

Faculty of Law, Humanities and the Arts

School of Humanities and Social Inquiry

Subject Outline

MIST949

Research Methods and Design

Number of Credit Points: 6cp

Autumn Session 2016

Wollongong, On-Campus

Teaching Staff

Position	Name	Room	Telephone	Email	Consultation Times
Subject Coordinator	Dr Brian Yecies	19.2013	4221-4076	byecies@uow.edu.au	Mon 1:30-3pm (odd weeks only) Tues 10:30-11:30 (every week) and other times by appointment

Discipline Leader

Position	Name	Room	Telephone	Email	Consultation Times
Discipline Leader – Master of International Studies	Tim DiMuzio	19.2029	4221 5673	tdimuzio@uow.edu.au	TBA

LHA Central 19 Location: 19.1050 Ph: (02) 4221 3456 lha-enquiries@uow.edu.au
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In 2016, Wollongong students in this subject meet each Tuesday 12.30 to 2.30 in 67.102.

The subject combines students from the following classes: MIST949 6cr Research Methods and Design; MIST993 6c Research Project in International Studies; MIST994 12 cr Extended Research Project in International Studies; MIST995 18 cr Thesis in International Studies; MIST926 8 cr Research Methods and Design; MIST999 8 cr Advanced Topics in International Studies; & MIST990 16 cr Thesis in International Studies.

Students across each of these instances have the same assessment requirements in MIST949, however, students will have different required word-lengths depending on which Thesis subject(s) they are taking.

Delivery for MIST949 includes: 2 hr weekly face-to-face seminars PLUS a substantial MOOC site – containing 6 Modules/Learning Pathways, which equates to a combined 2 hr face-to-face lecture and tutorial.

Table of Contents

Subject Information	3
Subject Description	3
Subject Objectives/Learning Outcomes	3
Graduate Qualities	3
Attendance.....	3
Timetable	3
Weekly Outline: Class Type (Lecture/Tutorial/Practical etc.)	4
Recent Changes and Subject Improvements.....	Ошибка! Закладка не определена.
Assessment Information	4
Assessment	7
Referencing	7
Academic Integrity and Plagiarism Policy	8
Submission, Receipt & Collection of Assessment Tasks	8
Late Submission of Assessments	9
Electronic Submission of Assessments	10
Retention of Assessments	10
Student Review of Mark / Grade.....	10
Subject Assessment Tasks.....	4
Assessment 1: Title of Assessment (according to the subject database)	5
Assessment 2: Title of Assessment.....	5
Assessment 3: Title of Assessment.....	7
Subject Resources and Materials	10
Set Texts.....	10
Recommended Reading / Viewing / Listening	Ошибка! Закладка не определена.
General Advice Guide.....	10

Copyright

Commonwealth of Australia

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Subject Information

Subject Description

This subject will cover research methods and research design in the social sciences. It is divided into four parts; 1. goals of social science and elements of research design; 2. selection and application of different methodologies for conducting research; 3. collection of primary and secondary data; and 4. analysis and synthesis of qualitative data in the research writing process. The ethical implications of social research will be considered throughout. Social research is a craft and like any other craft, it requires practice. Therefore, the approach will be hands-on from the start. Students will 'learn by doing' in all aspects of the subject - in their class meetings, the computer lab and out-of-class assignments.

Subject Objectives/Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this subject, students will be able to:

1. Synthesise the fundamental principles of applied research, including formulating research questions, situating research questions in the relevant literature, developing methodological procedures and collecting interpreting and employing data;
2. analyse research methods and designs in scholarly articles and reports;
3. create research proposals that lead to the completion of an executable research plan.

Graduate Qualities

For further info re: Humanities & UOW Graduate qualities see: <http://lha.uow.edu.au/hsi/UOW162730.html>

Attendance: This subject requires an 80% attendance at all face-to-face and online classes unless this is unavoidable on medical or compassionate grounds and evidence of this is provided through SOLS. Attendance that falls below the 80% requirement, irrespective of the cause, may require you to complete additional written work to complete the subject. If in doubt, consult the Subject Coordinator.

