BUS710 RESEARCH PROJECT T326 BRIEF

All information in the Subject Outline is correct at the time of approval. KOI reserves the right to make changes to the Subject Outline if they become necessary. Any changes require the approval of the KOI Academic Board and will be formally advised to those students who may be affected by email and via Moodle.
Information contained within this Subject Outline applies to students enrolled in the trimester as indicated

1. General Information

1.1 Administrative Details

Associated HE Award(s)	Duration	Level	Subject Coordinator
MPA	1 trimester	Postgraduate	Atta Adu-Osae atta.aduosae@koi.edu.au P: +61 (2) 9283 3583 L: 7-11 York St Consultation: via Moodle or by appointment

1.2 Core / Elective
This is a core subject for the above courses.

1.3 Subject Weighting

Indicated below is the weighting of this subject and the total course points.

Subject Credit Points	Total Course Credit Points
4	MPA: 64

1.4 Student Workload

Indicated below is the expected student workload per week for this subject

No. Timetabled Hours/Week*	No. Personal Study Hours/Week**	Total Workload Hours/Week***
3 hours/week plus supplementary online material	7 hours/week	10 hours/week

* Total time spent per week at lectures and tutorials
** Total time students are expected to spend per week in studying, completing assignments, etc.
*** Combination of timetable hours and personal study.

1.5 Mode of Delivery Classes will be face-to-face or hybrid. Certain classes will be online (e.g., special arrangements).

1.6 Pre-requisites Satisfactory completion of 12 subjects (or 8 subjects with a credit average) including BUS707 Applied Business Research.

1.7 General Study and Resource Requirements

- Students are expected to attend classes with the weekly worksheets and subject support material provided in Moodle. Students should read this material before coming to class to improve their ability to participate in the weekly activities.
- Students will require access to the internet and their KOI email and should have basic skills in word processing software such as MS Word, spreadsheet software such as MS Excel and visual presentation software such as MS PowerPoint.

- Computers and WIFI facilities are extensively available for student use throughout KOI. Students are encouraged to make use of the campus Library for reference materials.

Resource requirements specific to this subject: Specific resources will be identified in discussions with your supervisor. Prescribed readings and research examples will be posted to Moodle for additional guidance and recommended readings listed at section 2.7 will provide useful background reading.

1.8 Academic Advising

Academic advising is available to students throughout teaching periods including the exam weeks. As well as requesting help during scheduled class times, students have the following options:

- Consultation times: A list of consultation hours is provided on the homepage of Moodle where appointments can be booked.
- Subject coordinator: Subject coordinators are available for contact via email. The email address of the subject coordinator is provided at the top of this subject outline.
- Academic staff: Lecturers and Tutors provide their contact details in Moodle for the specific subject. In most cases, this will be via email. Some subjects may also provide a discussion forum where questions can be raised.
- Head of Program: The Head of Program is available to all students in the program if they need advice about their studies and KOI procedures.
- Vice President (Academic): The Vice President (Academic) will assist students to resolve complex issues (but may refer students to the relevant lecturers for detailed academic advice).

2. Academic Details

2.1 Overview of the Subject

This subject is one of the two alternate capstone subjects for the course and provides experience and supervision in a significant research project related to the course. This subject focuses on both the conceptual and operational aspects of doing research and evaluating existing research in business. This project will be completed in a manner customary to workplace business research. Students will implement the research proposed in their *Research Proposal* from *BUS707 Applied Business Research*. Students will design, trial and implement data collection, analyse findings and document their findings in a written thesis and a presentation at a professional seminar.

Students will work in small groups in conjunction with their supervisor, becoming more deeply involved in the stages of the research process. The emphasis of this subject is on the application of research knowledge gained in other subjects as well as the skills developed in this subject, culminating in presentations at a seminar of their peers and academic staff.

2.2 Graduate Attributes for Postgraduate Courses

Graduates of Postgraduate courses from King's Own Institute will achieve the graduate attributes expected from successful completion of a Master's degree under the Australian Qualifications Framework (2nd edition, January 2013). Graduates at this level will be able to apply an advanced body of knowledge from their major area of study in a range of contexts for professional practice or scholarship and as a pathway for further learning.

