



**ACIAR**  
LEARN

# ACIAR Learn

## Course Guide

Feb  
2024

# Table of Contents

[Table of Contents](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Course structure overview](#)

[Course list](#)

[Foundational Courses](#)

[Introduction to Research for Development](#)

[Gender Equity and Social Inclusion in Research](#)

[Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning in Research](#)

[Principles of Ethics in Research](#)

[Research Project Management Essentials](#)

[Extension Courses](#)

[Research for Development Design and Practice](#)

[Applying Gender Equity and Social Inclusion in Research](#)

[Research Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning in Practice](#)

[Ethical Research in Practice](#)

[Research Project Management in Practice](#)

[Elective Courses](#)

[Academic Writing - Introduction to Academic Writing](#)

[Academic Writing - Writing an Empirical Journal Article](#)

[Mentoring Skills](#)

[Policy Influencing Skills](#)

[Qualitative Research Methods](#)

[Quantitative Research Methods](#)

[Research in the Field](#)

[Research Proposal Skills](#)

[Science Communication](#)

[Scientific Data Analysis & Interpretation](#)

[Values-based Leadership](#)

# Introduction

Welcome to the ACIAR Learn Course Guide, where you can find all the information you need to choose the courses that meet your learning goals and interests. ACIAR Learn is a platform that offers a range of courses on topics related to agricultural research for development, such as academic writing, project management, scientific data analysis and interpretation, and more. Whether you are a researcher, a practitioner, a policy maker, or a student, you will find courses that are relevant and useful for your work and support increased effectiveness in research.

ACIAR Learn courses are divided into three categories: foundational, extension, and elective.

**Foundational courses** are designed to introduce you to the core concepts and principles of topics related to agricultural research for development. They are suitable for anyone who wants to learn the basics or refresh their knowledge.

**Extension courses** are designed to build on the foundational courses and provide you with more in-depth and practical knowledge and skills on specific topics. They are suitable for anyone who wants to deepen their understanding or apply their learning to real-world situations.

**Elective courses** are designed to offer you more flexibility and choice in your learning. They cover a variety of topics that are not covered in detail in the foundational or extension courses. They are suitable for anyone who wants to explore or deepen new areas of interest or diversify their learning.

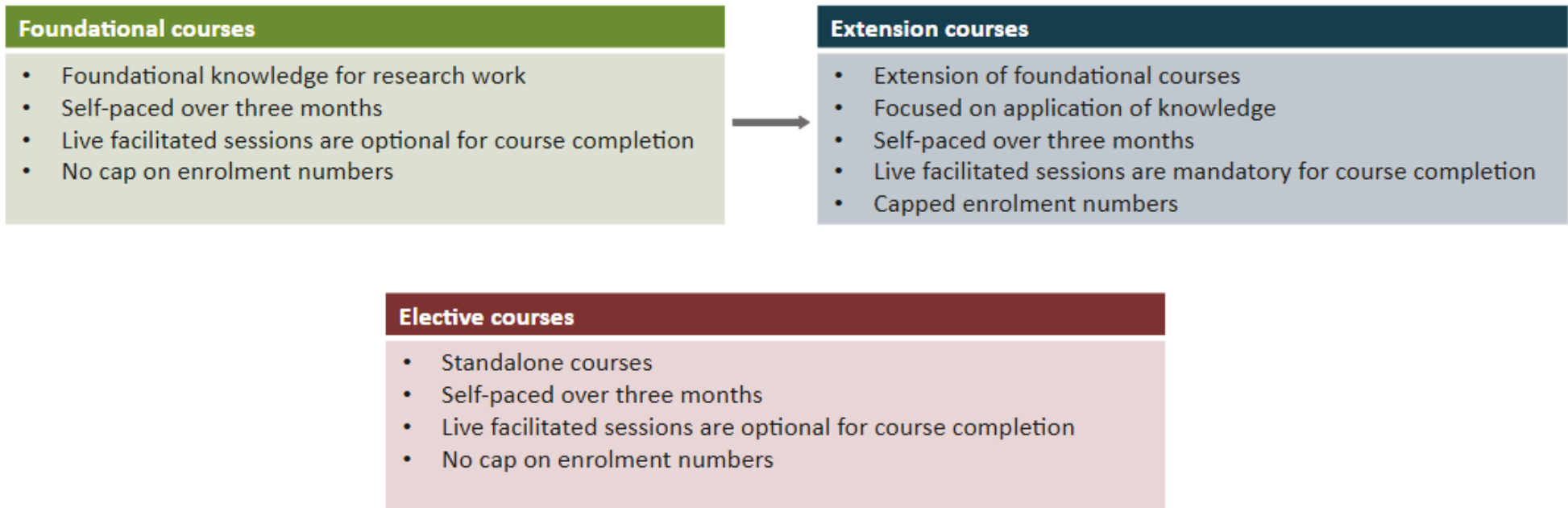
In this guide, you will find a description of each course and information about the Course Convenor, who is the person who designed and developed the course. Please note that some details of the courses may change over time, so please check this document available via the home page or as a resource link within the 'Welcome to ACIAR Learn' course for the most up to date information. For additional details such as course dates, duration and learning outcomes, please refer to individual courses as listed in the ACIAR Learn platform's [Catalogue](#).

