Hand in written material at agreed times
- Ask questions and clarify if you have any uncertainties
- Be willing to take guidance and constructive criticism, and address suggestions made by your supervisor
- Be prepared to take responsibility for yourself, your work and your progress
- Be proactive with your research – this is your project!
- Communicate with your supervisor immediately if you encounter circumstances that are likely to delay the completion of your project

Roles and Responsibilities of the Supervisor

- Have an understanding of policy, overall course structure, deadlines and expectations
- Establish and adhere to a regular meeting schedule
- Maintain open lines of communication at all times
- Establish agreed turnaround times for submission of material and provision of supervisor feedback
- Prepare for meetings in advance to take full advantage of the process and time available
- Collaboratively develop research milestones for the project early in Semester One
- Be available for meetings on a regular basis
- Share knowledge about the general research topic, and assist students with theoretical and methodological research directions
- Provide support with all aspects of the project
- Provide timely critical and constructive feedback
- Offer support with the time management of the student's project
- Assist students to comply with ethics requirements where relevant and appropriate
- Assist with promoting the student's academic progress and long term career prospects where appropriate
Supervisor Meeting Schedule
Refer to the program calendar for the submissions for AIP1, and the final submission date for AIP2. The frequency of appointments or consultation with your supervisor will depend on the nature of your project, the particular phase of it, and your capacity to work independently. Some students will benefit from face-to-face meetings while other students, due to preference or necessity, might communicate with their supervisor via alternative means such as email, Skype, phone and so on. The method and rate of communication is something you need to agree on with your supervisor at the outset of the semester.

Consultation should take place at least once a fortnight but students and supervisors may agree to more frequent consultations depending on the stage of the research project. Please make sure you communicate quickly and regularly to keep on track in the unit. Most supervisors are busy, but they will make additional time available if your requests are reasonable.

Reassignment of Supervisors
In some instances it may be necessary for a student to be assigned a new supervisor during the program. For example, this might occur when the supervisor takes extended study leave during the student’s program. Should reassignment be necessary, the Unit Coordinator, in consultation with the relevant Head of Department/School and student, assigns a new supervisor. In rare instances it may be necessary for a student to be assigned a new supervisor when the working relationship between student and supervisor breaks down. In this situation the student (or the supervisor) should first approach the Unit Coordinator for help in negotiating the situation. Students should not themselves approach another staff member as a possible supervisor. It is important in such a situation to keep all communications between staff and students both clear and equitable.

Study Skills
The Advanced Individual Project can be a very demanding period in terms of time management. During your AIP study you will need to consider time and project management at a number of levels: the year or semester level, the weekly level and the daily level. You should also consider the best places and times of day for you to work, as well as strategies for achieving your goals. You will need to work with your supervisor to develop a timeline for the year, including all assessment deadlines as well as your own project milestones.

One of the challenging aspects of AIP is that there is just one due date for your final project or dissertation, as well as your draft version. Please consult the programme calender carefully for final submission dates. Late submissions are likely to delay your graduation. In order to meet this deadline you need to meet smaller project milestones and it is up to you (in negotiation with your supervisor) to determine what and when these will be. The more you break the bigger project up into smaller pieces, the more manageable it will be, and the easier it is to keep yourself on track.

Working backwards from your due date, work out a timeframe for each of these activities, and any others that relate to your specific project (you may have to revise them, but it is a useful starting point). Remember to schedule to finish written tasks at least a week before they are due to allow time for editing, proofreading and finalising the layout.

The milestones will differ for each individual project, and each will occur in a different order, but some you may like to consider are:

- Writing a research proposal
- General reading on the topic
- Narrowing to a research question
- Obtaining ethics clearance
- More detailed research
- Writing a literature review
- Organising materials and developing a methodology
- Compiling and analysing research
- Developing a thesis plan
- Writing an introduction
- Writing individual sections
- Revising each section
- Writing an abstract
- Editing and proofreading
- Electronic submission
- Readings

Given the brevity of the Advanced Individual Project, it is important that students read strategically to best utilise their time. This means breaking your reading up into manageable sections, interspersing it with writing and taking regular breaks. Most importantly, students should ensure that they are reflecting on, interpreting and analysing all readings as they progress.

