

Graduate Diploma of Psychology (Bridging)



JAMES COOK
UNIVERSITY
AUSTRALIA



TOP 30
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TOP 2% OF
THE WORLD'S
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5 STARS FOR
FULL-TIME GRADUATE
EMPLOYMENT*

*2025 QS World University Rankings

*2024 ShanghaiRanking Academic Ranking of World Universities

*2024 QS Stars Report

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A photograph of four people (three women and one man) smiling and engaged in conversation. They are positioned behind a large green rectangular overlay that contains the title text.

The opportunities with JCU Online's Graduate Diploma of Psychology (Bridging)

Exponential change in socio-cultural, political and economic environments, rapid advances in technology, and a better understanding of the human brain are just some of the factors enhancing the value and relevance of psychology.

These changes demand new thinking and new approaches to the way psychology is applied and how it is learnt.

As well as creating greater career opportunities, these changes are having a positive impact in the field of psychology and alternative human-centred careers. Psychologists acknowledge the necessity of continuous learning and adaptation as technology increasingly influences all areas of the economy. However, the mental health sector faces a more pressing challenge—a dual crisis characterised by a rising demand for treatment among Australians and a critical shortage of qualified practitioners to meet this need.

JCU Online's Graduate Diploma of Psychology (Bridging) is accredited by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC). This course is designed to help graduates succeed in a complex world and develop better client service and community outcomes.



Who is this program for?

The JCU Online Graduate Diploma of Psychology (Bridging) is a contemporary and hands-on qualification that provides the knowledge and skills to understand modern psychology and reach your career goals.

Pathway for registered psychologists

This qualification is a pathway to further study for those who want to change their career to become a psychologist.

This may include career pathways such as general or clinical psychology, clinical neuropsychology, forensic psychology and organisational psychology.

Human-centered professions

It is also for professionals in human-centred occupations who are focused on career growth and want the skills to help them achieve more in current and future roles.

This may include teaching, human resources, marketing, counselling, social work, and consulting.

Why study psychology online with JCU?



Designed for the future

This course is designed to deliver the skills required to succeed in a world where the scope of psychology is widening. You'll learn about the latest emerging trends in psychology impacted by technology, globalisation, and increasingly complex and integrated health, environmental, and social challenges.



Pragmatic & applied

Designed to develop your professional skills rather than just theoretical knowledge. You will use various technologies, work on community-based projects, and undertake non-traditional assessments. You'll have the opportunity to write and craft articles on current affairs and public discourse (not just academic papers) to share your knowledge and understanding of global challenges.



Unique curriculum

This course will provide you with a contemporary and global view of psychology. You will study a broad scope of subjects unique to the Graduate Diploma of Psychology (Bridging) at JCU Online, including Environmental Psychology and Health, Wellbeing & Resilience.

These subjects align to the UN Sustainable Development Goals as well as current and emerging global health challenges in a technology-enabled society.



