



## UNSW Course Outline

# PSYC7428 Research Thesis (Forensic) 3 - 2023

Course Code : PSYC7428  
Year : 2023  
Term : Term 3  
Teaching Period : T3  
Delivery Mode : Research  
Delivery Format : Standard  
Delivery Location : Kensington

## General Course Information

Course Code : PSYC7428  
Year : 2023  
Term : Term 3  
Teaching Period : T3  
Is a multi-term course? : No  
Faculty : Faculty of Science  
Academic Unit : School of Psychology  
Delivery Mode : Research  
Delivery Format : Standard  
Delivery Location : Kensington  
Campus : Sydney  
Study Level : Postgraduate  
Units of Credit : 6

### Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

## Course Details & Outcomes

### Course Description

This course is for students enrolled in the postgraduate Master of Psychology (Forensic)

Program. Students are required to complete an empirical research project under the supervision of a member of academic staff in the School of Psychology which is written up as a thesis in the form of a journal article. Research projects may be carried out on any topic that is relevant to forensic psychology.

The thesis and research project are assessed across three courses – Thesis 1, Thesis 2 and Thesis 3 – in which students would normally be expected to enrol for Terms 1 to 3 respectively. PSYC7428 is the third course in the three-course sequence.

## Course Aims

The overall aim of this course is for students to further develop advanced-level skills in designing, undertaking and reporting empirical research relating to forensic psychology. This is a capstone activity. The research project, thesis, associated supervision, and presentation of research findings will provide “hands on” experience conducting and communicating research with relevance to forensic psychology.

## Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CL01 : Plan and execute a research-based project that is applicable to the field of forensic psychology.
CL02 : Critically review literature associated with a research-based project.
CL03 : Independently undertake research activities in an ethical manner.
CL04 : Apply a high level of critical thinking and technical skill in research design and communication.
CL05 : Present a clear and coherent synthesis of forensically relevant, ethical research, and its significance to a variety of audiences.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CL01 : Plan and execute a research-based project that is applicable to the field of forensic psychology.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research Thesis</li> </ul>
CL02 : Critically review literature associated with a research-based project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research Thesis</li> </ul>
CL03 : Independently undertake research activities in an ethical manner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research Thesis</li> </ul>
CL04 : Apply a high level of critical thinking and technical skill in research design and communication.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research Thesis</li> </ul>

CL05 : Present a clear and coherent synthesis of forensically relevant, ethical research, and its significance to a variety of audiences.	• Research Thesis
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## Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

## Assessments

### Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Research Thesis Assessment Format Individual	100%	Start Date Not Applicable Due Date 13/10/2023 05:00 PM

### Assessment Details

#### Research Thesis

##### Assessment Overview

Students must submit and pass a research thesis which constitutes 100% of the mark for PSYC7428. Once PSYC7428 is complete the mark will also be back filled against the 'EC' for the successfully continued courses PSYC7426 and PSYC7427.

Your thesis will take the form of a manuscript prepared for publication in a named psychology journal. It will include: 1) An Introduction in which you review published research relevant to your topic and identify the aims of the project. 2) A Method section which clearly and succinctly describes the methodology employed. 3) A Results section which describes the treatment and analysis of the data collected. 4) A discussion section which considers the implications of the results in the context of previous research and considers applications to forensic practice or research.

The Research Thesis will be marked by two members of the academic staff of the School of Psychology. Your Supervisor is not involved in the marking of the Research Thesis but does provide the markers with an assessment of *student contribution and competence throughout the project*. Feedback on your Research Thesis can be obtained directly from your Supervisor after the official release of results date for the term.

When preparing to submit their thesis, students are permitted to receive feedback from their supervisor/s on written drafts of their thesis Introduction, Method and Results sections only. Students may receive supervisor feedback on each of these sections twice in total prior to submission. Supervisors are not permitted to review or provide feedback on written drafts of the Discussion section. Students can talk about their plans for the Discussion section with their supervisors, but they may not request or receive feedback on a written draft of this section.

Once the thesis mark is finalised it will be added to the Term 3 course (PSYC7428) and backfilled

against the previous two thesis courses, replacing the EC grades.

Thesis Preparation instructions are as follows:

