

# Welcome to the Honours & Graduate Diploma of Business Research Methods





# Acknowledgement of Country

The University of Queensland (UQ) acknowledges the Traditional Owners and their custodianship of the lands on which we meet.

We pay our respects to their Ancestors and their descendants, who continue cultural and spiritual connections to Country.

We recognise their valuable contributions to Australian and global society.

*The Brisbane River* pattern from *A Guidance Through Time* by Casey Coolwell and Kyra Mancktelow.





# Session hosts joining us today



**Runxi Liu**

Business Honours Graduate  
and PhD Candidate



**Jonathan Aster**

Business Honours Graduate  
and PhD Candidate



**Associate Professor Kelvin Tan**  
Honours Program Leader



**Dr Anna Jenkins**  
Senior Lecturer



**Jacqui McGoon**  
Student Liaison Officer

# In this session



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# Getting started





# Associate Professor Kelvin Tan

Business School





# Honours Program Leader

- ✓ Academic support for students and their supervisors.
- ✓ Go-to person for anything non-administrative, including course and thesis-related issues.
- ✓ Oversees UQ Business School Honours Programs and affiliated courses.
- ✓ Oversees the thesis examination process.
- ✓ Welcome your feedback anytime.
- ✓ Go-to person if you are having a meltdown!!

# Other people to know



**Deputy Honours  
Program Leader**  
Dr Marissa Edwards

[m.edwards@business.uq.edu.au](mailto:m.edwards@business.uq.edu.au)  
(07) 3443 2424



**Finance Coordinator**  
Dr Hasibul Chowdhury

[h.chowdhury@business.uq.edu.au](mailto:h.chowdhury@business.uq.edu.au)  
(07) 3443 1250



**Management Coordinator**  
Dr Ali Intezari Harsini

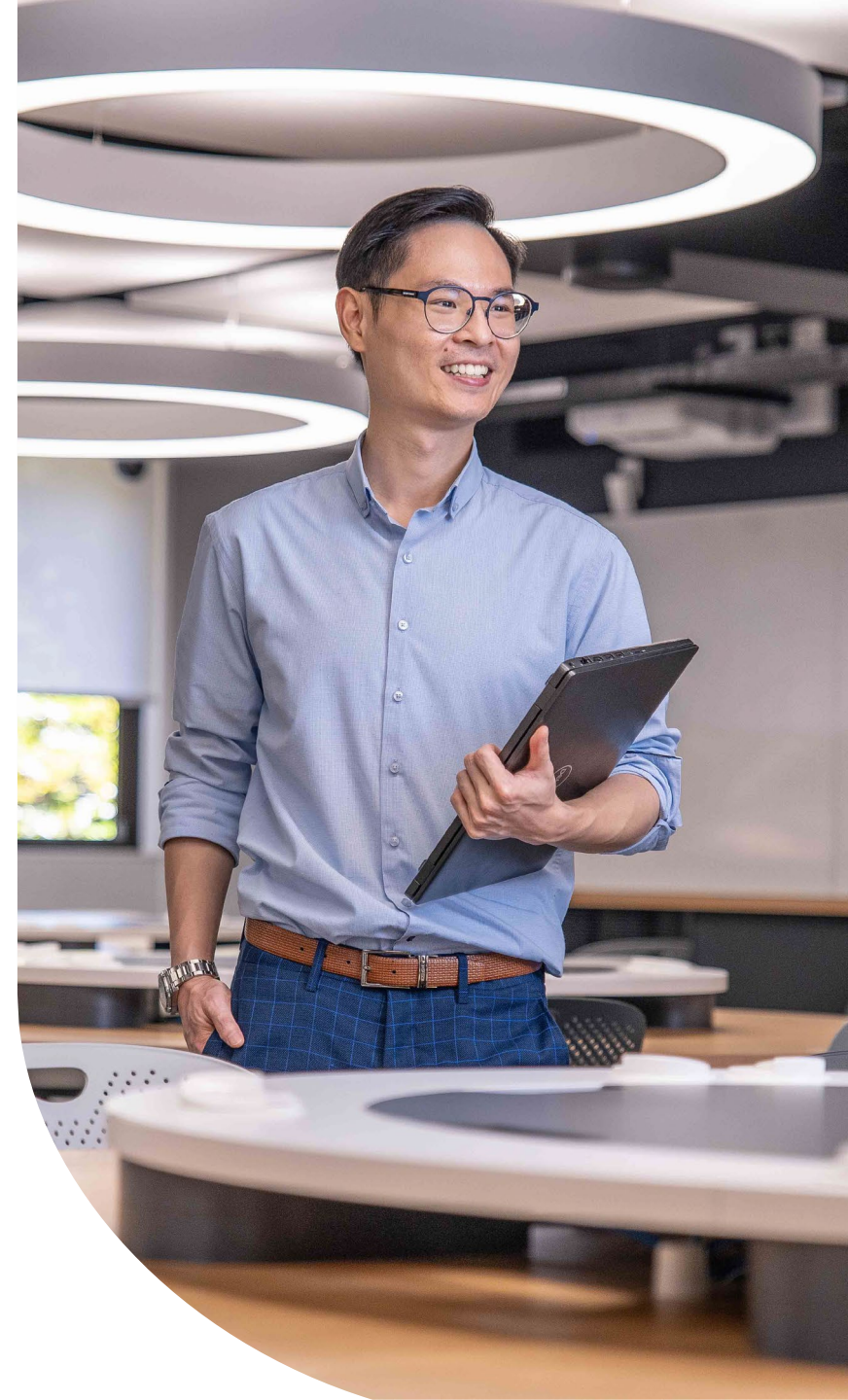
[a.intezari@business.uq.edu.au](mailto:a.intezari@business.uq.edu.au)  
(07) 3443 1249