We hope that this guide will help you make informed decisions about your learning and enrolment in ACIAR Learn courses. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact us at [aciarlearn@uq.edu.au](mailto:aciarlearn@uq.edu.au). We look forward to seeing you in our courses and supporting you in your learning journey.

# Course structure overview

The new ACIAR Learn platform has three types of courses:

1. **Foundational courses** provide knowledge which is considered to be foundational for your research work. Each foundational course can be done as a standalone course or as preparation for an extension course.
2. **Extension courses** provide an extension of the content of a foundational course, with a strong focus on application of knowledge in your research work. They can be done as standalone courses or following the relevant foundational course. Some foundational courses may require prior completion of the relevant Foundational course.
3. **Elective courses** allow you to explore different subjects and acquire new or additional knowledge to support your research work. Each elective course can be done as a standalone course and concurrently to other courses.



# Course list

If you're interested in a course that has already started but not yet finished, we encourage you to still enrol. Most ACIAR Learn courses can be completed in just a few hours, so it's never too late to start learning!

Foundational courses		Extension courses*	
<a href="#">Introduction to Research for Development</a>	Second half 2024 (dates TBC)	<a href="#">Research for Development Design and Practice</a>	19 Feb - 19 May 2024
<a href="#">Gender Equity and Social Inclusion in Research</a>	22 Apr 2024 - 14 July 2024	<a href="#">Applying Gender Equity &amp; Social Inclusion in Research</a>	12 Feb - 12 May 2024 29 Jul - 20 Oct 2024
<a href="#">Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning in Research</a>	30 Oct 2023 - 3 Mar 2024	<a href="#">Research Monitoring, Evaluation &amp; Learning in Practice</a>	22 Apr - 14 Jul 2024
<a href="#">Principles of Ethics in Research</a>	9 Oct 2023 - 31 Mar 2024 13 May 2024 - 4 Aug 2024	<a href="#">Ethical Research in Practice</a>	6 May - 23 Jun 2024
<a href="#">Research Project Management Essentials</a>	13 May - 4 Aug 2024	<a href="#">Research Project Management in Practice</a>	To be confirmed (TBC)
Elective Courses			
<a href="#">Academic Writing - Introduction to Academic Writing</a>	29 Jan - 20 Apr 2024	<a href="#">Research Proposal Skills</a>	4 Mar - 16 Jun 2024
<a href="#">Academic Writing - Writing an Empirical Journal Article</a>	24 Jun - 15 Sep 2024	<a href="#">Science Communication</a>	10 Jun - 1 Sep 2024
<a href="#">Qualitative Research Methods</a>	8 Apr - 30 Jun 2024	<a href="#">Quantitative Research Methods</a>	8 Apr - 30 Jun 2024
<a href="#">Research in the Field</a>	15 Jan - 21 Apr 2024	<a href="#">Mentoring Skills</a>	5 Aug - 27 Oct 2024
<a href="#">Policy Influencing Skills</a>	Second half 2024 (dates TBC)	<a href="#">Scientific Data Analysis &amp; Interpretation</a>	Second half 2024 (dates TBC)
<a href="#">Values-based Leadership</a>	19 Aug 2024 - 3 Nov 2024		

\*To enrol in extension courses, you may need to complete the prerequisite foundational course. Check the course requirements on the course page before enrolling.

