

## UNIT OUTLINE

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Degree                              | Master of Educational Leadership  |
| Unit Title                          | Research Thesis in Educational Leadership   |
| Unit Code                           | EDL992  |
| Core/Elective                       | Elective  |
| Prerequisite (if required)          | Core units – ED801 Worldview Assumptions in Education, EDL804 The Essentials of Christian School Leadership, ED990 Research Methods in Education, two leadership electives, ED991 Advanced Research Methods in Education.   |
| Study Mode                          | Online.   |
| Credit Points                       | 24 credit points.   |
| Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) | <p>Before enrolling in a course, a prospective student can apply for Morling College to consider granting advanced standing or crediting prior learning where that student’s evidence shows they have already achieved learning that is equivalent to the part of the course for which they are seeking credit. For more, see</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Advanced Standing &amp; Recognition of Prior Learning Policy: CCSC; Education</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Advanced Standing and Recognition of Prior Learning Procedure: CCSC; Education</a></li> </ul>                       |
| Time Commitment                     | 300 hours across 26 weeks (2 x 13 week semester)  |
| Unit Description                    | The research thesis provides an opportunity for educational leaders to research an area of personal or professional concern in educational leadership. At least a credit average is required in all units. This unit is the equivalent of two units in the Master’s program.  |
| Unit Learning Outcomes (ULOs)       | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify and clearly articulate a research problem that is relevant to contemporary educational leadership practice.</li> <li>2. Prepare an ethics application for the research project based on sound biblical and theoretical principles that is appropriate to the identified problem and is consistent with the ethics policy.</li> <li>3. Implement the plan of research in a manner that demonstrates the level of competence in data collection and analysis that is expected of the research professional working within a biblical worldview context.</li> </ol> |

4. Report on the research in a clear, coherent manner in the form of a thesis.

Prescribed Text(s)\*

Creswell, J. W., & Creswell, J. D. (2023). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, & mixed methods approaches* (6th ed.). Sage.

O’Leary, Z (2025). *The essential guide to do your research project* (5th ed.). Sage.

Walliman, N. (2026). *Research methods: The basics* (4th ed.). Routledge.

Topics Covered

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|---|--|
| 1. Human Ethics, applying for Ethics Approval | 5. Collating the results and interpreting the findings |
| 2. Contacting the Research Participants       | 6. Writing chapters 5-7 of the Thesis                  |
| 3. Conducting the Research, collecting data   | 7. Finalising and evaluating the Thesis                |
| 4. Writing chapters 1-4 of the Thesis         | 8. Submission of the completed Thesis                  |

Summary of Assessment Requirements

| Assessment No. & Type | Length       | Weighting | Unit Learning Outcomes         |
|-----------------------|--------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Ethics Application |              | 0%        | Covers learning outcomes 1 & 2 |
| 2. Thesis             | 12,000 words | 100%      | Covers learning outcomes 3 & 4 |