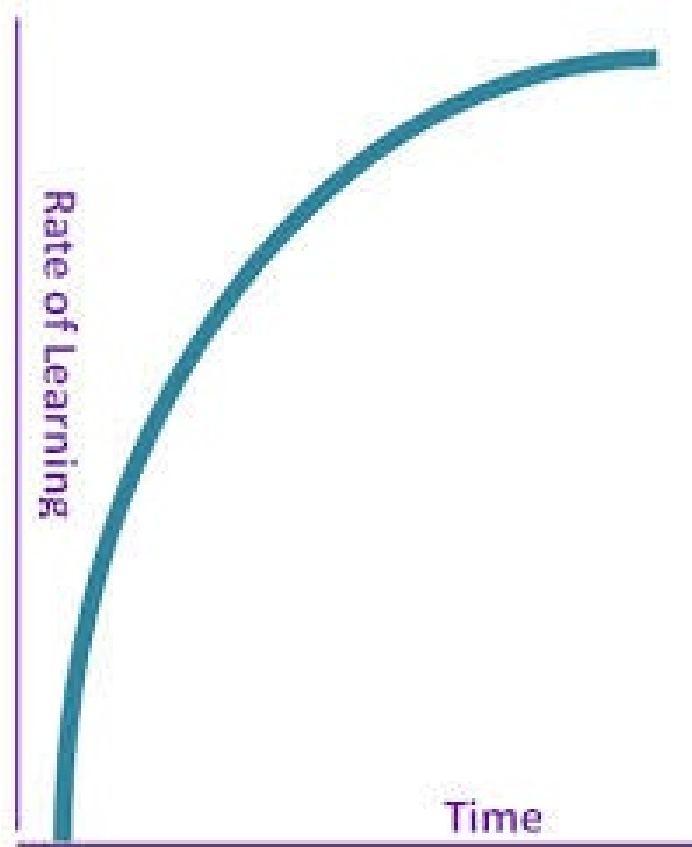
# Our promise to you

UQ Business School's world-class Honours programs are designed to help students **develop superior analytical skills** and enhance their knowledge of business techniques, research methodologies and literature.

As an Honours student, you will find yourself in a **highly stimulating environment**. You will have the benefits of small classes and interactive discussions with fellow students and lecturers, and will get to know them in a way that is not possible in undergraduate classes.



# What you should expect





# Program objectives

- Gain in-depth knowledge of your specialist area.
- Develop comprehensive research skills.
- Engage in critical thinking and analysis.
- Work independently and within a team.
- Effectively communicate research activities and findings.
- Ticket to a HDR!



# Your research thesis

- Conduct a critical review of the literature relevant to the field of study.
- Formulate appropriate objectives, questions, problems or hypotheses to define the research project.
- Devise a research method to collect and analyse data.
- Critically analyse the findings of the research project in the context of the defining objectives.
- Write a report, otherwise known as a thesis on the project.
- Yes, it is 20,000 words!



# Your thesis presentation

- As part of your thesis, you are required to present your research proposal to your peers and our academic community.
- This is worth 10% of your thesis grade.
- This will take place mid-year in a forum that is organised within the Business School.
- Guidelines are available in your Honours Thesis eCP.