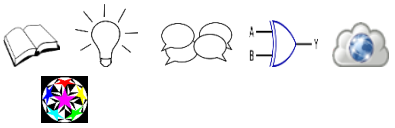
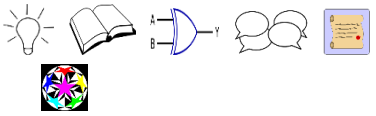
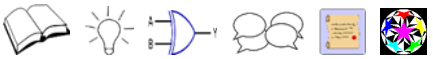
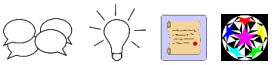
King's Own Institute's generic graduate attributes for a master's level degree are summarised below:

	KOI Master Degree Graduate Attributes	Detailed Description
	Knowledge	Current, comprehensive and coherent knowledge, including recent developments and applied research methods
	Critical Thinking	Critical thinking skills to identify and analyse current theories and developments and emerging trends in professional practice

	Communication	Communication and technical skills to analyse and theorise, contribute to professional practice or scholarship, and present ideas to a variety of audiences
	Research and Information Literacy	Cognitive and technical skills to access and evaluate information resources, justify research approaches and interpret theoretical propositions
	Creative Problem Solving Skills	Cognitive, technical and creative skills to investigate, analyse and synthesise complex information, concepts and theories, solve complex problems and apply established theories to situations in professional practice
	Ethical and Cultural Sensitivity	Appreciation and accountability for ethical principles, cultural sensitivity and social responsibility, both personally and professionally
	Leadership and Strategy	Initiative, leadership skills and ability to work professionally and collaboratively to achieve team objectives across a range of team roles Expertise in strategic thinking, developing and implementing business plans and decision making under uncertainty
	Professional Skills	High level personal autonomy, judgement, decision-making and accountability required to begin professional practice

2.3 Subject Learning Outcomes

Listed below, are *key* knowledge and skills students are expected to attain by successfully completing this subject:

Subject Learning Outcomes	Contribution to Graduate Attributes
a) Design, trial and implement data collection and undertake analysis for the research project as appropriate	
b) Critically discuss and present the project's aims, methodology, results, and conclusions in a scholarly manner	
c) Critically analyse the impact of research findings in relation to theory and practice	
d) Present findings at a professionally run seminar to an audience including their peers and academic staff.	

2.4 Subject Content and Structure

Below are details of the subject content and how it is structured, including specific topics covered in lectures and tutorials. Reading refers to the text unless otherwise indicated.

Weekly Planner:

Week(beginning)	Topic Covered in Each Week's Lecture	Reading(s)	Expected work as listed in Moodle
Week 1 26 October	Your Primary Research Question Formation of research teams & details of the road forward	Weekly readings will be advised by Research Supervisor and consist of exemplar research project outcome from previous similar research. These will be posted to MOODLE.	Research Project is conducted under the guided supervision of your Research Supervisor. Tasks are allocated & reviewed each week with your supervisor/ mentor. You are guided through and will conduct with your team the formal field research process to resolve a genuine commissioned research problem.
Week 2 02 November	The Research Proposal -How to succeed -How to fail Select the Document Controller (DC) The Ethics Application process	Weekly readings will be advised by Research Supervisor and consist of exemplar research project outcome from previous similar research. These will be posted to MOODLE.	Research Project is conducted under the guided supervision of your Research Supervisor. Tasks are allocated & reviewed each week with your supervisor/ mentor. You are guided through and will conduct with your team the formal field research process to resolve a genuine commissioned research problem.
Week 3 09 November	Determining the three lines-of-enquiry Establishing aim, objectives & scope Building the preliminary literature review Determining to who & how parties will benefit from your research	Weekly readings will be advised by Research Supervisor and consist of exemplar research project outcome from previous similar research. These will be posted to MOODLE.	Research Project is conducted under the guided supervision of your Research Supervisor. Tasks are allocated & reviewed each week with your supervisor/ mentor. You are guided through and will conduct with your team the formal field research process to resolve a genuine commissioned research problem.
Week 4 16 November	Finalising the Gantt	Weekly readings will be advised by Research Supervisor and consist of exemplar research project outcome from previous similar research. These will be posted to MOODLE.	Research Project is conducted under the guided supervision of your Research Supervisor. Tasks are allocated & reviewed each week with your supervisor/ mentor. You are guided through and will conduct with your team the formal field research process to resolve a genuine commissioned research problem.
Week 5 23 November	Submitting: -the Research Proposal; -the Ethics Application; -the Consent Letter (15%)		**Assessment 2 Due**