# Foundational Courses

## Introduction to Research for Development

[Click here to enrol](#)

### Course description

Agricultural systems are facing increasingly complex challenges to provide the world with safe and sufficient food and fibre, while ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources and dealing with global issues such as climate change and economic crises. ACIAR attempts to tackle these complex issues by supporting research that is designed from a systems-thinking perspective. This requires interdisciplinary approaches to research and development to align the various solutions across diverse disciplines and thematic areas in a holistic way. It also requires critical and collaborative skills to design and implement projects through functional teams. This course will enable participants to understand the principles and articulate the value of an interdisciplinary approach to research for development, reflect on individual and institutional abilities to establish and manage functional interdisciplinary teams and projects, and identify ways and develop the skills for these approaches to be applied into projects, programs and institutions.

### Course Convenor - Associate Professor Elske van de Fliert



Elske is the Director of the Centre for Communication and Social Change at the University of Queensland (UQ). She also facilitates and teaches in the Communication for Social Change field of study of the Master of Communication program. She obtained a PhD in Communication & Innovation in 1993 from Wageningen University & Research, The Netherlands. Elske started her academic career at UQ in 2006, after two decades working in research, development and teaching positions in Indonesia, Vietnam, China and Sri Lanka, and across other countries in Asia and East Africa.

Elske's research interests include participatory development communication, facilitation of transdisciplinary research for sustainable and equitable development, and impact assessment of social change processes. Over the years at UQ, she has conducted research projects and consultancies in Indonesia, Timor Leste, Vietnam, Mongolia, Philippines and Azerbaijan. She has published widely on a range of topics related to participatory research and communication in sustainable rural development.

[Return to course list](#)

# Gender Equity and Social Inclusion in Research

[Click here to enrol](#)

## Course description

Building on the Gender Equity and Social Inclusion in Research foundational course, participants will cultivate advanced proficiencies in explaining the nuanced application of gender dynamics within agricultural settings. Additionally, looking at gender as one critical aspect of social inclusion, they will master the art of critically developing innovative action plans for effectively mitigating pervasive gender equity challenges embedded in agricultural research. Participants will graduate with a comprehensive toolkit empowering them to develop a comprehensive gender equity and social inclusion for their own research work.

## Course Convenor - Dr Gomathy Palaniappan



Gomathy is a senior research fellow and lecturer at the School of Agriculture and Food Sustainability at The University of Queensland (UQ). Her work primarily focuses on socio-economic and gender research. She has played a key role in conceptualising and conducting research related to behavioural change among farmers, as well as gender equity and social inclusion in agriculture. She manages research on key cross-cutting issues of gender equity and socioeconomics in agrifood chains, focusing on improving food security and farmers' livelihoods in crops and vegetables, as well as Soil and Land Management for conservation agriculture.

She has expertise in using participatory techniques to foster capacity building in rural communities. Through her involvement in multiple projects by The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) in countries such as Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Papua New Guinea, Pacific Island countries, The Philippines, and Pakistan, Gomathy has gained extensive experience as a social scientist and gender expert/consultant. Her significant contributions to the advancement of socio-economic and gender research in agriculture are evident in her ability to establish and maintain strong alliances and strategic partnerships with research institutions in the countries where she has worked on ACIAR projects.

[Return to course list](#)

# Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning in Research

[Click here to enrol](#)

## Course description

A fundamental element of research is to both adapt the research scope based on findings and data, while also measuring the degree to which the research delivered on its objectives. Developing a monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) practice within research is therefore a core skill of an effective researcher. This course will enable participants to articulate the primary function of MEL practice within their research; identify its core components; and the steps required to develop a MEL framework.

## Course Convenor - Ms Alison Moore



Alison is an agricultural extension professional with 30 years' experience in community development with research experience in rural sociology. She has interdisciplinary science qualifications with a first degree in agricultural economics and a Masters in social planning and development. She has coordinated the community support program for Landcare in Queensland, Australia and has worked in Canada, Sweden, Finland, Cambodia, Timor-Leste and the Solomon Islands.

Alison is currently the manager of The University of Queensland's (UQ) Pinjarra Hills Research Precinct and most recently she has been a member of a UQ team delivering an ACIAR project with agricultural and veterinary universities in Myanmar. She lectures in postgraduate courses of evaluation, social planning/community development, extension and stakeholder engagement. As a consultant she has conducted evaluations including with the Queensland Farmers Federation, Queensland University of Technology, the non-government sector in Timor-Leste, European Union and both Australian and Queensland Governments.