1. Students are permitted to receive feedback from their supervisor/s on written drafts of their thesis Introduction, Method and Results sections only. Students may receive supervisor feedback on each of these sections twice prior to submission. Supervisors are not permitted to review or provide feedback on written drafts of the Discussion section. Students can talk about their plans for the Discussion section with their supervisors, but they may not request or receive feedback on a written draft of this section.
2. Your thesis should be prepared as though it is a submission for a named journal, and you should follow the recommendations of the intended journal, except where they conflict with these
  - Identify a journal that would be an appropriate home for your thesis (your target journal). In most cases, there are several journals that would be suitable – it does not matter which you select provided it is appropriate for the subject
  - Read the “guidelines for authors” provided by the target journal. For many journals, the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ) will be your bible in the preparation of the manuscript.
  - Include with your thesis a mock letter of submission to the editor of the target journal (the APA publication guidelines may help with this letter). This letter does not form part of your thesis mark.
3. Your thesis should be approximately 7,500 words in length at most (including abstract but excluding tables, figures, references and appendices). In practice, we recommend you aim for less than 7,500 words so long as you have covered the relevant content. Ignore any word limit imposed by your target journal. Examiners are told to reward clear and concise writing and are never upset if something is shorter than anticipated if all the necessary information is
  - Include all figures and tables in the text of the document (ignore instructions by the journal to submit these separately)
  - Your thesis should be either double-spaced or 5-spaced and all referencing should be in APA format
  - Journal articles do not include a table of contents and you do not need one for your
  - You should include a title page indicating that what follows is a thesis submitted for your degree and giving the name of your supervisor(s) and their affiliation
  - You should include the Certificate of Originality (see below)
  - It isn't necessary to provide the examiner with all SPSS data files, output etc. but these do need to be provided to your Supervisors (see below)
  - You may also include a separate Acknowledgments page if you Long and sentimental tributes should be avoided, but you may feel that you wish to include acknowledgments which are slightly longer than those normally given within the manuscript.
4. You are required to provide your supervisor with an electronic copy of your thesis. In addition, you must provide your supervisor with a copy of all materials, data files and analyses.
  - Submit an electronic copy of your thesis (Abstract to Discussion only, no references or appendices) to Turnitin, via the Moodle module for the program.
  - Submit an electronic copy of your full thesis, including signature on the Certificate of Originality, to the Masters Thesis Committee.
  - Your thesis must be submitted before 4.00pm on the due date (Friday of Week 5 Term 3). Note that extensions to the submission deadline are not normally allowed and the standard penalty (described in detail below) will apply for late submissions (unless Special Consideration applies).

### **Assessment Length**

7500 words

### Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

## General Assessment Information

### Grading Basis

Standard

## Course Schedule

Teaching Week/ Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 0 : 4 September - 8 September	Workshop	Monday 4th September. Thesis Presentation Skills #1 Workshop.  This is the first part of a two part thesis presentation skills workshop. During this session (in person) we will give you some tips for presenting your thesis at the Annual Forensic and Clinical Psychology Research Conference.
Week 3 : 25 September - 29 September	Workshop	28th or 29th of September. Thesis Presentation Skills Workshop #2  This is the second part of a two part thesis presentation skills workshop. You will ultimately attend ONE of these #2 sessions (i.e., either 2a OR 2b). During this session (in person) you will each give a practice conference presentation and get feedback from the group.
Week 5 : 9 October - 13 October	Assessment	Thesis Due Friday October 13th via Turnitin
Week 6 : 16 October - 20 October	Presentation	20th October - Present thesis at the Annual Forensic & Clinical Psychology Research Conference

## Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

## Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Richard Kemp	<a href="mailto:richard.kemp@unsw.edu.au">richard.kemp@unsw.edu.au</a>				No	Yes

# Other Useful Information

## Academic Information

Upon your enrolment at UNSW, you share responsibility with us for maintaining a safe, harmonious and tolerant University environment.

You are required to:

- Comply with the University's conditions of enrolment.
- Act responsibly, ethically, safely and with integrity.
- Observe standards of equity and respect in dealing with every member of the UNSW community.
- Engage in lawful behaviour.
- Use and care for University resources in a responsible and appropriate manner.
- Maintain the University's reputation and good standing.

For more information, visit the [UNSW Student Code of Conduct Website](#).

## Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

**Referencing** is a way of acknowledging the sources of information that you use to research your assignments. You need to provide a reference whenever you draw on someone else's words, ideas or research. Not referencing other people's work can constitute plagiarism.

Further information about referencing styles can be located at <https://student.unsw.edu.au/referencing>

**Academic integrity** is fundamental to success at university. Academic integrity can be defined as a commitment to six fundamental values in academic pursuits: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility and courage. At UNSW, this means that your work must be your own, and others' ideas should be appropriately acknowledged. If you don't follow these rules, plagiarism may be detected in your work.

Further information about academic integrity, plagiarism and the use of AI in assessments can be located at:

- The [Current Students site](#),
- The [ELISE training site](#), and
- The [Use of AI for assessments](#) site.

The Student Conduct and Integrity Unit provides further resources to assist you to understand your conduct obligations as a student: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/conduct>

## Submission of Assessment Tasks

### Penalty for Late Submissions

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per day,
- for all assessments where a penalty applies,
- capped at five days (120 hours) from the assessment deadline, after which a student cannot submit an assessment, and
- no permitted variation.

***Any variations to the above will be explicitly stated in the Course Outline for a given course or assessment task.***

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request extensions as early as possible before the deadline.

### **Special Consideration**

If circumstances prevent you from attending/completing an assessment task, you must officially apply for special consideration, usually within 3 days of the sitting date/due date. You can apply by logging onto myUNSW and following the link in the My Student Profile Tab. Medical documentation or other documentation explaining your absence must be submitted with your application. Once your application has been assessed, you will be contacted via your student email address to be advised of the official outcome and any actions that need to be taken from there. For more information about special consideration, please visit: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>

**Important note:** UNSW has a “fit to sit/submit” rule, which means that if you sit an exam or submit a piece of assessment, you are declaring yourself fit to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration. This is to ensure that if you feel unwell or are faced with significant circumstances beyond your control that affect your ability to study, you do not sit an examination or submit an assessment that does not reflect your best performance. Instead, you should apply for Special Consideration as soon as you realise you are not well enough or are otherwise unable to sit or submit an assessment.

### **Faculty-specific Information**

#### **Additional support for students**

- [The Current Students Gateway](#)
- [Student Support](#)
- [Academic Skills and Support](#)
- [Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety](#)
- [Equitable Learning Services](#)
- [UNSW IT Service Centre](#)
- Science EDI Student [Initiatives](#), [Offerings](#) and [Guidelines](#)