Week(beginning)	Topic Covered in Each Week's Lecture	Reading(s)	Expected work as listed in Moodle
Week 6 30 November	Commencing the Research Report Constructing subtopic lit reviews Commence research methodology	Weekly readings will be advised by Research Supervisor and consist of exemplar research project outcome from previous similar research. These will be posted to MOODLE.	Research Project is conducted under the guided supervision of your Research Supervisor. Tasks are allocated & reviewed each week with your supervisor/ mentor. You are guided through and will conduct with your team the formal field research process to resolve a genuine commissioned
Week 7 07 December	Defining the research gap Establishing the 3 x Secondary RQ Constructing the interview instrument	Weekly readings will be advised by Research Supervisor and consist of exemplar research project outcome from previous similar research. These will be posted to MOODLE.	Research Project is conducted under the guided supervision of your Research Supervisor. Tasks are allocated & reviewed each week with your supervisor/ mentor. You are guided through and will conduct with your team the formal field research process to resolve a genuine commissioned research problem.
Week 8 14 December	Conduct recorded interviews for review and examination	Weekly readings will be advised by Research Supervisor and consist of exemplar research project outcome from previous similar research. These will be posted to MOODLE.	Research Project is conducted under the guided supervision of your Research Supervisor. Tasks are allocated & reviewed each week with your supervisor/ mentor. You are guided through and will conduct with your team the formal field research process to resolve a genuine commissioned research problem.
Week 9 04 January	Analyse interview data	Weekly readings will be advised by Research Supervisor and consist of exemplar research project outcome from previous similar research. These will be posted to MOODLE.	Research Project is conducted under the guided supervision of your Research Supervisor. Tasks are allocated & reviewed each week with your supervisor/ mentor. You are guided through and will conduct with your team the formal field research process to resolve a genuine commissioned research problem.
Week 10 11 January	Draw SRQ & PRQ conclusions		Consultation with supervisor Finalise report
Week 11 18 January	Polish & submit the Research Report (60%)		**Assessment 3 Due**
Week 12 25 January	Research Project presentation (10%)		**Assessment 4 Due**
Week 13 01 February	Study Review Week and Final Exam Week		

Week(beginning)	Topic Covered in Each Week's Lecture	Reading(s)	Expected work as listed in Moodle
Week 14 08 February	- Final Exam Week - Continuing students - enrolments for T127 open	Please see the exam timetable for the exam date, time and location	
Week 15 15 February	- Student Vacation begins - New students - enrolments for T127 open		
Week 16 22 February	• Results Released • Review of Grade Day for T326 – see Sections 2.6 and 3.2 below for relevant information. • Certification of Grades NOTE: More information about the dates will be provided at a later date through Moodle/KOI email.		
T127 01 March 2027			
Week 1 01 March	Week 1 of classes for T127		

2.5 Teaching Methods/Strategies

Briefly described below are the teaching methods/strategies used in this subject:

UNDERTAKING YOUR RESEARCH - Broad guidance notes - *please note: Phase 1 was completed in BUS707 Applied Business Research, but will be briefly reviewed in this subject.*

PHASE I - The Research Proposal
Phase I, which may be thought of as a topic analysis, will cover three aspects of your ultimate proposal. This phase will involve the determination of an area of interest, a literature search, and the formulation of a problem for research. The proposal should be structured under the following headings.

(i) Problem and question;
(ii) Motivation (why and to whom is the research important); and
(iii) Literature (what is currently in the literature for this area).
- identification of variables
- relation among variables
- operational definition of variables

It will be accompanied by the Ethics Application

PREPARING A RESEARCH PROJECT

PROBLEM, HYPOTHESIS, QUESTION
Adequate statement of the research problem is critical, as it is one of the most important parts of research. There are three criteria for the determination of problems and their statement. The problem:
(i) should express a relation between two or more variables;
(ii) should be stated clearly and unambiguously in question form;
(iii) and the problem statement should be such as to imply possibilities of empirical test.

MOTIVATION
The more substantial grounds for doing a study are best described by some illustrations. Four are offered here, but they are not intended to be exhaustive.

1. Frequently, disagreements emerge in the literature. Two (or more) researchers may study the same question and arrive at differing results. A study designed to illustrate or resolve the conflict would be worthwhile.
2. You may conclude that the research methods employed in a particular study were not the most advantageous, given the research question. A study designed to overcome these shortcomings is a common motivation.
3. Often, researchers arrive at the same conclusions without knowing it. This can be because they use different theories, research approaches, or disciplines. A study integrating different pieces of research is worthwhile.
4. You find that an issue, or a variable, is missing from the theoretical views contained in the literature. A project designed to show how this issue or variable is important to the theory would be worthy.
5. You may identify a problem in a business context that has not been addressed satisfactorily. A project designed to apply relevant research to the situation would be worthy.

Whatever the basis of your justification of the issue as important, such a justification requires explicit statement in the topic analysis. Remember the key question to ask yourself is "Why is this research topic worth studying?" Once again, native curiosity is not a sufficient motivation.

LITERATURE SEARCH
Your coverage of prior research need not be exhaustive at this stage. An investigation of the major research should be adequate.

Often the study's motivation will derive in some way from prior research. This prior research would form the central focus of the Literature Search section. One purpose of the literature search is avoiding the problem of reinventing the wheel.