Timetable: For current timetable information please refer to the online Subject Timetable on the Current Students webpage: <http://www.uow.edu.au/student/timetables/index.html>

MIST949: Blended Learning and Teaching Strategy for 2016

The intensive MOOC component of this subject requires students to demonstrate responsibility and independence for achieving the above subject objectives and learning outcomes. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO 'REGISTER' FOR THE MOOC** in order to access all of the online Modules/Learning Pathways, which are **OPEN**.

The MOOC address: <http://course.oeru.org/research-methods/>

The Subject Coordinator/seminar leader – Dr Brian Yecies – will play a facilitating role, and will be available to assist you in handling any challenges that might arise. However, your success in this subject will be directly related to the amount of effort you show in your approach to each Module/learning Pathway and their reflection activities/stimulus tasks. **All posting areas (see Task 1) will occur in a separate Moodle site.**

Blended learning assumes a portion of learning will occur through formal contact sessions, but that it will be augmented with significant online content. You will thus be required to interact with fellow students in an online environment on a weekly basis – **but only for the first 6 weeks of this subject**. This approach also assumes that the presentation of knowledge by the lecturer in the face-to-face seminars only scratches the surface. Rather if done correctly, the emphasis should be on your gaining knowledge through additional reading and research and via online interactions with your classmates. This implies personal initiatives and co-learning units driven by reflection activities/stimulus questions that are contained throughout the MOOC.

Weekly Outline

Week/Date	Face-to-Face Seminar Topic	MOOC Tasks	Due dates
Week 1 Beginning 29/2/2016	Introduction to the MOOC; setting expectations for this subject	Review Course Guide & pre-Module content. Module 1: Introduction	MOOC reflection activity and stimulus question postings in Moodle
Week 2 Beginning 7/3/2016	Working toward your thesis research questions & final proposal ideas. What's your thesis research topic?	Module 2: Literature Review	MOOC reflection activity and stimulus question postings in Moodle
Week 3 Beginning 14/3/2016	Critical reading and reflection on previous scholarly/industry studies. What's your thesis research question?	Module 3: Research Design	Research proposal - Part 1 1000-words DUE Fri by 5 pm on 18 March MOOC reflection activities.
Week 4 Beginning 21/3/2016	What, how, and why of research design - examples and critiques. What's your thesis research method?	Module 4: Quantitative & mixed methods	MOOC reflection activity and stimulus question postings in Moodle
Week 5 Beginning 28/3/2016	Real-world quantitative research methods - examples and critiques	Module 5: Qualitative methods	MOOC reflection activity and stimulus question postings in Moodle
Week 6 Beginning 4/4/2016	Real-world qualitative research methods - examples and critiques	Module 6: Data sources and proposal	MOOC reflection activity and stimulus question postings in Moodle
Week 7 Beginning 11/4/2016	Digital research methods in the brave new world. Big data vs. good data.		Research proposal - Part 2 DUE by Fri 5 pm on 15 April
Week 8 (18 – 22 April 2015): Research Week – NO CLASSES			
25 – 29 April 2016: Mid-Session Recess – NO CLASSES			
Week 9 Beginning 2/5/2016	Presentations of thesis topics and research questions		
Week 10 Beginning 9/5/2016	Presentations of thesis topics and research questions		
Week 11 Beginning 16/5/2016	Presentations of thesis topics and research questions		Video essay due online by 5pm on Friday 20 May
Week 12 Beginning 23/5/2016	Presentations of thesis topics and research questions		
Week 13 Beginning 30/5/2016	Presentations of thesis topics and research questions		
6 – 10 June 2016: Study Recess			
11 – 23 June 2016: Examination Period			

Public holidays for this session are: Good Friday – Friday, 25 March; Easter Monday – Monday 28 March; Anzac Day – Monday 25 April; and Queen's Birthday – Monday, 13 June