[Return to course list](#)



## Principles of Ethics in Research

[Click here to enrol](#)

### Course description

As an Australian organisation commissioning research, ACIAR has a responsibility to ensure that all research - conducted within Australia or internationally - is undertaken ethically, applying the best practices and approaches. This course will enhance participants' understanding of the importance of ethics in agricultural research, ethical considerations in agricultural science, and key standards and frameworks applicable to ACIAR projects.

### Course Convenor - Emeritus Professor Richard Baker



Richard has been a passionate advocate for equity and fairness at the Australian National University (ANU). He has spent a professional lifetime at the University, and as Pro Vice-Chancellor (University Experience), he championed outcomes to support student and staff equity, Indigenous Reconciliation and the student experience.

Richard is a geographer with a passion for teaching and learning. He graduated from ANU in 1981 with a Bachelor (Honours) and a University Medal and was the first person at ANU to complete a joint Honours degree in Geography and Archaeology. He then worked as an archaeologist and oral historian, and completed his PhD at the University of Adelaide in cultural geography on the topic of Indigenous understandings of Australian history and geography. He returned to ANU in 1993 in a teaching position and in 1996 was awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence. In 2002, he became the first person to win this award twice. He has also been awarded three separate national teaching awards.

[Return to course list](#)

# Research Project Management Essentials

[Click here to enrol](#)

## Course description

This course will develop essential project management skills critical for successful management of ACIAR funded research. Topics include scope and proposal design, resource management, stakeholder communication, risk management and project monitoring strategies.

## Course Convenor - Dr Karen Harper



Karen is an Associate Professor of agriculture at Central Queensland University (CQU). She has broad teaching experience both in domestic and international settings. She completed her Bachelor of Agricultural Science (Honours), Master of Agricultural Science, and PhD at The University of Queensland (UQ). Karen has worked on a number of ACIAR funded research projects in Indonesia, Myanmar and across Africa, in either an administrative/management role, or project leader. She is strongly motivated in building successful teams and building capacity.

Karen has also worked in a variety of research areas across a broad range of research groups. This research has focussed on ruminant nutrition and tropical pastures and includes: supplementing feeds to increase productivity and reduce methane emissions (Meat and Livestock Australia funded); the role of iNDF in dairy cattle nutrition in subtropical Australia (Dairy Australia funded); Kikuyu ecotype Studies (Queensland Government's Department of Agricultural and Fisheries and Norco funded); and a range of probiotic studies (Australian Research Council, Ridley and Christian-Hansen funded).

[Return to course list](#)

## Extension Courses

### Research for Development Design and Practice

[Click here to enrol](#)

#### Course description

Having explored the concepts, principles and frameworks underpinning research that aims to contribute to sustainable development in the foundational course 'Introduction to R4D', this extension course engages participants to apply what was learned through analysis and design of real-life scenarios. After an in-depth investigation into effective stakeholder participation in the various stages of research for development, participants will develop a deep understanding of the processes involved in planning, engaging in, managing and evaluating research for sustainable development through two case studies. The learnings are further applied through the guided design of their own dream project. After completion of the course, participants will have developed the skills and confidence to develop and lead impactful research for development initiatives.

#### Course Convenor - Associate Professor Elske van de Fliert



Elske is the Director of the Centre for Communication and Social Change at the University of Queensland (UQ). She also facilitates and teaches in the Communication for Social Change field of study of the Master of Communication program. She obtained a PhD in Communication & Innovation in 1993 from Wageningen University & Research, The Netherlands. Elske started her academic career at UQ in 2006, after two decades working in research, development and teaching positions in Indonesia, Vietnam, China and Sri Lanka, and across other countries in Asia and East Africa.

Elske's research interests include participatory development communication, facilitation of transdisciplinary research for sustainable and equitable development, and impact assessment of social change processes. Over the years at UQ, she has conducted research projects and consultancies in Indonesia, Timor Leste, Vietnam, Mongolia, Philippines and Azerbaijan. She has published widely on a range of topics related to participatory research and communication in sustainable rural development.