When doing readings for your project, ask yourself:

- Why am I reading this? (What do I want to get out of it?)
- Does this article/chapter/section look like it will provide me with the information I need?
- Do I need to read all of it or only parts of it?
Some key techniques for reading strategically include:

- Seeking out background information if you don’t have it (this might take the form of a general web search, a discussion with your supervisor or seeking out key texts)
- Setting specific purposes for reading and being selective
- Critically analysing ideas while you read
- Annotating the text with your questions and comments

Notetaking
This is an important process for retaining and consolidating information, and it helps you with a number of things, such as:

- Concentrating on what you’re reading
- Gathering and evaluating information
- Forming links between different texts
- Drawing succinct conclusions
- Remembering key information
- Summarising ideas and arguments

The best process for keeping notes depends on the individual, and you will likely develop your own system as you go, but some general tips include:

- Use a flexible system for organising notes
- Record all bibliographic information: author, date, title, place of publication, publisher, edition, page numbers
- Leave space for your own comments and annotations
- If you copy a quotation, copy it exactly, ensure you reference it as a quote and record the page number as you go
- Clearly identify the author’s ideas, arguments and theories, and distinguish them from your own
- Review your notes after each reading and record the key ideas

It is also recommended that relevant citations, references and annotations are kept up to date and constantly revised and reflected upon as your project develops.

Research Question
What are you going to learn as the result of the proposed project that you do not know now? Research requires a question(s) for which no ready answer is available. What do you wish to find out about a topic? Asking a topic as the form of a question(s) will allow you to articulate your research procedures.

Questions will allow to identify which information you need to collect. Questions give you a way of evaluating the evidence. Literature-relevant opened questions call for real research and thinking.

The expected answer(s) to the research question will suggest an explanation for an observed relationship or a causal prediction about a relationship among actors and sources of influence in international relations.

Consider the following:

- The potential answers will greatly contribute to the literature (knowledge production)
- The answer is far from obvious
- A good research question will provide a multitude of potential (alternative) answers
- Probably the formulation of a research question better be based not on yes or no dichotomy, but on how and/or why

Literature Review
You should search the literature before you formulate your research question and write your research proposal. The purpose of doing a literature review is to:

- Identify work already done or in progress that is relevant to your work
- Prevent you from duplicating what has already been done
- Avoid some of the pitfalls and errors of previous research
- Design the research methods for your project by identifying the key issues and data collection techniques best suited to your topic
Find gaps in existing research, thereby giving you an opportunity to produce an original research outcome.

You need to know about and understand how other researchers have approached your topic, how they framed their research problem and how they went about the business of designing tools to collect appropriate data. Your literature review should help you write a research proposal, e.g., deciding the nature/scope of your research, formulating your research question(s), identifying the existing, and probably unsolved assumptions, arguments, debates on the chosen topic, and hopefully proposing your hypothetical proposition(s).

Referencing
As is the case with all academic writing, whenever you refer to another person’s research, ideas or creative practice (either by directly quoting or by paraphrasing them) you MUST acknowledge your source. It is necessary for students to acknowledge and identify all quotations and key ideas, arguments, theories, evidence and statistics from their sources that are not their own, and which are not common knowledge. Referencing demonstrates your scope of research to the marker and adds credibility to your thesis.

The School of Media, Culture and Creative Arts uses APA 6th Ed as their standard referencing style. Further to this, referencing style should be advised by the supervisor according to conventions of the discipline.

The Curtin University Library provides extensive information on referencing on their LibGuides page, available at: http://libguides.library.curtin.edu.au/content.php?pid=141214

Ethics Approval
All Advanced Individual Projects that involve other people as subjects and participants in any way (eg. in surveys, interviews, focus groups, acting, ethnography, biography) require approval under the University’s Ethical Research Policies before they may commence. The specifics of the Ethics Approval process will be addressed at the start of semester, however additional support may be sought from your supervisor or the Unit Coordinator. You should familiarise yourself with the information available on the Research Ethics page on the Curtin Office of Research and Development website: http://research.curtin.edu.au/research-integrity-ethics/

Applications for Ethics Approval should be prepared and submitted as soon as the student and supervisor have a clear picture of the human involvements and implications of the thesis. In complex cases, ethics approval may take a few weeks to come through; therefore it is advisable to submit your ethics application as early as possible in the semester.