Subject Assessment Tasks

Assessment 1: Online contributions and quizzes

Marking	Marked out of 40 - Percentage of total subject mark 40%
<p>Description</p> <p>Participating in this blended learning and teaching subject, which utilises a 6-week intensive self-driven online MOOC site, includes: reading/listening, posting comments that reflect critically upon the online contents in each Module/Learning Pathway, posting follow-up comments that reflect upon your classmates' postings, and summarising relevant scholarly journal articles where indicated.</p> <p>Students are expected to make weekly contributions to all relevant posting areas (in Moodle)– according to the weekly outline and the reflection activities and stimulus questions in each MOOC Module/Learning Pathway.</p> <p>This range of activities will help you to articulate critical ideas and to reflect on the issues addressed in the MOOC, while also achieving the subject's learning outcomes.</p> <p>Your participation specifically requires you to complete the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a weekly series of mandatory but unmarked formative quiz questions in the MOOC; • a series of postings and follow-up comments in the Moodle discussion forum that address the various reflection activities/stimulus questions in the topics under each Module. Initial postings should range between 150 and 250 words. Follow-up comments, which require you to reflect on your classmates' postings, should aim for around 150-words each. There is no magic number of postings. <p>Students are encouraged to post additional voluntary comments and share pertinent website links, intriguing articles, helpful hints, and other engaging stuff across the Moodle posting forums.</p>	
Due Dates	Ongoing in the MOOC as per each weekly Module requirement
Graduate Quality developed: Informed; Effective communicators	
Format	Online postings in Moodle & completion of formative quiz questions at the end of each MOOC Module
<p>Assessment Criteria: Accumulative posting marks are calculated by the quality and quantity of contributions. (Moodle allows the instructor to compile a student's total discussion postings.)</p> <p>34-40 marks: Excellent - Consistent main postings and follow-up comments demonstrate a solid understanding of the subject material, while also referring to additional related sources and ideas. Participation shows comprehensive and well-focused critical thinking and analysis.</p> <p>28 to 34 marks: Good - Frequent main postings and follow-up comments demonstrate an accurate understanding of subject material, while presenting a reasonable degree of critical thinking and analysis. Comments tend to remain at a general level of understanding & within a predictable domain of subject materials.</p> <p>20 to 28 marks: Adequate/Fair - Main postings and follow-up comments show limited and/or inaccurate understanding of the subject material with little argument and critical thinking. Comments are incomplete and/or vague, and few if any specific source materials are cited.</p> <p>0 to 20 marks: Unsatisfactory - Main postings and follow-up comments are often too short, late, or non-existent. Comments demonstrate a serious lack of understanding of the basic subject material, and they also neglect to engage with the ideas raised by others.</p>	

Assessment 2: Research Proposal

Marking:	Marked out of 100 - Percentage of total subject mark 40%
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Description

This task requires you to develop a research protocol for answering a substantive research question of your choosing. **You will not actually conduct this research**, but you will be evaluated on the appropriateness, feasibility, and thoroughness of the methodological framework that you use to answer your research question.

Part 1 (1000-words) requires three specific elements: Literature Review; Research Design; and Bibliography (not counted in the word length).

Part 2 (1000-words) requires the remaining sections: Introduction; Ethical Considerations; Conclusions/Implications of the Study; PLUS the resubmission of Part 1 with revisions (equalling a final grand total of 2000 words).

Guidelines for the Research Proposal Sections:

Introduction: What is your general research topic, and why is it important? Catch the reader's interest and convince them of the significant value in your research topic.

Literature Review (approx. 600 words): Inform the reader of previous research on your topic. Where does your research fit in the broader knowledge of the area? How is your research similar to or different from other research in the field? What is original in your research? Or if you propose to replicate previous research, then why is such replication necessary and to what end? Use the literature review to offer a narrowly focused critique on the previous research that has direct relevance to your proposed study. **Make sure the literature review is current – with at least 50% of all sources published after 1 July 2015.**

Research Design (approx. 400 words): The research design section is the heart of your research proposal, covering: Research Question(s), Hypotheses, Sample, Methods, and Analytical Technique. Use this key section to explain and justify the design of the proposed investigation.

Ethical Considerations (approx. 250 words): What are the core ethical issues to address in your study?

Conclusions/Implications of the Study (approx. 750 words): Provide a brief summary that draws out the implications of your expected results for the research questions/hypotheses that you intend to explore/test. What knowledge will your research contribute to the discipline? What policy implications might your research have? In other words, how will your research make a difference?

Bibliography (not included in the total word-length): All sources cited in the text must be included in the bibliography at the end of the paper – following Harvard referencing style.