# Important dates

Friday 15 March (week 4)

- Thesis topic and supervisor due

Friday 19 April (week 8)

- Supervisor Agreement signed and submitted to Program Leader via course Blackboard site

29 – 30 May (schedule TBC)

- Honours thesis presentations

Friday 24 May

- Ethics Applications due (soft deadline but encouraged)

Friday 25 October

- Thesis due at 1pm via Blackboard course site



# It's all about communication...

"I'VE LOOKED AT IT."



JORGE CHAM © 2011

Pitcher's name	Your name	FoR Category	Field of research	Date Completed	Insert date
(A) Working Title	Succinct/informative title				
(B) Basic Research Question	In one sentence, define the key features of the research question.				
(C) Key paper(s)	Identify the three key paper(s) which most critically underpin the topic (just standard reference details). Ideally, by 'gurus' in the field, either recently published in Tier 1 journal(s) or recent working paper e.g. on SSRN.				
(D) Motivation/puzzle	In one short paragraph (say a max of 100 words) capture the core academic motivation - which may include identifying a 'puzzle' that you hope to resolve.				
<b>THREE</b>	<b>Three core aspects of any empirical research project</b>				
(E) Idea?	Identify the 'core' idea that drives the intellectual content of this research topic. If possible, articulate the central hypothesis(es). Identify the key dependent ('explained') variable and the key test/independent ('explanatory') variable(s). Is there any serious threat from endogeneity here? If so, what is the identification strategy? Is there a natural experiment or exogenous shock that can be exploited? Is there any theoretical 'tension' that can be exploited?				
(F) Data?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What data do you propose to use? e.g. country/setting. Why? Unit of analysis? Individuals, firms, portfolios, industries, countries ...? sample period, sampling interval? Daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, annual. Type of data: firm specific vs. industry vs. macro vs. ...?</li> <li>2. What sample size do you expect? Cross-sectionally? In Time-series/longitudinal?</li> <li>3. Is it a panel dataset?</li> <li>4. Data Sources? Are the data commercially available? Any hand-collecting required? Are the data to be created based on your own survey instrument? Or by interviews? Timeframe? Research assistance needed? Funding/grants? Are they novel new data?</li> <li>5. Will there be any problem with missing data/observations? Database merge issues? Data manipulation/'cleansing' issues?</li> <li>6. Will your 'test' variables exhibit adequate ('meaningful') variation to give good power? Quality/reliability of data?</li> <li>7. Other data obstacles? e.g. external validity? construct validity?</li> </ol>				
(G) Tools?	Basic empirical framework and research design? Is it a regression model approach? Survey instrument issues/design? Interview design? Econometric software needed/appropriate for job? Accessible through normal channels? Knowledge of implementation of appropriate or best statistical/econometric tests? Compatibility of data with planned empirical framework? Is statistical validity an issue?				
<b>TWO</b>	<b>Two key questions</b>				
(H) What's New?	Is the novelty in the idea/data/tools? Which is the 'driver', and are the 'passengers' likely to pull their weight? Is this 'Mickey Mouse' [i.e. can you draw a simple Venn diagram to depict the novelty in your proposal?]				
(I) So What?	Why is it important to know the answer? How will major decisions/behaviour/activity etc be influenced by the outcome of this research?				
<b>ONE</b>	<b>One bottom line</b>				
(J) Contribution?	What is the primary source of the contribution to the relevant research literature?				
(K) Other Considerations?	<p>Is Collaboration needed/desirable? - Idea/data/tools? (either internal or external to your institution)</p> <p>Target Journal(s)? Realistic? Sufficiently ambitious?</p> <p>'Risk' assessment ['low' vs. 'moderate' vs. 'high': 'no result' risk; 'competitor' risk (ie being beaten by a competitor); risk of 'obsolescence'; other risks? Are there any serious challenge(s) that you face in executing this plan? What are they? Are they related to the Idea? The Data? The Tools? Are there ethical considerations? Ethics clearance?</p> <p>Is the scope appropriate? Not too narrow, not too broad.</p>				

# How your class of honours is calculated

Aggregated score (GPA) that consists of your course work marks and your thesis

GPA	Class of Honours
6.200 - 7.000	Class I
5.650 - 6.1999	Class IIA
5.000 - 5.649	Class IIB
4.000 - 4.999	Class IIIA
<4.000	Class IIIB

*\*Class of Honours for Bachelor of Advanced Finance and Economics (Honours) is calculated differently, as per program requirements.*



# You and your supervisor

The role of your supervisor is to:

- assist you in developing your study plan and research topic.
- be available for regular consultation.
- encourage you to work both consistently and efficiently to reach your end goal in a timely manner.
- regularly monitor and discuss your progress with you.
- read and evaluate drafts of your work as it is produced and read the entire manuscript before it is submitted.
- provide appropriate feedback on your work throughout the year and provide honest and constructive criticism of your work.