100% online & accelerated

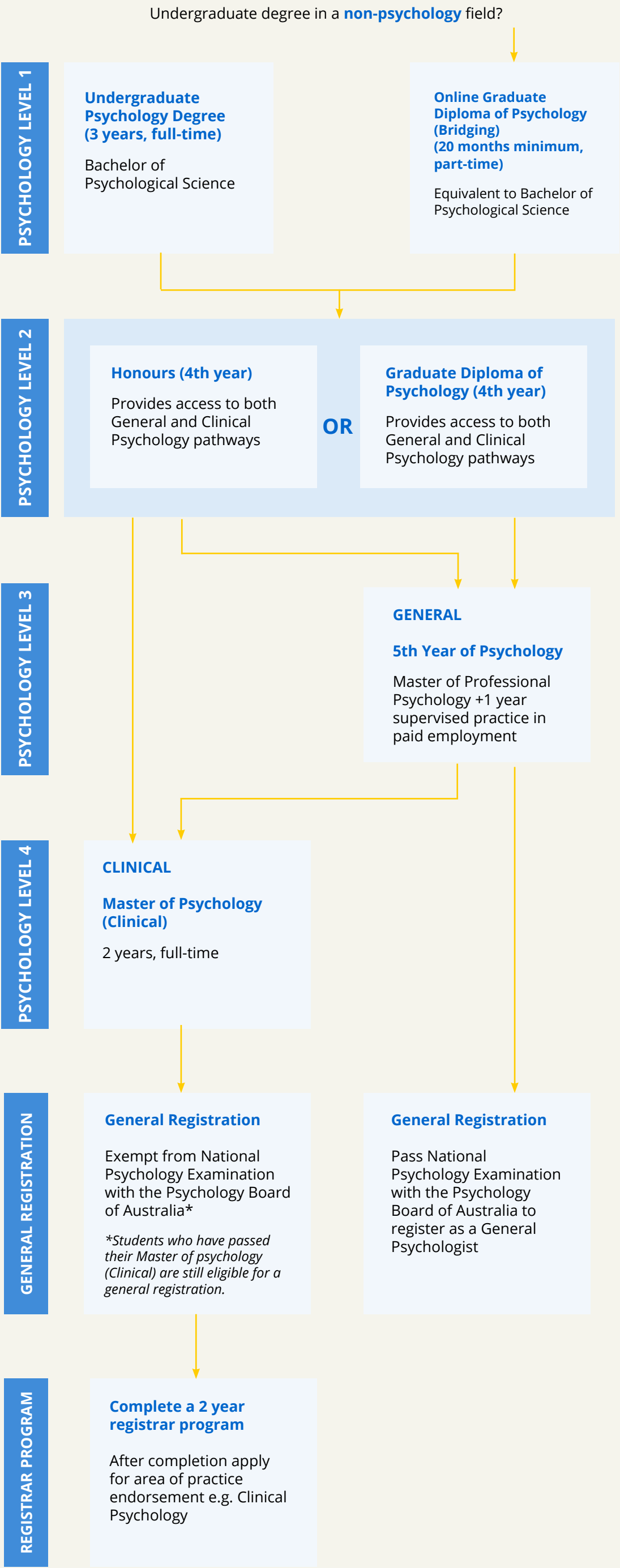
Immerse yourself in a 100% online learning environment with no on-campus commitments. You'll have the ability to fast-track your study to graduate sooner than a traditional undergraduate qualification by studying one subject every eight weeks.



APAC Accredited

Our Graduate Diploma of Psychology (Bridging) is accredited by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC).

Pathway to becoming a registered psychologist





Course details

Fees:

\$3,572 per subject

FEE-HELP is available for eligible students

Duration:

- Minimum 20 months, part-time*
- 10 subjects in total
- Complete up to six subjects per year

Study periods:

Enrol in January, March, May, July, September or October
[View academic calendar](#)

* Duration dependent on individual study path and subject availability.
Please speak to an Enrolment Advisor for more information.



Have questions?

Book a quick 15-minute call with an Enrolment Advisor or chat with us online

[Schedule a call](#)

[Chat online](#)



Course structure

Subjects:

- Social Psychology
- Individual Differences in Personality
- The Psychology of Health, Wellbeing and Resilience
- Human Development Across the Lifespan
- Psychological Disorders and Interventions
- Learning, Memory, Cognition and Language
- Neuroscience and the Biological Bases of Behaviour
- Environmental Psychology and Sustainable Futures
- Principles of Counselling
- Research and Statistics for Psychology

The online student experience at JCU



Personalised support from your Success Advisor

Benefit from the support of a one-on-one personalised Success Advisor during your online studies. Along with your tutors, your Success Advisor is there for you from your first day as a student with JCU Online. They are readily available to help you navigate your online experience and to keep you motivated throughout your course.



Enjoyable interactive learning environment

JCU's interactive, immersive online environment makes learning enjoyable, no matter what topic you're studying. Video, audio, forums and practical exercises suit a wide range of personal learning styles and help learning come to life. Connect with peers and tutors via live chat sessions when and where it suits you.