[Return to course list](#)

## Applying Gender Equity and Social Inclusion in Research

[Click here to enrol](#)

### Course description

Building on the Gender Equity and Social Inclusion in Research foundational course, participants will cultivate advanced proficiencies in explaining the nuanced application of gender dynamics within agricultural settings. Additionally, looking at gender one critical aspect of social inclusion, they will master the art of critically developing innovative action plans for effectively mitigating pervasive gender equity challenges embedded in agricultural research. Participants will graduate with a comprehensive toolkit empowering them to develop a comprehensive gender equity and social inclusion for their own research work.

### Course Convenor - Dr Gomathy Palaniappan



Gomathy is a senior research fellow and lecturer at the School of Agriculture and Food Sustainability at The University of Queensland (UQ). Her work primarily focuses on socio-economic and gender research. She has played a key role in conceptualising and conducting research related to behavioural change among farmers, as well as gender equity and social inclusion in agriculture. She manages research on key cross-cutting issues of gender equity and socioeconomics in agrifood chains, focusing on improving food security and farmers' livelihoods in crops and vegetables, as well as Soil and Land Management for conservation agriculture.

She has expertise in using participatory techniques to foster capacity building in rural communities. Through her involvement in multiple projects by The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) in countries such as Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Papua New Guinea, Pacific Island countries, The Philippines, and Pakistan, Gomathy has gained extensive experience as a social scientist and gender expert/consultant. Her significant contributions to the advancement of socio-economic and gender research in agriculture are evident in her ability to establish and maintain strong alliances and strategic partnerships with research institutions in the countries where she has worked on ACIAR projects.

[Return to course list](#)

## Research Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning in Practice

[Click here to enrol](#)

### Course description

Developing and refining skills in the practice of evaluation is critical for any researcher seeking to see their research results applied to the real world. Using activities and case studies, this course builds on the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning in Research foundational course, providing participants with further opportunity to apply their foundational knowledge in real world contexts.

### Course Convenor - Ms Alison Moore



Alison is an agricultural extension professional with 30 years' experience in community development with research experience in rural sociology. She has interdisciplinary science qualifications with a first degree in agricultural economics and a Masters in social planning and development. She has coordinated the community support program for Landcare in Queensland, Australia and has worked in Canada, Sweden, Finland, Cambodia, Timor-Leste and the Solomon Islands.

Alison is currently the manager of The University of Queensland's (UQ) Pinjarra Hills Research Precinct and most recently she has been a member of a UQ team delivering an ACIAR project with agricultural and veterinary universities in Myanmar. She lectures in postgraduate courses of evaluation, social planning/community development, extension and stakeholder engagement. As a consultant she has conducted evaluations including with the Queensland Farmers Federation, Queensland University of Technology, the non-government sector in Timor-Leste, European Union and both Australian and Queensland Governments.

[Return to course list](#)

## Ethical Research in Practice

[Click here to enrol](#)

### Course description

The extension course “Ethical Research in Practice” builds on the foundational course “Principles of Ethics in Research”, where participants learn the key terms and frameworks for ethical research. The foundational course also explains how and why to create a culture of ethical inquiry in research settings.

In this course, participants will go deeper into how to implement this culture of ethical inquiry. It will examine real-life scenarios and help participants create their own ethical research action plans. Participants will also use peer learning strategies and share and receive feedback on each other's action plans in a supportive community of practice environment.

### Course Convenor - Emeritus Professor Richard Baker



Richard has been a passionate advocate for equity and fairness at the Australian National University (ANU). He has spent a professional lifetime at the University, and as Pro Vice-Chancellor (University Experience), he championed outcomes to support student and staff equity, Indigenous Reconciliation and the student experience.

Richard is a geographer with a passion for teaching and learning. He graduated from ANU in 1981 with a Bachelor (Honours) and a University Medal and was the first person at ANU to complete a joint Honours degree in Geography and Archaeology. He then worked as an archaeologist and oral historian, and completed his PhD at the University of Adelaide in cultural geography on the topic of Indigenous understandings of Australian history and geography. He returned to ANU in 1993 in a teaching position and in 1996 was awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence. In 2002, he became the first person to win this award twice. He has also been awarded three separate national teaching awards.

[Return to course list](#)

## Research Project Management in Practice

[Click here to enrol](#)

### Course description

This course builds on the foundational Research Project Management Essentials course, enabling participants to develop additional skills in the management of research projects. This course further explores the topics of research project budgeting, monitoring and evaluation, project and peer review processes, and research ethics and approval processes.