Appendices: You can include relevant appendices, such as a consent form if you are proposing to conduct a survey, etc.

Due Dates:	Part 1 DUE on Friday 18 March by 5 pm (at the end of week 3) Part 2 DUE on Friday 15 April by 5 pm (at the end of week 7)
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Graduate Quality developed: Informed; Problem Solvers; Responsible

Submission Format:	Hard copy of this work submitted to LHA Central 19 (19.1050) by the due dates.
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Assessment Criteria:

8.5-10 marks: Excellent - Detailed understanding of research methods; sound organisation; few or no mechanical mistakes; clear, unambiguous sentences, with a lively touch and intelligent style that clearly explains and justifies an interesting plan.

7 to 8.5 marks: Good - Clear research plan, organisation, and continuity; probably some minor mechanical errors; proposed research is reasonable and supported – thought has obviously gone into the proposal; it is solid but not striking; the researcher has a definite plan and presents it in an organised and competent way.

5 to 7 marks: Adequate/Fair - A weak, fuzzy research plan and perhaps illogical arguments to support it; some confusion about appropriate research methods; many minor grammatical errors and possibly some major ones (i.e. incomplete sentences); organisation rambles or disappears; words are misused; proofreading is weak – there are research ideas here, but the writer needs help and more work to make them clear to another reader.

0 to 5 marks: Unsatisfactory - Missing consistent and logical arguments; major mechanical problems; poor organisation; serious misuse of research methods. Clearly does not fulfil the assignment; reflects a lack of understanding of subject content.

Assessment 3: Video Interview

Marking:	Marked out of 100 - Percentage of total subject mark 20%
Description and Format:	
<p>This task requires students to create an original 60-second 'video essay' which is loosely presented in the form of an interview critiquing a topic of your choice.</p> <p>The 60-second video essay – self-made with basic technical skills – has a wider scope for creativity and experimentation than most written types of essays and assignments. Use this task to express your critical thinking and reflection on a current event facing your discipline and/or specific research interests.</p> <p>Your video can take the form of a public service announcement (PSA), micro mashup, rhetorical remix montage sequence, micro-narrative/drama, or satirical news story, etc. Whatever the form and style, your video essay must develop a clear message about a specific topic/issue explored in this subject.</p> <p>Your video essay requires a 500-word explanation of what you did and why.</p> <p>Copyright and user-generated content (UGC) are integral elements of this task, and UOW Copyright Officer, Noel Broadhead, will provide some notes in Moodle about the do's and don'ts of video mashing/remixing.</p>	
Due Date:	Due online by 5pm on Friday 20 May (at the end of week 11)
Graduate Quality developed: Informed; Independent learners; Problem solvers; Effective communicators	
Assessment Criteria: Your video essay mark will be determined by:	
<p>1) Message/meaning: What are you arguing? Have you developed and illustrated a clear message that is linked to a key relevant issue? Have you used a variety of images/video/audio/text to display your point(s)?</p> <p>2) Technical: Is the video length exactly 60 seconds, not including opening/closing credits? Does the video appear to have a coherent beginning, middle, & end? Have you posted/uploaded the video properly and on time? Have you cited all of your source materials where/when necessary? If needed, did you make a brief argument for fair use in your 500-word description? Did you demonstrate basic technical competencies?</p> <p>A mandatory contextual statement (500-words) about the significant aspects of your visual/auditory elements, style, and overall intention of the piece must accompany your video essay. Add this to the description section of the video in the Moodle forum where you post your representative icon or screen capture of the video.</p>	
Submission Method:	The preferred method is to upload your video to your own YouTube channel and then post a link in the Moodle discussion space – along with your 500-word explanation. Further instructions re: how to do this will be provided in Moodle.

Assessment Information

Assessment

The Faculty of Law, Humanities and the Arts reserves the right to scale marks in accordance with the University's *Assessment Guidelines - Scaling*. Marks are not final until declared by the Faculty Assessment Committee.

Referencing

Referencing is an essential component of academic writing or presentation since it enables the reader to follow up the

source of ideas and information presented in your work, and to examine the interpretation you place on the material discovered in your research. Reliable referencing clearly indicates where you have drawn your own conclusions from the evidence presented. Importantly, much of the material you will use is covered by copyright which means that you must acknowledge any source of information, including books, journals, newsprint, images and the internet.