Qualify from a world-class university

Ranked in the top 2% of universities worldwide[^], with JCU you will learn from leading industry professionals. Be empowered to succeed and connect with industry leaders, specialists and experienced academics.

[^] 2024 ShanghaiRanking Academic Ranking of World Universities



Entry requirements

Entry requirements:



Completed a minimum of an AQF Level 7 Bachelor qualification in any field other than Psychology at this or another University.



Applicants of non-English speaking backgrounds must meet the English language proficiency requirements of Band 1— Schedule II of the JCU Admissions Policy.

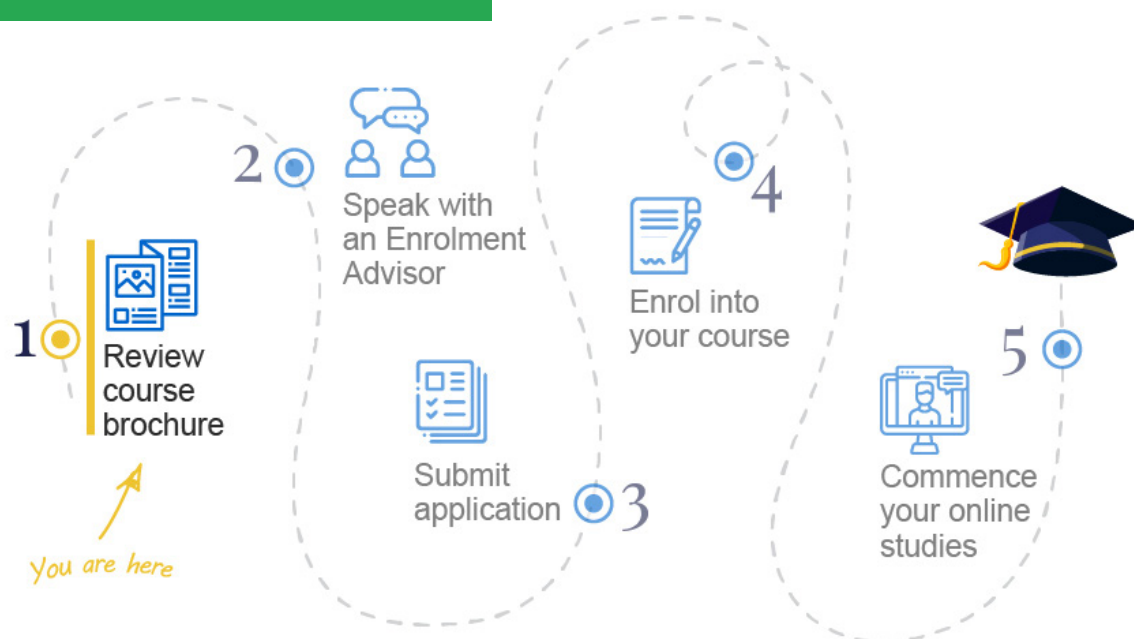
Inherent requirements:



Inherent requirements are the identified abilities, attributes, skills, and behaviours that must be demonstrated, during the learning experience, to successfully complete a **course**. These abilities, attributes, skills, and behaviours preserve the academic integrity of the University's learning, assessment, and accreditation processes, and where applicable, meet the standards of a profession

All JCU students have the opportunity to demonstrate, with reasonable adjustments where applicable, the inherent requirements for their course.

Next steps



Get our help:

After you have read this brochure, the next step is to make sure online postgraduate study is right for you. Our friendly team of Enrolment Advisors are here to ensure you enrol in the course that aligns best with your goals. They will be with you every step of the way from application to enrolment, to make sure that your postgraduate study journey has a smooth start.

Our Enrolment Advisors will help you:

- Learn more about the course.
- Decide whether this course will help you reach your goals.
- Determine your eligibility for the course.
- Answer questions about your application.
- Offer support throughout the application process and more.