### Course Convenor - Dr Karen Harper



Karen is an Associate Professor of agriculture at Central Queensland University (CQU). She has broad teaching experience both in domestic and international settings. She completed her Bachelor of Agricultural Science (Honours), Master of Agricultural Science, and PhD at The University of Queensland (UQ). Karen has worked on a number of ACIAR funded research projects in Indonesia, Myanmar and across Africa, in either an administrative/management role, or project leader. She is strongly motivated in building successful teams and building capacity.

Karen has also worked in a variety of research areas across a broad range of research groups. This research has focussed on ruminant nutrition and tropical pastures and includes: supplementing feeds to increase productivity and reduce methane emissions (Meat and Livestock Australia funded); the role of iNDF in dairy cattle nutrition in subtropical Australia (Dairy Australia funded); Kikuyu ecotype Studies (Queensland Government's Department of Agricultural and Fisheries and Norco funded); and a range of probiotic studies (Australian Research Council, Ridley and Christian-Hansen funded).

[Return to course list](#)

## Elective Courses

### Academic Writing - Introduction to Academic Writing

[Click here to enrol](#)

#### Course description

This course will provide participants with a comprehensive overview of how to clearly and effectively communicate with an academic audience. Participants will learn about how to recognise and use the conventions of academic writing, and how to use and cite literature to support arguments. Introduction to Academic Writing is one of two academic writing related courses. You can choose to do one or both courses.

#### Course Convenor - Dr Kathryn Page



Kathryn is a soil scientist with over 20 years' experience. She has worked extensively on natural resource management issues relating to soil, including carbon and nitrogen cycling, the management of greenhouse gas emissions from soil, soil constraint management, and conservation agriculture.

Kathryn is passionate about science communication and helping other researchers communicate their findings to the broader scientific community. She has a strong publication record and extensive experience in developing written material for an academic audience. Kathryn regularly supports other researchers to write funding proposals, reports, and papers for scientific journals.

[Return to course list](#)



## Academic Writing - Writing an Empirical Journal Article

[Click here to enrol](#)

### Course description

Formerly named Writing an Academic Report, this course will provide participants with a comprehensive overview of how to clearly and effectively communicate with an academic audience. Participants will learn how to write clear and impactful scientific reports, and how to negotiate the publication process. Writing an Empirical Journal Article is one of two academic writing related courses. You can choose to do one or both courses, however it is highly recommended that you complete the Introduction to Academic Writing course prior to enrolling in the Writing an Empirical Journal Article course.

### Course Convenor - Dr Kathryn Page



Kathryn is a soil scientist with over 20 years' experience. She has worked extensively on natural resource management issues relating to soil, including carbon and nitrogen cycling, the management of greenhouse gas emissions from soil, soil constraint management, and conservation agriculture.

Kathryn is passionate about science communication and helping other researchers communicate their findings to the broader scientific community. She has a strong publication record and extensive experience in developing written material for an academic audience. Kathryn regularly supports other researchers to write funding proposals, reports, and papers for scientific journals.

[Return to course list](#)

## Mentoring Skills

[Click here to enrol](#)

### Course description

This course will match participant mentors with participant mentees and guide them through the process of developing and maintaining an effective mentoring partnership together. If you wish to be a mentor, this is an opportunity for you to develop your skills and experience in mentoring others - you will typically have more than 10 years' professional experience. If you wish to be a mentee, this is an opportunity for you to receive mentorship from a more experienced professional - you will typically have less than 10 years' professional experience. Topics will include setting boundaries, developing personal understanding, setting and tracking career goals, and reflecting upon and reviewing the mentoring partnership.

### Course Convenor - Dr Rebecca Spence



Rebecca has over 20 years' experience working with civil society and government leaders in a range of Asia Pacific countries. Her professional experience includes: delivering leadership skills training in developing countries; delivering conflict and fragility advisory services; gender and social inclusion advisory services; specialised training design in leadership for peace, and women, peace and security; capacity building; dialogue design; monitoring and evaluation; partnership brokering; and facilitation of high-level meetings and dialogues. Rebecca is currently Team Leader for the

design and delivery of three ACIAR-funded leadership training programs which cater to agricultural researchers and scientists in 23 countries.

