



**MONASH** University  
Information Technology

**FIT5185**  
**Introduction to IT research methods**

**Unit Guide**

**Semester 1, 2011**

The information contained in this unit guide is correct at time of publication. The University has the right to change any of the elements contained in this document at any time.

*Last updated: 28 Feb 2011*

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# **FIT5185 Introduction to IT research methods - Semester 1, 2011**

This unit introduces students to IT research. Specifically, it introduces major research methods that are used by IT researchers including experiments, surveys, case studies, and design science. It also addresses the collection and analysis of quantitative and qualitative data. Students will learn how to effectively communicate research. Skills developed and knowledge acquired from this unit will prepare students to conduct their own research, as well as to be knowledgeable consumers of others' research.

## **Mode of Delivery**

Clayton (Day)

## **Contact Hours**

2 hrs lectures/wk, 2 hrs studios/tutorials/wk

## **Workload**

The workload commitment for on campus students for this unit is 12 hours per week. This includes:

- 2 hour lecture
- 2 hour workshop/tutorial
- and a minimum of 2-3 hours of personal study per one hour of contact time in order to satisfy the reading and assignment expectations.

## **Unit Relationships**

### **Prohibitions**

FIT4005

### **Prerequisites**

Students must be enrolled in an FIT Masters Honours degree. Students enrolled in a postgraduate coursework degree must have permission from the chief examiner and course director.

### **Chief Examiner**

David Arnott

### **Campus Lecturer**

#### **Clayton**

David Arnott

Joze Kuzic

## Learning Objectives

At the completion of this unit, students will be able to understand:

- the major philosophies and principles of research;
- the major research methods used in IT research;
- when a particular method is appropriate for a particular project;
- how to collect and analyse quantitative and qualitative research data;
- how to communicate research findings to a variety of audiences;
- how to critically review research designs and literature.

## Graduate Attributes

Monash prepares its graduates to be:

1. responsible and effective global citizens who:

- a. engage in an internationalised world
- b. exhibit cross-cultural competence
- c. demonstrate ethical values

critical and creative scholars who:

- a. produce innovative solutions to problems
- b. apply research skills to a range of challenges
- c. communicate perceptively and effectively

## Assessment Summary

In-semester assessment: 100%

<b>Assessment Task</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Assignment 1 - Survey	15%	7 April 2011
Assignment 2 - Development and analysis of statistical tests	35%	5 May 2011
Assignment 3 - Mini research project or conference paper	50%	Class presentation (Week 12 tutorial), Research report (6 June 2011)

## Teaching Approach

### Lecture and tutorials or problem classes

This teaching and learning approach provides facilitated learning, practical exploration and peer learning.

## Feedback

### Our feedback to You

Types of feedback you can expect to receive in this unit are:

- Informal feedback on progress in labs/tutes
- Graded assignments with comments
- Solutions to tutes, labs and assignments

### Your feedback to Us

Monash is committed to excellence in education and regularly seeks feedback from students, employers and staff. One of the key formal ways students have to provide feedback is through SETU, Student Evaluation of Teacher and Unit. The University's student evaluation policy requires that every unit is evaluated each year. Students are strongly encouraged to complete the surveys. The feedback is anonymous and provides the Faculty with evidence of aspects that students are satisfied and areas for improvement.

For more information on Monash's educational strategy, and on student evaluations, see:

<http://www.monash.edu.au/about/monash-directions/directions.html>

<http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/quality/student-evaluation-policy.html>

### Previous Student Evaluations of this unit

If you wish to view how previous students rated this unit, please go to

<https://emuapps.monash.edu.au/unitevaluations/index.jsp>

### Required Resources

Students may be required to use Web browsers, text processing, spread sheets and slide presentation packages to complete their assignments.

These should be available for use in University computer labs.

### Unit Schedule

Week	Date*	Activities	Assessment
0	21/02/11		
1	28/02/11	The Nature of Research	
2	07/03/11	Literature Analysis	
3	14/03/11	Experiments	
4	21/03/11	Surveys	
5	28/03/11	Analysis of Quantitative Data 1	
6	04/04/11	Analysis of Quantitative Data 2	Assignment 1 due 7 April 2011
7	11/04/11	Analysis of Quantitative Data 3	
8	18/04/11	Analysis of Quantitative Data 4	

Mid semester break			
9	02/05/11	Case Studies	Assignment 2 due 5 May 2011
10	09/05/11	Analysis of Qualitative Data	
11	16/05/11	Design Science Research	
12	23/05/11	Communicating Research	Assignment 3 presentations in Week 12 tutorial sessions
	30/05/11	SWOT VAC	

\*Please note that these dates may only apply to Australian campuses of Monash University. Off-shore students need to check the dates with their unit leader.