"We have a deep understanding of the admissions and enrolment process and can help students at every step to have a smooth start. In addition to this, we can also help students to choose the right course like Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma or Masters in the particular field depending on their future need,"

says Enrolment Advisor **Shweta Dhayal**.

Book a 15-minute call or chat with us online



[Schedule a call](#)

[Chat online](#)



Contact details

Phone: 1300 535 919
Email: learn@online.jcu.edu.au
Website: online.jcu.edu.au

Our Enrolment Advisors are available:

Monday and Tuesday: 8am – 6pm (AEST)
Wednesday and Thursday: 8am – 7pm (AEST)
Friday: 8am – 5pm (AEST)

Have questions?

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Application process

1. Call or email



1300 535 919

learn@online.jcu.edu.au

Speak to a dedicated Enrolment Advisor who will:

- Discuss your career goals and whether this is the right qualification for you.
- Assist you with questions about fees, subject selection and majors.
- Help ensure your enrolment experience is a smooth one.

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2. Gather documents



Transcripts and certificates

Documents to confirm prior studies.

Proof of English language skills (if applicable)

If you have completed Year 12 in Australia, that's usually all the evidence you need.

3. Apply online



Once you've completed Steps 1 and 2, you're ready to [apply online](#) using our straightforward process.

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A close-up portrait of Dr Kerry Anne McBain, a woman with long blonde hair and blue eyes, smiling warmly. She is wearing a red top and a gold chain necklace. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting foliage.

A note from our course coordinator

Dr Kerry Anne McBain is the Head of Psychology at James Cook University. She has been teaching and coordinating courses and supervising research at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels of the psychology program in Townsville, Cairns and Singapore since 2001.

She is a registered psychologist who owned and operated a successful private practice for many years, working with clients across a broad spectrum of areas including the provision of care relative to the impact of the environment on mental health, wellbeing and resilience; families and relationships; and sport psychology.

At the centre of her development as an educator and her career within the tertiary sector is a passionate commitment to research as a vehicle to informing curriculum and the development of learning materials. Her focus on the application of research-based practice directly reflects the changing and trending nature of the global community in which we live and the cultural, social and geographic environment through which human services are delivered.

Her research spans the areas of social, environmental and developmental psychology, with a specific interest in interpersonal communication and the relationships we form with people, animals and the places in which we live and interact.



Social Psychology

This subject provides a historical and contemporary overview of social psychology, introducing students to the key theories and research methods used to explain and predict people's thoughts, feelings and actions in social situations.

Students will examine key concepts such as social perception, social influence, and social relations and develop an understanding of individual, cultural and contextual differences in social cognition. The applied nature of social psychology is highlighted with reference to the key areas of health and wellbeing, human relations and sustainable development.

Learning outcomes

- Identify the key issues and phenomena studied by social psychologists;
Critically reflect upon the importance of
- social psychology theories and methods in light of historical and emerging global issues;
Apply key theories of social psychology to
- address global challenge scenarios.



Individual Differences in Personality

In this subject, students will explore historical, contemporary and emerging theoretical approaches to personality.

Students will also examine individual and cultural differences in the conceptualisation and measurement of personality which impact the practice of psychology.

Learning outcomes

- Link key aspects of contemporary theoretical developments, historical and emerging trends in the conceptualisation and assessment of personality;
- Critically evaluate key theories and measurement of personality psychology to formulate culturally sensitive responses to problems.



The Psychology of Health, Wellbeing and Resilience

This subject provides an introduction to the field of health psychology. In this subject students will investigate global health issues, chronic disease and the biopsychosocial determinants of health, wellbeing and resilience.

Students will consider topics such as the role that motivation and emotion play in relation to health and wellbeing.

Learning outcomes

- Differentiate key concepts and cultural variations of health, wellbeing and resilience;
- Critically evaluate, apply and illustrate behavioural change theories to address an identified global challenge in the area of health, wellbeing or resilience.



Human Development Across the Lifespan

In this subject students will explore the human experience of life and the physical, cognitive, and social-emotional changes which occur across the life span.