### Course convenor - Dr Phil Harrell



Phil is a sought-after public speaker, educator and consultant. Phil is a qualified Master Coach in Leading, Managing and Coaching by Values through the International Coach Federation. He has been presenting his unique and engaging style of leadership and management development training throughout Australia, New Zealand, the South Pacific and South East Asia for over 25 years. These have included the design and delivery of major organisational change initiatives, executive leadership development, strategic planning, organisational team building and project management

consulting and training. Phil is currently supporting the University of New England's involvement with ACIAR funded projects.

[Return to course list](#)

## Policy Influencing Skills

[Click here to enrol](#)

### **Course description**

So that research does not sit in a report and has real world application, translating science into action is an essential next step in the implementation of research outcomes. The development of science into policy is one way to create action. Although there is no model or approach that works for every context, participants will develop their knowledge of core tools that can be implemented to identify the stakeholder landscape and how change can occur to influence policy.

### **Course Convenor**

To be confirmed

[Return to course list](#)

## Qualitative Research Methods

[Click here to enrol](#)

### Course description

This course provides an introduction to qualitative research methods, equipping participants with the foundational knowledge and skills necessary to be able to identify the role of qualitative research methods in interdisciplinary research projects, apply common qualitative research methods used in ACIAR research projects, apply best practice principles to analyse qualitative data in interdisciplinary research, and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of qualitative analysis methods used in real world case studies.

### Course Convenor - Ms Alison Moore



Alison is an agricultural extension professional with 30 years' experience in community development with research experience in rural sociology. She has interdisciplinary science qualifications with a first degree in agricultural economics and a Masters in social planning and development. She has coordinated the community support program for Landcare in Queensland, Australia and has worked in Canada, Sweden, Finland, Cambodia, Timor-Leste and the Solomon Islands.

Alison is currently the manager of The University of Queensland's (UQ) Pinjarra Hills Research Precinct and most recently she has been a member of a UQ team delivering an ACIAR project with agricultural and veterinary universities in Myanmar. She lectures in postgraduate courses of evaluation, social planning/community development, extension and stakeholder engagement. As a consultant she has conducted evaluations including with the Queensland Farmers Federation, Queensland University of Technology, the non-government sector in Timor-Leste, European Union and both Australian and Queensland Governments.

[Return to course list](#)

## Quantitative Research Methods

[Click here to enrol](#)

### Course description

This course provides an introduction to quantitative research methods, equipping participants with the foundational knowledge and skills necessary to be able to identify the role of quantitative research methods in interdisciplinary research projects, evaluate common quantitative research methods used in ACIAR research projects, apply best practice principles to analyse quantitative data in interdisciplinary research, and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of quantitative analysis methods used in real world case studies.

### Course Convenor - Dr Gunnar Kirchhof



Gunnar is a Principal Research Fellow and Senior Lecturer at the School of Agriculture and Food Sciences (SAFS) at The University of Queensland (UQ). As lecturer of Land Resources Sciences at UQ, he has both led and collaborated on over half a dozen projects, and supervised numerous research staff and students. His research has focussed on topics including soil-water relationships; conservation agriculture and irrigation scheduling; soil erosion; water and nutrient balances; dry-land salinity management; and water recycling. Gunnar combines over 35 years of academic research, teaching and consulting experience, including designing and leading 12 Australian Government-funded Australia Awards short courses on topics such as

Dryland Farming and Irrigation for Water Resources Management for Agriculture.

[Return to course list](#)

## Research in the Field

[Click here to enrol](#)

### Course description

After completing this course, participants will have developed their knowledge of field research and be able to apply best practice principles to field and farmer surveys and to experimental design. The course will also cover sampling methods used in agricultural research and key considerations when collecting seed, soil and water samples.

### Course Convenor - Dr Yash Dang



Yash is Principal Research Fellow at The University of Queensland (UQ) who possesses extensive experience in soil and nutrient management. He is currently leading a national project on low-cost carbon stock estimation using proximal and remote sensing. He is also leading the northern grains region in national Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) projects to identify and manage soil constraints, conservation agriculture, strategic tillage and sustainable land management practices. While his research spans the areas of crop production, much of his research focuses

on soil constraints. He has also coordinated soil carbon and soil quality projects in Queensland cropping soils.

