



UNSW
SYDNEY

School of Education

EDST5889 Minor Thesis

Term 3 2021

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IMPORTANT:

For student policies and procedures relating to assessment, attendance and student support, please see website, <https://education.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/courses/course-outlines/>

The School of Education acknowledges the Bedegal people as the traditional custodians of the lands upon which we learn and teach.

1. LOCATION

Faculty of Arts, Design & Architecture
School of Education
EDST5889 Minor Thesis (6 units of credit)
Term 3 2021

2. STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

Course Coordinator: Dr Hoa Nguyen
Office Location: Ground Floor, Morven Brown
Email: hoa.nguyen@unsw.edu.au
Availability: Email to arrange appointment

Course resources are available on Moodle. Please post questions about the course in the online course help forum, where the course coordinator (and your peers) will promptly respond.

3. COURSE DETAILS

Course Name	Minor Thesis
Credit Points	12 units of credit (uoc)
Requirements for entry	A weighted average mark (WAM) of at least 75 in prior study, the submission of an Expression of Interest, identification of a suitable supervisor, and a successful interview with the proposed supervisor. EDST5448 (Educational Research) or EDST5458 (Researching Special Education) is a pre-requisite.
Enrolment procedure	Students will be required to enrol in two EDST5889 courses (a 6 uoc course) in consecutive terms (excluding summer term). A single result for the course will be reported at the end of the second course.
Workload	Includes 300 hours including class contact hours, readings, class preparation, assessment, follow up activities, etc.
Schedule	A schedule to be determined by mutual agreement between the supervisor and student.

SUMMARY OF THE COURSE

In this course, you will have an opportunity to build on, or extend interests developed in your specialist area of education by undertaking a self-directed minor thesis, supported by a supervising academic, in your area of specialisation. The minor thesis must demonstrate synthesis and application of knowledge and skills developed in coursework components of your specialisation to address a particular problem or issue.

Unless a theoretical research project is being planned, students are expected to obtain ethical approval for a *negligible risk research project* (information on what constitutes negligible risk research appears here: <https://research.unsw.edu.au/negligible-risk-research>). Applications for ethical approval to conduct negligible risk research are reviewed on a weekly basis.

Opportunities will be available to disseminate completed projects.

The course provides students with the opportunity to complete an individual research project. Upon successful completion, students may be eligible to be considered for entry into research higher degree programs, including PhD, at UNSW and other universities.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Outcome	Assessment/s	
1	Specify a suitable topic for a minor thesis research project and justify its significance, relevance, and feasibility	1
2	Locate and critically evaluate a wide range of literature relevant to a topic of interest in education	1
3	Use appropriate research methodology to obtain and analyse data in an investigation of a topic of interest in education	1
4	Report and interpret the significance of the findings in relation to underlying theory and practice	1

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

Capability	Assessment/s	
	Advanced disciplinary knowledge and practices	
1	Demonstrate an advanced understanding of the field of education as it relates to their specialist area of study, and the ability to synthesize and apply disciplinary principles and practices to new or complex environments.	1
	Research-based learning	
2	Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of research-based learning and the ability to plan, analyse, present, implement, and evaluate complex activities that contribute to advanced professional practice and/or intellectual scholarship in education.	1
	Cognitive skills and critical thinking	
3	Demonstrate advanced critical thinking and problem-solving skills	1
	Communication, adaptive and interactional skills	
4	Communicate effectively to a range of audiences, and be capable of independent and collaborative enquiry and team-based leadership	1
	International outlook	
5	Demonstrate an understanding of international perspectives relevant to the educational field	1
	Ethical and responsible professional practice	
6	Demonstrate an advanced capacity to recognise and negotiate the complex and often contested values and ethical practices that underlie education	1

4. RATIONALE FOR THE INCLUSION OF CONTENT AND TEACHING APPROACH

This course is being offered to provide students with an opportunity to undertake an independent supervised research project (equivalent to an honours thesis) in a specific area of their specialisation in education. The course will also enable students to develop a deeper reflective approach to education and demonstrate the ability to analyse, evaluate, synthesise, and apply knowledge and skills from earlier stages of their program.

5. TEACHING STRATEGIES AND RATIONALE

EDST5889 is a self-directed course. You will work independently and have access to a project supervisor throughout two consecutive terms. One-on-one meetings with supervisors may cover any issues relating to the conduct of an independent research project in your area of specialisation, including a review of the literature, the formulation of research questions, research design, ethical approval, research instruments, data collection, data analyses, interpretation of data analyses, and the write up of research.

6. COURSE CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

This course is an independent research project. You will be allocated a supervisor who will guide and work with you.

Module	Activity
1	During Week 1 of the first term, complete the orientation activities on Moodle to become familiar with the nature of the project and how to work with your supervisor. On or before Week 1, you will be allocated a supervisor with broad expertise in your area of interest.
2	By Week 3 of the first term, prepare your project proposal (1,000 words). The proposal should demonstrate the feasibility of your project in scholarly terms (e.g., conceptual approach, methods, research question) and practical terms (e.g., ability to complete the project within the time frame). Your supervisor will review the project proposal and provide advice on how to proceed.
3	By Week 4 of the second term, complete data collection for the proposed project
4	By Week 11 of the second term, submit the final project report

7. RESOURCES

Suggested resources:

- Basit, T.N. (2010). *Conducting research in educational contexts*. New York: Continuum International Publishing Group.
- Cohen, L., Manion, L. & Morrison, K. (2011). *Research methods in education*. London and New York: RoutledgeFalmer.
- Denscombe, M. (2002). *Ground rules for good research: A 10-point guide for social researchers*. Buckingham: Open University.
- MacLure, M. (2003). *Discourse in social and educational research*. Buckingham: Open University
- Yin, R.K. (2012) *Case study research: Design and methods*. London: Sage Publications.

8. ASSESSMENT

Assessment Task	Length	Weight	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed	Program Learning Outcomes Assessed	Due Date
Project proposal and report	A: Proposal (1000 words) B: Report (12000-15000 words)	100%	1-4	1-6	Proposal due Monday 11 th October 2021 by 5pm Final Report submission due 26 th April 2022 by 5pm (Term 1 2022)

Submission of assessments

Students are required to follow their supervisor's instructions when submitting their work for assessment. All assessment will be submitted online via Moodle by 5pm on the due date. Students are also required to keep all drafts, original data, and other evidence of the authenticity of the work for at least one year after examination. If an assessment is mislaid the student is responsible for providing a further copy. Please see the Student Policies and Procedures for information regarding submission, extensions, special consideration, late penalties and hurdle requirements etc.

<https://education.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/courses/course-outlines/>

Assessment Details

1. Project proposal and report

A. Proposal

Length: 1000 words

Formative feedback will be provided by your supervisor.

B. Report

Length: 12000-15000 words (exclude references, appendix)

Feedback provided within 10 days of submission.

A report of the project in a form appropriate to the nature of the study. The report should be double-spaced and written in APA style. Please note the marking criteria for the report.

