



# GEOS7922

## Advanced Field and Laboratory Techniques

Session 2, Special circumstance 2020

*Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences*

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#### **Disclaimer**

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#### **Notice**

As part of [Phase 3 of our return to campus plan](#), most units will now run tutorials, seminars and other small group learning activities on campus for the second half-year, while keeping an online version available for those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face and online activities for your unit, please go to [timetable viewer](#). To check detailed information on unit assessments visit your unit's iLearn space or consult your unit convenor.

## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Heather Handley

[heather.handley@mq.edu.au](mailto:heather.handley@mq.edu.au)

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MRes

Corequisites

Co-badged status

GEOS8822

Unit description

This foundation unit provides opportunities for preparative training and hands-on experience in learning cutting-edge field and/or laboratory techniques in Earth and Environmental Sciences. Generic research skills developed include research planning, time management, budgeting, note-taking, sketching and formulation of a field sampling or laboratory investigation campaign. Students will explore advanced analytical techniques that may include using high-end equipment and/or completing a field trip that develops field methods, such as geomorphological, soil or outcrop analysis, or terrestrial or marine sample collection. Students will gain a highly tailored experience of advanced techniques relevant to their specific research interests in consultation with a research group or research mentor. Students will demonstrate mastery of new skills through production of a field or laboratory report and associated activities.

## Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

**ULO1:** Demonstrate knowledge of research methods and advanced analytical techniques through the design and implementation of a project plan to answer a specific research question

**ULO3:** Work professionally with a research supervisor, and other research collaborators

as required to plan and undertake a research project.

**ULO2:** Effectively communicate the design of a field sampling or laboratory investigation to your peers and project-relevant academics using verbal and written methods

**ULO4:** Appropriately record research findings and utilise these records to produce a research report and reflect on initial project design.

## General Assessment Information

### Assessment Criteria

Assessment at Macquarie University is standards-based, as outlined in the [Assessment Policy](#). This means that your work will be assessed against clear criteria, and these criteria (e.g. in a rubric) will be made available when the assessment tasks are released to you on iLearn.

### Submission of Assessments

All assessments must be submitted online through [Turnitin](#) unless otherwise indicated. Links for the submission of each assessment will be available on [iLearn](#).

You should always check that you have uploaded the correct file. If you have a problem, please email the Unit Convenor with your correct file. You must also keep a copy of your assessments until the end of semester in case there is a problem with your submission. It is your responsibility to ensure that you can provide a copy of your assessment if requested.

### Marking of Assessments

Assignments will usually be marked through Turnitin with grades provided through Gradebook on iLearn. Please do not submit your assessments via email or in hard copy unless requested (e.g. a sketch or drawing).

We aim to return your assessment grades and feedback within two to three weeks of the date that you submitted it. We appreciate your patience and will advise you through iLearn when your marked assessments and feedback are available for viewing.

### Penalties for Late Assessments

The penalty for late submission of assessments in this unit is **ten percent (10 %) of the assessment value per day**, calculated from the due time and date. This means that if the assignment is worth a total of 30 marks (or 30 % of the unit) you will lose 3 marks for each day it is late. This is a hefty penalty designed to make you aware of the importance of organising yourself around assessment due dates. The penalty will be applied over weekdays and weekends unless you have been granted an extension prior to the due date.

### Extensions for Assessments

To obtain an extension for an assessment task, you will need to follow the formal process as outlined in the [Special Consideration Policy](#), and you must provide appropriate supporting evidence (e.g. medical certificate - see advice for [Special Consideration](#) requests). The final decision regarding the granting of an extension lies with the unit convenor. Permission for extensions must be sought **before the due date** unless there are exceptional

circumstances. Please let us know of problems in advance or as soon as possible, not after the event. We are likely to be much more sympathetic and able to accommodate your circumstance if you follow this advice.