POSSIBLE PROJECTS
The project should be linked to the course you are studying. The list of possible projects will be refined and expanded in discussions with potential supervisors. Some initial suggestions are:

- Analysis of a significant project in their work experience such as
  - Accountancy education to include suitability for student purpose, career prospects, global nature
  - Accounting standards
  - Accounting regulation in Australia
  - Accounting and/or Auditing ethics
  - Use of financial ratios in corporate accounting
  - Multidimensional performance assessment, for example, using the balanced scorecard to evaluate performance on financial and non-financial bases
- The effect of accounting information and auditing on the design of organisations, and on the ensuing behaviour of individuals and groups
- Accountants and/or auditors responsibilities and contributions towards corporate governance
- Application of accounting and economic research to a specific business problem, e.g. a sustainability initiative
- Research based on cases reported by the courts, ASIC, APRA, ASX, etc.
- Projects may also be identified from the suggestions for further research from articles published in relevant academic journals

PHASE II - Conducting your research project
The work to date forces some closure on the proposed area of study. It establishes the boundaries of the topic area and identifies what is contained within those boundaries. The development of a research proposal covers each of the following criteria.
(i) A statement of the basic research question.
(ii) A statement of the motivation for the study.
(iii) A statement of the study's hypothesis (hypotheses).
(iv) A description and justification of the research method proposed.
(v) Anticipated data problems.
(vi) The limitations of the proposed study.

Research project overview

The logical structure of the research project can be described as follows. Identify the research problem.

1. Identify the research problem
2. Develop the conceptual and theoretical structure
3. Operationalize the theoretical constructs and relations and state the specific hypotheses to be tested
4. Construct the research design
5. Implement this design by sampling and gathering data
6. Analyse observations in order to test hypotheses
7. Evaluate the results
8. Consider and specify limitations and constraints

2.6 Student Assessment

Provided below is a schedule of formal assessment tasks and major examinations for the group project subject.

Assessment Type	When Assessed	Weighting	Learning Outcomes Assessed
Assessment 1: Engagement in weekly group meeting with supervisor	Weekly from week 2	15%	b, c
Assessment 2: Quantitative field research	Week 5	15%	a, b
Assessment 3: Written Thesis – Group report (5000-7000 words)	Week 11	60%	a, b, c
Assessment 4: Oral Defence – Group presentation (15 minutes)	Week 12	10%	a, b, d

Requirements to Pass the Subject:

To gain a pass or better in this subject, students must gain a *minimum of 50%* of the total available subject marks.

Changes Made to the Subject Based on Feedback from Students and Teachers:

Two workshops have been designed to address concerns raised by students. Workshop 1, to be held in week 2, will demonstrate a step-by-step process of writing a proposal. Workshop 2, due in week 3 will demonstrate a team formation process that includes how to engender interdependence and synergy in a team. In addition, each group/team member will be required to sign a team charter that explicitly indicates each member's contribution.

2.7 Prescribed and Recommended Readings

Provided below, in formal reference format, is a list of the prescribed and recommended readings.

Prescribed text:
This subject is taught primarily by case example of student-generated field research. There is no prescribed text.

Highly recommended readings

Glass, J., 2024. ***Exploring applied research techniques for business growth:*** Business Studies Journal, Vol. 16, Issue 1.

Kraus, S., Bouncken, B. R., and Aránega, A. Y., 2024. ***The burgeoning role of literature review articles in management research: an introduction and outlook.:*** *Review of Managerial Science Journal.* ***Volume 18, Issue 2****, pages 299–314.*

Perry, C., 2013. *Efficient and effective research: A toolkit for research students and developing researchers.* AIB Publications. Adelaide, SA. *(several copies are available in the library)*

Zikmund, W. G., Babin, B.J., Carr, J.C., Griffin, M., and Quinlan, C., 2019. *Business Research Methods*. 2nd ed. Cengage. Available from: ProQuest Ebook Central. [5 May 2021].

Further recommended readings:

Merriam, SB, & Grenier, RS (eds) 2019, *Qualitative Research in Practice: Examples for Discussion and Analysis*, 2nd edt. John Wiley & Sons, Incorporated, Newark. Available from: ProQuest Ebook Central. [5 May 2021].

Additional readings and resources will be recommended by the lecturer.

Suggested Conference/ Journal Articles:

Bayramova, A., and Edwards, D. J., 2025. **A study of objectivity and subjectivity in research methodology selection.** Published in Quality & Quantity (December 15 2025). https://doi.org/10.1007/s11135-025-02517-9

Useful Websites:

Many business websites are useful sources covering a range of information useful for this subject. However, most are not considered to be sources of Academic Peer Reviewed theory and research. If your assessments require academic peer reviewed journal articles as sources, you need to access such sources using the Library database, Ebscohost, or Google Scholar. Please ask in the Library if you are unsure how to access Ebscohost. Instructions can also be found in Moodle.