

Assessment Brief

- **Module:** Research Methods and Professional Development
- **Module Code:** ACFA7004
- **Level:** MSc (Level 7)
- **Assessment Breakdown:**
 - Coursework 1: Research Proposal (70%)
 - Coursework 2: Presentation (30%)

Assessment Brief

Coursework 1 – Research Proposal

Deadline: 1 May 2026 2 pm

Word Count: 4000 words (+appendices)

Submission: Via Turnitin (Do not upload the brief itself)

Ethics Form: Mandatory (submitted via Moodle separately)

AI Use: Research, structure, proofreading allowed; no content generation

Assessment Brief

Structure of Research Proposal

Introduction (35%)

- Context, background, current developments
- Problem definition & challenges
- Research Aim and SMART Objectives
- Significance & potential applications

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Specific
Measurable
Achievable
Relevant
Time-bound

Assessment Brief

Structure of Research Proposal

Literature Review (25%)

- Thematic/Chronological structure
- Identify gaps, relate to your study
- Use relevant and recent academic sources

Assessment Brief

Structure of Research Proposal

Research Design and Methodology (25%)

- Research design approach (e.g., simulation, design science, analysis)
- Research method: Qualitative, quantitative, mixed
- Strategy: Case study, survey, experiment, etc.
- Tools, data sources, analysis & ethical considerations
- Technical tools and hardware/software (if applicable)

Assessment Brief

Structure of Research Proposal

Outcomes, Timeline, and Referencing

- **Expected Outcomes** (5%)
 - Predicted results, potential contributions, limitations
- **Timeline** (5%)
 - Include milestones and key activities (e.g., simple Gantt format)
- **References** (5%)
 - Proper citations, recent and credible sources
- Overall presentation of the proposal - 5%

Assessment Brief

Assessment Component 2

ALL students need to include an ethics form for their research.

The ethics committee representatives will review the form and approve it as necessary.

The ethics form will not be allocated a mark, but if not included the report will be deemed a failure

Assessment Brief

Structure of Research Proposal

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Weak problem definition or vague objectives
- Outdated or few references
- No clear link between literature and research aim
- Missing ethics form = automatic fail
- Misuse of AI tools = academic misconduct

Assessment Brief

Use of Generative AI in Assessment

RESEARCH	For this assessment, you can use Generative AI to support you in research and data analysis.	Yes No
STRUCTURE	For this assessment, you can use Generative AI to support you in structuring your submission, including creating a draft argument structure, identifying parts and headings, etc.	Yes No
PROOFREADING	For this assessment, you can use Generative AI to check your own text/creation for grammatical and syntactical mistakes, including getting suggestions to rephrase your work.	Yes No
WRITING	For this assessment, you can use Generative AI to create text for submission.	Yes No
CREATIVE	For this assessment, you can use Generative AI to create creative materials, such as images.	Yes No
PROGRAMING	For this assessment, you can use Generative AI to create and check code.	Yes No
NONE	For this assessment, you are not allowed to use any type of Generative AI support. This includes research support, structure support, writing/proofreading support and creative support.	☐

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Assessment Brief – Coursework 2

Presentation Overview

- Deadline: Week 10
- In-person Presentation: Week 11 20-April-2026
- Duration: 10 minutes
- Focus: Project management & professionalism based on your research topic

Assessment Brief – Coursework 2

Presentation Content Expectations

The presentation should include:

- Research context/background
- Research Problem [based on the identified research/Literature Gap]
- Research Aim and Objectives
- A brief literature review and summary that leads to the research/literature gap
- Research methodology
- Project planning and resources
- Project impact and limitations
- Reference

Assessment Brief – Coursework 2

Tips for an Effective Presentation

- Be concise and focused – 10 mins max
- Visual design: clean slides, limit text
- Speak clearly, maintain eye contact
- Rehearse to stay within time
- Reference your key sources briefly

Assessment Brief – Coursework 2

How Will You Be Assessed?

Grading Criteria:

- Literature Engagement
- Knowledge & Understanding
- Cognitive & Critical Skills
- Practical Application
- Transferable Skills (communication, planning, independence)

Assessment Brief – Coursework 2

Use of Generative AI Tools

Allowed for:

- Research exploration

- Draft structure and outlines

- Proofreading and paraphrasing your writing

NOT allowed:

- Full AI-generated text

- Image creation or coding for this task

Assessment Brief – Coursework 2

Final Reminders & Support

- Attend all proposal presentations during sessions
- Use feedback from presentation to improve proposal
- Access library databases for research
- Finalise topic approval