Students will examine key topical areas including the interplay of genes and environment; intellectual and cognitive growth and decline; sensory perception; language and lifelong learning; ageing, perspectives on death and dying. Students will investigate how lifelong changes are shaped by the context of the world in which we live.

Learning outcomes

- Identify key theoretical approaches to physical, cognitive, and social-emotional development across the lifespan;
- Critically appraise and apply theoretical models of development across the lifespan in response to a problem.



Psychological Disorders and Interventions

This subject will provide an introduction to empirical approaches to understanding maladaptive mental processes and behaviour, psychosocial disorders, and dysfunctions in all age groups.

Students will examine culturally appropriate, evidence based assessment and interventions for a range of psychological disorders.

Learning outcomes

- Identify key theoretical perspectives, methods, maladaptive mental processes and behaviour, psychosocial disorders, and dysfunctions across the lifespan;
- Apply diagnostic criteria using the DSM-5 to diagnose psychological disorders and choose culturally appropriate treatments.

Learning, Memory Cognition and Language

In this subject students will be introduced to the study of human information processing. Students will explore key theories and research, classic and contemporary viewpoints on how information from the environment is acquired, stored, processed, retrieved and utilised.

Students will consider the application of research in learning, memory, cognition and language in the context of global challenges, the ageing global population, and our increasing reliance on technology.

Learning outcomes

- Apply historical and contemporary theoretical approaches and research to solve problems in the field of Learning, Memory, Cognition and Language;
- Apply and evaluate theories and principles of cognitive psychology in the context of the global challenges including our global ageing population;
- Analyse, synthesise, and present findings from cognitive research in an appropriate manner.

Neuroscience and the Biological Bases of Behaviour

In this subject students will be introduced to the key theories and concepts relevant to the biological bases of behaviour.

Coverage includes the structure and function of the nervous system, how information is transmitted in the nervous system, the role of biological factors in cognition and motivated behaviours; and the anatomy and physiology of the sensory systems from periphery to cortex.

Learning outcomes

- Identify the ways in which the nervous system functions in sensation, perception and processing of information;
- Critically evaluate and apply theoretical models and methods of the biological bases of behaviour to propose solutions to current global health challenges;
- Communicate proposed solutions to current global health challenges to a variety of audiences.



Environmental Psychology and Sustainable Futures

This subject provides an introduction to the field of Environmental Psychology and the role that psychology may play in developing sustainable futures.

Students will explore the contribution that psychology can make to understanding, predicting and influencing human behaviour with respect to some of the current and emerging contemporary global challenges.

Learning outcomes

- Integrate knowledge of the theories, methods and practice of Environmental Psychology with future career pathways;
- Communicate information to a diverse audience;
Apply research and theories of environmental psychology to
- the evidence based design of a community-based project.



Principles of Counselling

This subject will provide a systematic introduction to the theory and practice of counselling in a multicultural society. Students will explore mechanisms for engaging with issues related to culture and diversity when working with clients and evaluate the influence of personal beliefs and values on the counselling process.

Students will engage with historical and contemporary theories and methods of counselling and reflect upon how these therapeutic perspectives may influence their (potential) counselling style and practice. Students will also consider legal and ethical issues relevant to the therapeutic setting.

Learning outcomes

- Integrate knowledge, skills and reflective practice in counselling;
- Critically evaluate and apply philosophical and theoretical approaches to counselling for culturally diverse populations;
- Demonstrate a broad knowledge of theoretical approaches, techniques, legal and ethical issues relevant to the therapeutic setting.



Research and Statistics for Psychology

In this subject students will explore the research process and some of the most commonly used methods of statistical analysis relevant to the profession of psychology and the conduct of psychological research.

Students will be introduced to the research process from the identification of a research question, research design and choice of statistical analysis to the interpretation of data and the dissemination of results. Students will apply their knowledge to a range of case scenarios.

Learning outcomes

- Identify and define a range of methodological and philosophical principles in research design, analysis and interpretation;
- Synthesise, analyse and interpret quantitative data to generate solutions to research questions.



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