# You and your supervisor

It's your responsibility to:

- create a realistic work schedule with your supervisor.
- abide by the agreed timelines set by you and your supervisor.
- advise your supervisor of any concerns, interruptions or welfare issues that may influence your progress.
- attend scheduled meetings or inform your supervisor if you are unable to attend.
- submit progressive work and listen and act on feedback.
- contact your Honours Program Leader as soon as possible if the supervisory relationship is not working for you!!



# Honours facilities

## Paul Rogers Honours Facility: Colin Clark Building (39), Room 117

- 24/7 access available with your student ID card at the swipe security unit. Please email [operations@business.uq.edu.au](mailto:operations@business.uq.edu.au) if your access is not working.
- If your ID card does not have “Smart Encoded” shown on the photo side, you will need to obtain a new student ID card.
- There are limited number of lockers available in the room – please email [operations@business.uq.edu.au](mailto:operations@business.uq.edu.au) to organise a key.
- Computer Lab – all hot desks, 19 desktop computers plus areas for laptop use.
- There is a fridge in the room. Hot water and microwaves are available in the kitchen area near the lifts. Please do not leave food scraps in the room. All waste should be placed in the large bins in the kitchen area near the lifts.
- Please remember this is a work environment and keep noise to a minimum.



# Other great things for students

- Up to \$1,000\* cash to help you with your research related expenses.
- Access to research workshops and seminars.
- Opportunity to participate in the Business School Research Colloquium.
- Opportunity to publish your thesis and receive \$1,500\* cash for doing so!
- Paid research work, summer / winter scholarships and tutoring opportunities (when available).
- Opportunities to engage with industry.

\*Please note that all research funds are subject to the availability of school funding.

# Accessing your research funds

**What can I use this money for?**

- research related costs:  
examples include: database purchase, equipment, local travel, incentives, panel purchase, refreshments for participants, transcription, thesis editing and binding and printing costs.
- if unsure check with the program leader.

# Accessing your research funds (continued)

- Prior approval is required from the Director of Research via [researchteam@business.uq.edu.au](mailto:researchteam@business.uq.edu.au)
- On approval, email the finance team ([bel.finance@uq.edu.au](mailto:bel.finance@uq.edu.au)) requesting payment with a copy of the approval
- Include the following details:
  - name
  - student number
  - description of claim
  - bank account details – BSB, account no., account name and email address for remittance.
  - attach the 'student bursary offer letter' in correspondence to the Finance team (this letter will be attached to the expenditure request once it has been approved).



# BEL Student Centre

Contact us for help

Visit: Level 2 Colin Clark Building (39)

Email: [info@business.uq.edu.au](mailto:info@business.uq.edu.au)

Call: 07 3346 8100



# Graduate Diploma in Business Research Methods

Dr Anna Jenkins

Senior Lecturer in Entrepreneurship & Innovation



# Graduate Diploma in Business Research Methods

The Business Research Methods Program has been designed to provide research training for students intending to further their studies in an MPhil or PhD program in business.

## Program Structure

Students must complete at least 16 units comprising:

- 4 to 8 units from GDipBRM Flexible Core Courses, and
- At least 4 units from GDipBRM Research Courses, and
- 4 to 8 units from GDipBRM Elective Options.

Program Plans are available at [business.uq.edu.au/students/program-course-advice](https://business.uq.edu.au/students/program-course-advice) to assist with enrolments for your program.





# Research Project vs. Research Thesis

Students have the option to complete either 4-unit Research Project or 8-unit Research Thesis. We recommend completing the 8-unit Research Thesis where possible to ensure you can complete a comprehensive research project and prepare you for higher degree by research.

Research Project	Research Thesis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4-unit value</li><li>• semester-long or year-long options</li><li>• 10,000-word project report</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 8-unit value</li><li>• semester-long or year-long options</li><li>• 20,000-word research thesis</li></ul>

Both the Research Project and Research Thesis requires you to complete independent research study alongside your Business School academic supervisor. You will not have classes or timetables for this course, and we encourage you to create a realistic work scheduled with your supervisor.