Research Integrity Module
All students must complete the Research Integrity module, which the Unit Coordinator will organise to be made available via the Blackboard site. Access to the module will be given at the beginning of the unit.

Dissertation Format
The Dissertation stream is the more traditional mode of undertaking a research project in Humanities. A project by written dissertation is a single analytical study which provides students with the scope to address a key issue or question that has been identified in their research. A dissertation should be 15,000 words, +/- 10 percent (excluding appendices, tables and illustrative matter - refer to note below regarding "Length").

A written dissertation will usually (but not prescriptively) include:

- Abstract
- Introductory chapter
- Literature review
- 2-4 analytical chapters
- Conclusion
- Bibliography/ List of references
- Appendices

This is a guideline only. Negotiating the most effective way of writing a dissertation is something that will form a significant part of the student/supervisor relationship. Please refer to the information on Supervision under the Additional Information section of this Unit Outline. Research in the School of Media, Culture and Creative Arts welcomes new thinking about ways of researching and presenting ideas for assessment. There is a strong tradition of innovative research at Curtin University, and students are encouraged to develop their own approach to their research.

Abstract
All completed projects must be presented with an abstract: a brief outline (200-300 words) of the project including the objectives and key arguments. The abstract should outline the research focus and objectives, provide a sense of the contexts (theoretical, practical) of the research, identify in general terms what methodologies will be used, and outline the project’s significance and its likely outcomes.

Length
Excluding the bibliography, appendices, tables and illustrative matter, the word length for the dissertation should be 15,000 words. As is standard with assessments in the Humanities, an allowance of 10 percent of the word limit is made on either side of the limit.
therefore, the dissertation range is from 13,500 to 16,500 words.

Timely Submission and Graduation
Please note that if you do not submit on time, your AIP 2 grade is unlikely to be confirmed by the Board of Examiners meeting, and your graduation may be delayed. On rare occasions, due to the nature of the examination process, even when a project has been submitted by the due date, the examination process may be unavoidably prolonged and graduation may be delayed.

Examination
Two examiners will be appointed for the AIP 2 (i.e. the dissertation). One examiner will be internal to the School and usually the other will be external to the University. Supervisors do not mark a thesis that they have supervised. Each of the examiners is asked to provide a mark in the form of a percentage, and a written report which will be made available to the student and supervisor. The examiners’ marks are weighted equally and an average of the two marks is calculated.

In the case of a discrepancy of more than 10 percentage points between the two examiners’ marks for the project, a third, usually internal, marker will be asked to mark the project. An average of the three marks will then be used to determine the final mark, except in the case of a discrepancy of more than 25 percent between the highest and the lowest marks, in which case a School panel will adjudicate the final mark.

When the examination process is complete, the final mark for AIP 2 will be available via eStudent and the Unit Coordinator will email the student a copy of the reports from the examiners.

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 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/.

| ![eVALUate logo] | 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:

N/A
### Program Calendar – Semester 1 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Begin Date</th>
<th>Lecture/Seminar</th>
<th>Assessment Due</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>22 February</td>
<td><strong>Orientation Week</strong> Complete ‘Nomination of Supervisor &amp; Dissertation Topic’ Form</td>
<td>26 Feb</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>29 February</td>
<td>Dissertation Intention Statement (INTR6000)</td>
<td>04 March</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>7 March</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>14 March</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>21 March</td>
<td><strong>Tuition Free Week</strong> Literature Review (INTR6000)</td>
<td>01 April</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>28 March</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>4 April</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>11 April</td>
<td>Dissertation Part 1 (INTR6000)</td>
<td>15 April</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>18 April</td>
<td><strong>Tuition Free Week</strong></td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>25 April</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>2 May</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>9 May</td>
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<td>13.</td>
<td>16 May</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>23 May</td>
<td>Dissertation (INTR6001)</td>
<td>11:55pm, Monday 23 May</td>
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<td>15.</td>
<td>30 May</td>
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<td>16.</td>
<td>6 June</td>
<td><strong>Study Week</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td>17.</td>
<td>13 June</td>
<td><strong>Examinations</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>20 June</td>
<td><strong>Examinations</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NB: If you are enrolled as a full-time student, you will be enrolled in both INTR6000 and INTR6001.

* Although these dates are designated as tuition free weeks for undergraduate students and postgraduate students undertaking course work units, it should be noted that MIRNS students are expected to continue working independently during these periods.