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<a href="#">Project Plan Presentation</a>	10%	No	18/8/2020
<a href="#">Lab/Field notebook</a>	30%	No	20/10/2020
<a href="#">Project Report</a>	50%	No	30/10/2020
<a href="#">Reflection task</a>	10%	No	3/11/2020

### Project Plan Presentation

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Presentation

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 10 hours

Due: **18/8/2020**

Weighting: **10%**

A 10 minute presentation and 5 minute Q&A on the proposed project plan including methods, budget and timeline

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of research methods and advanced analytical techniques through the design and implementation of a project plan to answer a specific research question
- Effectively communicate the design of a field sampling or laboratory investigation to your peers and project-relevant academics using verbal and written methods

### Lab/Field notebook

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Lab book

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 0 hours

Due: **20/10/2020**

Weighting: **30%**

Record of field and/or laboratory activities including reflections on limitations and assumptions of the project design. May contain raw, observational data acquired in the field or in a practical

activity, Records may include analyses of data and a discussion of what the data reveal.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Appropriately record research findings and utilise these records to produce a research report and reflect on initial project design.

## Project Report

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Report

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 57 hours

Due: **30/10/2020**

Weighting: **50%**

Project report to include introduction to research question, methods and research plan and research findings.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of research methods and advanced analytical techniques through the design and implementation of a project plan to answer a specific research question
- Work professionally with a research supervisor, and other research collaborators as required to plan and undertake a research project.
- Appropriately record research findings and utilise these records to produce a research report and reflect on initial project design.

## Reflection task

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Reflective Writing

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 5 hours

Due: **3/11/2020**

Weighting: **10%**

Written reflection on initial individual project plan and recommendations in planning and undertaking research projects to avoid potential pitfalls based on group discussion and reflection.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Appropriately record research findings and utilise these records to produce a research report and reflect on initial project design.
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<sup>1</sup> If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

<sup>2</sup> Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

## Delivery and Resources

### Unit iLearn

This unit has an iLearn page that can be accessed through [ilearn.mq.edu.au](http://ilearn.mq.edu.au). It contains important information and other materials relating to the unit, including details and links for assessments.

### Communication

The unit iLearn is the primary way that we communicate with you. Please check it regularly for announcements and posts. You are encouraged to use the Discussion Board on iLearn to post questions and generate discussion with other students. Please only email the convenor with private matters – all other questions should be posted on iLearn.

### Unit Organisation

The organisation of the unit is outlined in a detailed unit schedule which is available on [iLearn](#).

### Classes

The class timetable for this unit can be found through the [Timetable](#) portal. You should also check the unit schedule as some weeks may have other instructions or locations.

### Workload

The expected workload for this 10-credit point unit is 150 hours of activity.

### Requirements to complete this unit satisfactorily

To complete this unit satisfactorily, you must:

1. Participate in all scheduled classes;
2. Complete all assessments; and
3. Achieve a pass grade or higher.

The descriptions for grades common to all coursework units offered by Macquarie University are outlined in [Schedule 1 of the Assessment Policy](#).

## Recommended Texts and/or Materials

There are no recommended texts for this unit. Please see iLearn for additional resources

## Technology Used and Required

This unit will use iLearn and Echo360. See the [Instructions on how to log in to iLearn](#) and the [iLearn quick guides for students](#) which will help you:

- [Getting started](#) - Find out how to navigate and familiarise yourself with the iLearn environment
- [Activities](#) - Learn how to effectively complete the activities required of you in iLearn
- [Assignments and Gradebook](#) - Find out how to submit assessments and view your grades using iLearn
- [Online study tips](#) - Studying online is a unique experience, learn how to navigate it here
- [Discussion forums](#) - Explore the different types, and features of discussion forums in iLearn
- [Lecture recordings](#) - Find out how to access lectures online, as well as the features available to you

## Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central).

## Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/getting-started/student-conduct>

## Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit <ask.mq.edu.au> or if you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto:globalmba.support@mq.edu.au)

## Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

## Learning Skills

Learning Skills (<mq.edu.au/learningskills>) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Getting help with your assignment](#)
- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

## Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

## Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at <ask.mq.edu.au>

If you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto:globalmba.support@mq.edu.au)

## IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit [http://www.mq.edu.au/about\\_us/offices\\_and\\_units/information\\_technology/help/](http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/).

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#).



The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.