There are no milestones throughout the semester, only final submission of thesis.

# Applying to complete research project or thesis

- GDipBRM students wishing to complete a research project or thesis in their program must submit a research application to be considered for enrolment.
- You are required to have an academic supervisor and 1000-word research proposal to apply.
- Applications are due by O-Week for the semester you wish to commence your project/thesis.
- For assistance with the application process and to request an application pack, please contact your Postgraduate Student Liaison Officer at [info@business.uq.edu.au](mailto:info@business.uq.edu.au).

# Support in the journey

- Seminar series designed to support your research journey
- Topics covered include: Identifying relevant literature & theory; Selecting a method & identifying data; Research Design & Planning your project; Applying for ethics
- Held on Fridays, see BlackBoard for details of the topic, time and location. Open to Honours students as well



# UQ Business School Postgraduate Research Community

UQ Business School Postgraduate Research Community site provides important information and updates for your program including:

- general announcements
- program information
- who to contact, and
- resources and opportunities to help you through your studies.

You can access the community site via [Learn.UQ](#) > My Organisations.



# What next?

- You should have enrolled on mySI-net by now via [sinet.uq.edu.au](http://sinet.uq.edu.au) and your timetable should be finalised.
- Eligible for credit? Check with your student adviser for more information.
- Add or substitute courses without penalty by – **1 March.**
- Finalise enrolment by Census Date: Semester 1 – **31 March.**
- Attend the Meet and Greet Session to explore potential projects and supervisors.
- Start preparing your research application and proposal for submission – if you need assistance, please let us know.



04

# Honours wellbeing

Staying well during  
your Honours program



# Health and wellbeing

UQ provides a range of programs and counselling services to help improve your overall physical and mental wellbeing, including:

- Mental Health Champions Network
- UQ Ally Network
- UQ Sport
- UQ Psychology Clinic
- counselling
- health clinics





# Student tip

**Mitchell Vimbai Tsikai,  
Honours student**

## **Taking a break is crucial.**

You should take care of yourself, see friends, and celebrate small accomplishments like finishing a chapter. This may appear to be a distraction from your work but taking just an hour for yourself can motivate you to complete the work you had been procrastinating to do.





05

Get the full  
experience





# Clubs and societies

Join a club or society to make heaps of new friends, attend fun events and broaden your network

There are more than 220 clubs and societies on campus, including:

- UQ Business School Postgraduate Association
- Tourism Hospitality and Events Society
- UQ Finance and Investments Network for Sustainability
- UQ Innovation and Entrepreneurship Society
- UQ Yoga and Meditation Club





# Business, Economics and Law Student Base

Level 1, Colin Clark Building

Your space to hang out, study and connect on campus!

The airconditioned study rooms, social courtyard and kitchenette are yours to enjoy.

Plus, keep an eye out for fun activities and giveaways happening in the space.

See you there!





# Get career ready

Your career starts now!

Explore career possibilities, develop employability skills, engage with industry, build your professional profile and much more with your dedicated Careers and Employability team.





# Business School Student Program Committees

**Represent your program, while making friends.**

Joining your committee offers a unique opportunity to represent fellow students, enhance the student experience and develop skills in teamwork, advocacy and negotiation.





# Join the **Get Set** mentoring program

Get Set mentoring is a fantastic opportunity for you to be mentored by your fellow BEL students!

Make friends, find out tips and tricks for success while your mentors help you get settled into uni life.

Whether you are in Brisbane or abroad, if you would like a student mentor to help you navigate your first semester at UQ, this mentoring program is for you.

Sign up: [bit.ly/3IXBDiT](https://bit.ly/3IXBDiT)





# BEL Buddies

**BEL Buddies are here to help you settle in and have a great university experience.**

You will meet BEL Buddies at BEL Orientation Festival, where they will help you make friends and share their knowledge with you.

Next semester, you will have the opportunity to volunteer as a BEL Buddy to help give back to the UQ community while gaining experience for your resume and broadening your networks.





# Learn to invest

Get real-world investment experience while you study.

## Bloomberg Trading Lab

We work with Bloomberg to deliver a replica trading environment at UQ.

## Student Managed Investment Fund (SMIF)

SMIF provides students with the opportunity to manage a live equity portfolio.

