



MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY
Department of Ancient History/Division of Humanities

**MA In Ancient History, MA In Egyptology,
MA in Early Christian and Jewish Studies, MA in Coptic Studies,
Postgraduate Certificate in Research Preparation**

**AHPG882 Ancient History Minor Research Project
ECJS882 Minor Research Project**
(Internal or External, full-year, first semester or second semester, 8 pg cp)

**AHPG883 Ancient History Minor Research Project A
ECJS883 Minor Research Project A**
(Internal or External, second semester, 4 pr cp)

**AHPG884 Ancient History Minor Research Project B
ECJS881 Minor Research Project B**
(Internal or External, first semester, 4 pr cp)

Guidelines

1. Introduction

A research project may be submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts. It is equivalent to two half-year units or one quarter of the MA program (8 pg cp). It may also constitute part the Postgraduate Certificate in Research Preparation, the qualifying program for higher degrees by research (MA Hons/PhD) in Ancient History, Egyptology, Coptic Studies or Early Christian and Jewish Studies (see below 2.5).

Candidates who wish to complete the research Project over two calendar years (e.g. July2004-June 2005) must enrol in AHPG883 (or ECJS883) followed by AHPG884 (or ECJS881). An "T" grade will be recorded for AHPG883 (or ECJS883) with a final grade for both units being recorded once the research project has been examined.

2. Entry requirements

- 2.1 the completion of four (4) half-year units from either the MA in Ancient History, MA in ECJS, MA in Coptic Studies or the MA in Egyptology program at an average grade of Cr or better.
- 2.2 satisfactory completion of at least **one** of AHPG800, 801, 847, 870 896 or an equivalent study of an ancient language relevant to the area of the proposed project topic.
- 2.3 candidates proposing to undertake a project on an archaeological topic should also have completed AHPG810, AHPG866 or equivalent.
- 2.4 recommendation by two staff members that the applicant has shown aptitude for research in previous units and that supervision can be provided in the proposed area.
- 2.5 candidates who have completed the MA by coursework (i.e. eight half-year units = 32 pg cp) and who wish to proceed to a MA Hons or PhD in Egyptology will be required to complete AHPG882, as part or all of The Postgraduate Certificate in Research Preparation. The Postgraduate Studies Committee will not admit a candidate to a MA Hons or PhD program without prior satisfactory completion (Hons II.2 or better) of either an Honours thesis or a minor research project of 15-20,000 words in a field

related to the proposed area of research degree study. Direct entry into the PhD program usually requires the completion of a First class Honours (Hons I) thesis or its equivalent.

3. Topics

- 3.1 topics should be determined in consultation with a staff member of the candidate's choice and approved by the Ancient History Postgraduate Sub-committee, which will register the topic and the name of the supervisor.
- 3.2 projects should normally be closely based on the analysis of ancient documents, literary texts or artefacts.
- 3.3 projects normally take one of the following forms:
 - 3.3.1 analytical and narrative treatments of a topic, theme or a period which should include a survey and discussion of relevant modern English-language scholarship.
 - 3.3.2 a biographical or prosopographical study.
 - 3.3.3 historical and philological analyses of particular terms or semantic fields.
 - 3.3.4 historical analysis of artefact types or assemblages or of archaeological sites or regions.
 - 3.3.5 translation of documents or texts together with historical introduction and commentary. Approximately 1000-1500 words of text in the original language should be considered as a minimum body of material for study. Maximum length for texts will be governed, in part, by the language of the text, its difficulty and its state of preservation.

4. Project length

- 4.1 15,000-20,000 words.
- 4.2 Normally not more than half of a project should consist of the translation of texts.

5. Presentation

- 5.1 All projects should conform to acceptable standards of presentation for theses in Ancient History. These include:
 - 5.1.1 thesis to be typed or word processed in one and a half spacing on one or both sides of medium weight A4 paper. Double sided printing is recommended.
 - 5.1.2 at least 2cm margin to be left at the sides
 - 5.1.3 a title page including:
 - 1) full title of the project
 - 2) name of the candidate
 - 3) the words: 'submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts, Macquarie University' or, where the project forms part or all of a postgraduate qualifying program submitted in fulfilment (or partial fulfilment) of the Postgraduate Certificate in Research Preparation in Ancient History (or Egyptology, or Coptic Studies or Early Christian and Jewish Studies)'.
 - 5.1.4 a table of contents giving titles of sections, chapters, sub-divisions, appendices etc. together with page numbers.
 - 5.1.5 footnotes numbered consecutively throughout or for each chapter or section and included either at the foot of each page or in an appendix at the end of the project.
 - 5.1.6 footnotes to be as brief and concise as complete accuracy will allow. Long, explanatory footnotes should be avoided or, if indispensable, should be converted into appendices.