It is obligatory for students to reference all sources used in their written work including electronic material. Students should consult the University library website for a detailed explanation and examples of how to reference electronic material correctly: <http://www.library.uow.edu.au/resourcesbytopic/UOW026621.html>

Different programs use different referencing styles to reflect the needs of their discipline. It is the student's responsibility to check which referencing style is used.

Clear examples of how to reference correctly, across a wide variety of source materials, can be found on the UOW Library website: Library Resources - Referencing and Citing- www.library.uow.edu.au/resourcesbytopic/UOW026621.html

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism Policy

The University's Academic Integrity and Plagiarism Policy, Faculty Handbooks and subject guides clearly set out the University's expectation that students submit only their own original work for assessment and avoid plagiarising the work of others or cheating. Re-using any of your own work (either in part or in full) which you have submitted previously for assessment is not permitted without appropriate acknowledgement. Plagiarism can be detected and has led to students being expelled from the University.

The use by students of any website that provides access to essays or other assessment items (sometimes marketed as 'resources'), is extremely unwise. Students who provide an assessment item (or provide access to an assessment item) to others, either directly or indirectly (for example by uploading an assessment item to a website) are considered by the university to be intentionally or recklessly helping other students to cheat. This is considered academic misconduct and students place themselves at risk of being expelled from the University

Students should refer to:

- Student Conduct Rules
<http://www.uow.edu.au/about/policy/UOW058723.html>
- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism Policy
<http://www.uow.edu.au/about/policy/UOW058648.html>

Submission, Receipt & Collection of Assessment Tasks

Assessments are to be submitted on the due dates and via the submission method specified in each assessment task listed in this Subject Outline. Penalties apply for late submission.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Unless otherwise indicated in this Subject Outline, written assessments must be submitted through **LHA Central in building 19, room 1050, by 4pm on the due date.**

All assessments submitted must have attached an individualised cover sheet with a bar code. Instructions on how to create and submit the cover sheet can be found at the Faculty's webpage: <http://lha.uow.edu.au/current-students/UOW154553.html>

If an extension is not granted, any assessment lodged after 4pm on the due date will be considered late and will incur late penalties (see 'late submission' section below).

Receipt of Assessment Tasks

At LHA Central 19, assessments submitted with an individualised cover sheet and barcode will automatically receive an electronic receipt as evidence of submission; this receipt will be issued to your University email account.

Please note that you will need to print the cover sheet on a laser printer (use the library or computer lab printers if necessary) because ink jet printers may not print to the quality needed to make the barcode readable by the scanners.

It is the responsibility of the student to keep a copy of all work submitted for assessment to the Faculty.

In the case where a student submits an assessment that does not incorporate an automated electronic receipt as evidence of submission, the student may request a paper receipt as proof.

Assessment task submission via post, fax or e-mail

Assessments submitted via post, fax or e-mail will **only be accepted with the written prior approval from the subject's coordinator**.

As a general rule, assessments will not be accepted or marked if submitted by fax except in special cases where the Subject Coordinator has given prior approval. Students that are given prior approval to submit an assessment via fax must have the relevant coversheet attached and clearly address the fax to the Subject Coordinator via fax number 02 4221 5341.

Students that are given prior approval to submit an assessment via email must have the relevant coversheet attached with the assessment and email the Subject Coordinator directly and copy the LHA Central email lha-enquiries@uow.edu.au.

Students that are given prior approval to submit an assessment, with the relevant coversheet attached, via Australia Post must use registered mail – this will ensure that there is an official receipt of mailing the assessment on the due date. Students must retain the evidence of posting the assessment.

The envelope should be addressed to:

The subject coordinator or tutor's name,
Faculty of Law, Humanities and the Arts
University of Wollongong,
Northfields Avenue, NSW 2522

Collection of Assessment

The University's Code of Practice Teaching and Assessment requires that at least one assessment be assessed and returned before Week 9 of session.

Assessments submitted during session will be returned to you by your lecturer or tutor. LHA Central does not hold any assessments during session.

Assessments submitted at the end of session will be held at LHA Central 19 up until the end of Week 3 of the following session. After this time, assessments will be returned to the respective Subject Coordinator.