## Assessment Policy

To pass a unit which includes an examination as part of the assessment a student must obtain:

- 40% or more in the unit's examination, and
- 40% or more in the unit's total non-examination assessment, and
- an overall unit mark of 50% or more.

If a student does not achieve 40% or more in the unit examination or the unit non-examination total assessment, and the total mark for the unit is greater than 50% then a mark of no greater than 49-N will be recorded for the unit

## Assessment Tasks

### Participation

- **Assessment task 1**

**Title:**

Assignment 1 - Survey

**Description:**

In this assignment students should submit the questionnaire for a survey of top 500 corporations in Australia on their e-business activities. With this survey students will try to find out more about the problems encountered, solutions identified, and benefits achieved of e-business.

**Weighting:**

15%

**Criteria for assessment:**

Detailed assessment criteria will be on the unit Moodle site.

**Due date:**

7 April 2011

- **Assessment task 2**

**Title:**

Assignment 2 - Development and analysis of statistical tests

**Description:**

In this assignment, students will have to perform:

1. Non-parametric correlation analysis, and provide interpretation of the findings in a report.
2. KW test, and provide interpretation of the findings in a report.

**Weighting:**

35%

**Criteria for assessment:**

Detailed assessment criteria will be on the unit Moodle site.

**Due date:**

5 May 2011

- **Assessment task 3**

**Title:**

Assignment 3 - Mini research project or conference paper

**Description:**

Students carry out a mini research project working in small teams or prepare a conference paper as an individual. Each team or individual gives a presentation on their results and submits a written report.

**Weighting:**

50%

**Criteria for assessment:**

Detailed marking guides for both the written report and the presentation are available on the unit Moodle site.

**Due date:**

Class presentation (Week 12 tutorial), Research report (6 June 2011)

## Examinations

### Assignment submission

Assignment coversheets are available via "Student Forms" on the Faculty website:

<http://www.infotech.monash.edu.au/resources/student/forms/>

You MUST submit a completed coversheet with all assignments, ensuring that the plagiarism declaration section is signed.

### Extensions and penalties

Submission must be made by the due date otherwise penalties will be enforced.

You must negotiate any extensions formally with your campus unit leader via the in-semester special consideration process:

<http://www.infotech.monash.edu.au/resources/student/equity/special-consideration.html>.

## Returning assignments

Students can expect assignments to be returned within two weeks of the submission date or after receipt, whichever is later

## Referencing requirements

All assignments should use APA style for referencing.

## Policies

Monash has educational policies, procedures and guidelines, which are designed to ensure that staff and students are aware of the University's academic standards, and to provide advice on how they might uphold them. You can find Monash's Education Policies at:

<http://policy.monash.edu.au/policy-bank/academic/education/index.html>

Key educational policies include:

- Plagiarism  
(<http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/conduct/plagiarism-policy.html>)
- Assessment  
(<http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/assessment/assessment-in-coursework-p>)
- Special Consideration  
(<http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/assessment/special-consideration-policy.h>)
- Grading Scale  
(<http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/assessment/grading-scale-policy.html>)
- Discipline: Student Policy  
(<http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/conduct/student-discipline-policy.html>)
- Academic Calendar and Semesters (<http://www.monash.edu.au/students/key-dates/>);
- Orientation and Transition (<http://www.infotech.monash.edu.au/resources/student/orientation/>);  
and
- Academic and Administrative Complaints and Grievances Policy  
(<http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/management/complaints-grievance-policy>)

## Student services

The University provides many different kinds of support services for you. Contact your tutor if you need advice and see the range of services available at [www.monash.edu.au/students](http://www.monash.edu.au/students) The Monash University Library provides a range of services and resources that enable you to save time and be more effective in your learning and research. Go to <http://www.lib.monash.edu.au> or the library tab in my.monash portal for more information. Students who have a disability or medical condition are welcome to contact the Disability Liaison Unit to discuss academic support services. Disability Liaison Officers (DLOs) visit all Victorian campuses on a regular basis

- Website: <http://adm.monash.edu/sss/equity-diversity/disability-liaison/index.html>;
- Telephone: 03 9905 5704 to book an appointment with a DLO;
- Email: [dlu@monash.edu](mailto:dlu@monash.edu)
- Drop In: Equity and Diversity Centre, Level 1 Gallery Building (Building 55), Monash University, Clayton Campus.