Yash has great faith in engaging with the farmers to develop collaborative, participatory research projects to address soil health issues. He also has strong interest in proximal and remote sensing to identify constraints at farm and national scales for site-specific soil and nutrient management.

[Return to course list](#)

## Research Proposal Skills

[Click here to enrol](#)

### Course description

ACIAR and other international agricultural research organisations commission research from collaborators. Being able to develop a research proposal is therefore highly relevant to achieving collaboration on research projects. In this course, participants will understand and apply strategies to: formulate project ideas and locate funding opportunities; identify specific grant requirements, assemble a project team, and define broad project aims and activities; and structure and write a proposal document for maximum clarity and impact.

### Course Convenor - Dr Kathryn Page



Kathryn is a soil scientist with over 20 years' experience. She has worked extensively on natural resource management issues relating to soil, including carbon and nitrogen cycling, the management of greenhouse gas emissions from soil, soil constraint management, and conservation agriculture.

Kathryn is passionate about science communication and helping other researchers communicate their findings to the broader scientific community. She has a strong publication record and extensive experience in developing written material for an academic audience. Kathryn regularly supports other researchers to write funding proposals, reports, and papers for scientific journals.

[Return to course list](#)

## Science Communication

[Click here to enrol](#)

### Course description

In this course, we will explore why, to whom and how we can and should be communicating our science. We will unravel the various functions that science communication serves within the agricultural knowledge and information system, and for society at large. We will also review and practice how to design effective communication for specific audiences, using a variety of platforms and modes of communication, including written, verbal, visual and mixed formats.

### Course Convenor - Associate Professor Elske van de Fliert



Elske is the Director of the Centre for Communication and Social Change at the University of Queensland (UQ). She also facilitates and teaches in the Communication for Social Change field of study of the Master of Communication program. She obtained a PhD in Communication & Innovation in 1993 from Wageningen University & Research, The Netherlands. Elske started her academic career at UQ in 2006, after two decades working in research, development and teaching positions in Indonesia, Vietnam, China and Sri Lanka, and across other countries in Asia and East Africa.

Elske's research interests include participatory development communication, facilitation of transdisciplinary research for sustainable and equitable development, and impact assessment of social change processes. Over the years at UQ, she has conducted research projects and consultancies in Indonesia, Timor Leste, Vietnam, Mongolia, Philippines and Azerbaijan. She has published widely on a range of topics related to participatory research and communication in sustainable rural development.

[Return to course list](#)



## Scientific Data Analysis & Interpretation

[Click here to enrol](#)

### **Course description**

Being able to analyse and interpret data is a crucial skill in an effective researcher. This course will enable participants to identify tools and processes to strengthen their data analysis and interpretation, have increased confidence to apply data analysis and interpretation, and identify areas for ongoing improvement to develop into a personal action plan.

### **Course Convenor**

To be confirmed

[Return to course list](#)

## Values-based Leadership

[Click here to enrol](#)

### Course description

Leadership skills are key to effectively managing research projects and teams to drive outcomes. As a result of completing this course, participants will be able to define values-based leadership, identify their personal leadership and effective communication practices within the contexts of their team, have an increased understanding of program management and strategic thinking, and have increased confidence to lead research teams.

### Course Convenor - Dr Rebecca Spence



Rebecca has over 20 years' experience working with civil society and government leaders in a range of Asia Pacific countries. Her professional experience includes: delivering leadership skills training in developing countries; delivering conflict and fragility advisory services; gender and social inclusion advisory services; specialised training design in leadership for peace, and women, peace and security; capacity building; dialogue design; monitoring and evaluation; partnership brokering; and facilitation of

high-level meetings and dialogues. Rebecca is currently team leader for the design and delivery of three ACIAR-funded leadership training programs which cater to agricultural researchers and scientists in 23 countries.

### Course Convenor - Dr Phil Harrell



Phil is a sought-after public speaker, educator and consultant. Phil is a qualified Master Coach in Leading, Managing and Coaching by Values through the International Coach Federation. He has been presenting his unique and engaging style of leadership and management development training throughout Australia, New Zealand, the South Pacific and South East Asia for over 25 years. These have included the design and delivery of major

organisational change initiatives, executive leadership development, strategic planning, organisational team building and project management consulting and training. Phil is currently supporting the University of New England's involvement with ACIAR funded projects.

[Return to course list](#)