Late Submission of Assessments

In the absence of an approved request for Academic Consideration (see the *General Advice Guide* for information about, and links to, the *Academic Consideration Policy*) in the form of an extension, assessment tasks must be submitted by 4pm (unless otherwise specified in the Assessment Task information) on the due date. Late work (i.e. any work required for assessment that has not been given an extension) will be subject to a 10% penalty per calendar day. The penalty is applied to the mark awarded. **Work submitted after seven calendar days will not be marked and will be given a mark of 0.**

An assessment task that is submitted after 4pm on any day will be deemed to have been submitted on the next working day. Penalties accrue on each day that the assessment task is late, including Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.

For assessments that are required to be submitted in hard copy via LHA Central in building 19, submission must be made by 4pm on weekdays to be recorded as submitted on that day.

Only with the written prior approval from the subject's coordinator, students may submit their assessment on a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday in electronic format via email to the Subject Coordinator's email address. This is on the condition that they submit the hard copy of this assessment task by 4pm on the next working day with a completed statutory declaration (in the form available at <http://www.uow.edu.au/content/groups/public/@web/@gov/documents/doc/uow060608.pdf>) to the effect that they confirm that the electronic and hard copies of the assessment are identical in all material respects. Where this is done, the submission date will be deemed to be that of the electronic submission for purposes of calculation of the late penalty.

In the absence of an extension having been granted pursuant to the Academic Consideration Policy, work submitted beyond seven (7) days of the due date will be accepted only if submission of that assessment is necessary to pass the subject but a mark of 'zero' will be recorded.

Electronic Submission of Assessments

Where assessments must be submitted electronically (i.e. through an eLearning site) the procedures for doing so will be in accordance with the Code of Practice — Teaching and Assessment, and specified in each assessment task listed in this Subject Outline. It is important that students retain receipts of materials submitted electronically.

Retention of Assessments

Assessment work (with the exception of theses) will be retained at least until the end of the academic appeal period. The appeal period is 21 days after distribution of marks or release of final grades. For further information please refer to Academic Grievance Policy - Coursework & Honours Students on the UOW website.

- Academic Grievance Policy - Coursework and Honours Students
<http://www.uow.edu.au/about/policy/UOW058653.html>

Theses submitted or completed by students for the purposes of assessment or evaluation will be retained for a minimum of 3 years after date of submission. For further information please refer to Academic Grievance Policy (Higher Degree Research Students) on the UOW website.

- Academic Grievance Policy (Higher Degree Research Students)
<http://www.uow.edu.au/about/policy/UOW058652.html>

Student Review of Mark / Grade

A student may request an explanation of a mark for an assessment task or a final grade for a subject consistent with the student's right to appropriate and useful feedback on their performance in an assessment task under the Code of Practice – Teaching and Assessment. The student should do so by contacting the Subject Coordinator or another member of the subject teaching team within TEN working days after notification to the student of the mark or grade.

For more information refer to Clause 6.1 of the Coursework Student Academic Complaints Policy:
<http://www.uow.edu.au/about/policy/UOW058653.html>

Supplementary Assessment

Supplementary assessment may be offered to students whose performance in this subject is close to that required to pass the subject, and are identified as meriting an offer of a supplementary assessment. The precise form of supplementary assessment will be determined at the time the offer of a supplementary assessment is made. Students who satisfactorily complete a supplementary assessment will be awarded a grade of 50% (Pass Supplementary)

Subject Resources and Materials – All relevant materials are available in the MOOC.

Set Texts – there are no other set texts for this subject.

Students are encouraged to use the Library catalogue and databases to locate additional resources and supplement the recommendations with resources you discover through your own research, both online and in hard copy. UOW Library website: www.library.uow.edu.au/index.html

Subject materials, such as Subject Readers and Textbooks, can be purchased through the UniShop.

General Advice Guide

Each session the Faculty of Law, Humanities and the Arts produces a guide to Faculty and University policies, programs and resources.

Students are encouraged to access a copy of the General Advice Guide at the start of each session.

The General Advice Guide can be accessed from the website at <http://lha.uow.edu.au/hsi/current-students/UOW061165.html>