



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

MTMBUS802A Undertake research project

Release: 1

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Modification History

Not Applicable

Unit Descriptor

Unit descriptor	This unit covers the skills and knowledge required to undertake independent study as a research project directed towards an agri-business issue or problem, including a literature review. The project outcomes will be designed to influence strategic practices and outcomes within an industry context. Some topics will require knowledge of experimental design, survey techniques and statistical analysis of results.
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Application of the Unit

Application of the unit	This unit applies to leaders or managers using applied research methodologies to address an industry or sectorial issue. The focus of this unit is on using research strategies to better understand industry opportunities and threats in order to gain improved industry performance.
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Licensing/Regulatory Information

Not Applicable

Pre-Requisites

Prerequisite units		

Employability Skills Information

Employability skills	This unit contains employability skills.
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Elements and Performance Criteria Pre-Content

Elements describe the essential outcomes of a unit of competency.	Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element. Where bold italicised text is used, further information is detailed in the required skills and knowledge section and the range statement. Assessment of performance is to be consistent with the evidence guide.
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Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENT	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
1. Define topic	1.1. Research issue is identified and scoped. 1.2. Research questions are developed and refined. 1.3. Research methodologies are identified. 1.4. Hypotheses are developed.
2. Undertake literature review	2.1. Suitable sources of literature are identified. 2.2. Literature outcomes are analysed and presented. 2.3. Research questions and strategy are refined in light of literature review findings.
3. Undertake research	3.1. Research instruments are developed and validated. 3.2. Ethical and confidentiality requirements are identified and addressed. 3.3. Environmental sustainability issues associated with the research are identified. 3.4. Research is undertaken. 3.5. Findings are recorded .
4. Present findings	4.1. Research outcomes are analysed. 4.2. Research methodology is reviewed and analysed. 4.3. Recommendations are developed. 4.4. Research report is prepared and presented. 4.5. Report is presented for peer review.

Required Skills and Knowledge

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

This section describes the skills and knowledge required for this unit.

Required skills

Ability to:

- use analysis and interpretation skills to:
 - critically review other research strategies, analyses and findings
 - apply research findings to a current issue
 - select relevant information and documentation
- use communication and negotiation skills to:
 - present and explain research ideas

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

- gain commitment to participate in research activity
- present findings
- use develop and conduct research activity
- undertake risk assessment and resolve blockages

Required knowledge

Knowledge of:

- relevant legislation and regulatory requirements impacting on research activity
- research strategies and techniques
- data collection methods
- risk assessment and monitoring strategies, including environmental risk analysis
- strategies to evaluate and analyse effectiveness of research approach
- environmental sustainability principles

Evidence Guide

EVIDENCE GUIDE

The evidence guide provides advice on assessment and must be read in conjunction with the performance criteria, required skills and knowledge, range statement and the Assessment Guidelines for the Training Package.

Overview of assessment

Critical aspects for assessment and evidence required to demonstrate competency in this unit

Evidence of the following is essential:

- comprehensive literature review
- formulate a research proposal or plan which includes:
 - specific research questions or hypotheses
 - valid population or sample size
 - description of the geographical, cultural, social or institutional context within which the research will be carried out
 - full description of the data collection methods
- analysis of the limitations to research design
- design appropriate tools and techniques
- research report with analysis of data, and valid and reliable findings
- utility and relevance of the research results.

Context of and specific resources for assessment

Assessment must ensure:

- research activity relates to an actual workplace or industry context and topic
- competence is demonstrated using a range of tools and techniques appropriate to the given situations and research topic.

Method of assessment

A range of assessment methods should be used to assess practical skills and knowledge. The following examples are appropriate for this unit:

- completed literature review
- projects or assessment activities relating to conducting research
- observation of contextual application of skills
- peer reviewed research report.

Guidance information for assessment

Holistic assessment with other units relevant to the industry sector, workplace and job role is recommended, for example, with other units in the qualification in which this unit is packaged.

Range Statement

RANGE STATEMENT

The range statement relates to the unit of competency as a whole. It allows for different work environments and situations that may affect performance. Bold italicised wording, if used in the performance criteria, is detailed below. Essential operating conditions that may be present with training and assessment (depending on the work situation, needs of the candidate, accessibility of the item, and local industry and regional contexts) may also be included.

<i>Research issue</i> must have an industry or sectoral focus and may include:	• new product or process development • change management technique or strategy • marketing initiative • review of current processes and practices • potential industry application and impact of new technology or processes.
<i>Research methodologies</i> may include:	• qualitative or quantitative research strategies • pre-existing research instruments • naturalistic methodologies • action research.
<i>Hypotheses</i> may include:	• an existing belief that requires confirmation through research • statement of anticipated outcome.
<i>Suitable sources of literature</i> may include:	• available electronic databases • interest research • library research • industry associations • industry publications • conference proceedings • experts • workplace documentation.
<i>Ethical</i> requirements may include:	• consultation with an ethics committee • cultural practices and considerations • impact on the individual • impact on a community • animal welfare • environmental practices.
<i>Environmental sustainability issues</i> may include:	• waste minimisation • use and reuse of resources

RANGE STATEMENT	
	• environmental risk analysis • impact of outcomes of research (e.g. on waste reduction, increases in energy and resource efficiencies, and recycling).
<i>Record findings</i> may include:	• using electronic databases • recording and transcribing interviews • coding responses and findings.

Unit Sector(s)

Unit sector	
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Co-requisite units

Co-requisite units		

Competency field

Competency field	
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