- 5.1.7 use of conventional abbreviations for ancient authors, documents, archaeological reports and periodicals.
- 5.1.8 use of conventional methods of citation for modern authors (either: *ibid*, *op.cit.* etc. or: author-date).
- 5.1.9 a bibliography divided into at least
 - (a) Ancient Sources (including texts, editions, collections, translations, corpora consulted)
 - (b) Modern authors
- 5.1.10 the numbering of drawings, maps, diagrams, photographs, plans, charts and tables which should be included at convenient points throughout or in a separate appendix or appendices.
- 5.2 projects should include an introductory chapter or section which sets out the aims of the thesis and comments upon any relevant organisational, procedural, methodological or theoretical matters.
- 5.3 projects should include a concluding chapter or section which briefly draws together and summarises major conclusions.
- 5.4 where a project includes extensive analysis of a collection of artefacts such collections should be presented in a catalogue which incorporates:
 - 5.4.1 serial number, current location and brief identification;
 - 5.4.2 provenance, attribution and date;
 - 5.4.3 dimensions;
 - 5.4.4 measured profile drawing and/or photographs;
 - 5.4.5 detailed description including shape, decoration, materials and techniques of manufacture;
 - 5.4.6 initial publication;
 - 5.4.7 subsequent treatments of this and comparable material;
 - 5.4.8 brief discussion of miscellaneous points needing clarification, with reference to the most recent literature.
- 5.5 where a project consists of a translation of and commentary on documents (e.g. inscriptions, papyri) or texts, it is not expected that any fundamental editing will be undertaken. However, the presentation of each text should incorporate:
 - 5.5.1 a serial number and brief title (unless the texts are repetitive);
 - 5.5.2 provenance and date (unless common to all those studied);
 - 5.5.3 reference to *editio princeps*;
 - 5.5.4 text (incorporating improvements by subsequent editors);
 - 5.5.5 *apparatus criticus* (identifying these variations, and other readings suggested but not incorporated into the text);
 - 5.5.6 list of subsequent editions, asterisking the one basically followed;
 - 5.5.7 translation;
 - 5.5.8 brief discussion of miscellaneous points needing clarification, with reference to the most recent literature.
- 5.6 where a project consists of a translation of and commentary on literary texts, it is not expected that any fundamental editing will be undertaken. However, the presentation of each text should incorporate:
 - 5.6.1 full publication details of the text and edition used (OCT, Teubner, Loeb etc.)
 - 5.6.2 full publication details of other editions consulted.
 - 5.6.3 abbreviated *apparatus criticus* which clearly indicates any readings that have been adopted which differ from the text being followed.
 - 5.6.4 translation.

6. Standards and assessment

- 6.1 Projects shall be assessed internally by two staff members and, where there is disagreement between the two examiners, by a moderator.
- 6.2 projects shall be graded on the following scale: HD, D, Cr, P, PC, F (fail).
- 6.3 where a candidate fails to satisfy the examiners resubmission incorporating corrections, revisions or further work may be recommended. An 'I' grade will then be recorded and a date set for resubmission.
- 6.4 in assessment, the following factors will be taken into consideration:
 - 6.4.1 clear, systematic presentation and analysis of relevant ancient evidence
 - 6.4.2 thoroughness of research amongst relevant ancient sources and modern, English-language scholarship
 - 6.4.3 capacity for independent thought
 - 6.4.4 quality and originality of analysis and argument
 - 6.4.5 mastery of technical skills such as translation, editing, textual criticism, prosopographical analysis, die-link analysis of coins, artefact classification, and archaeological drawing.
- 6.5 a brief written report by each examiner will be made available to the candidate.

7. Supervision

- 7.1 supervision offered will aim to encourage and develop the candidate's initiative and capacity for self-directed research. To that end supervision will not be overly directive but rather will take the form of advice and guidance.
- 7.2 candidates should consult closely with their supervisor in the choice and definition of a topic and on sources and their availability.
- 7.3 supervisors will assist in the planning of the research by offering advice on such matters as methodology, theoretical frameworks, technical problems of translation and presentation, the order in which the various areas of research should be tackled and when to start producing a rough draft.
- 7.4 supervisors will discuss the overall structure and argument of the thesis with the candidate and will offer on-going general advice on that basis.
- 7.5 If a candidate so desires, the supervisor will provide detailed comment on a section (not exceeding 5,000 words) of the first draft nominated by the candidate.

8. Submission

- 8.1 by end of week 13 of the second semester of enrolment
- 8.2 two copies of the project must be submitted into the assignment boxes in the foyer of W6A with the Division of Humanities Cover Sheet.
- 8.3 the project may be soft bound or firmly fixed in a spring-back folder with hard covers.
- 8.4 the Department of Ancient History will retain one copy and the other one is to be collected by the candidate.