



GEOS8811

Research Topics in Earth and Environmental Sciences

Session 2, Special circumstance 2020

Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences

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Macquarie University has taken all reasonable measures to ensure the information in this publication is accurate and up-to-date. However, the information may change or become out-dated as a result of change in University policies, procedures or rules. The University reserves the right to make changes to any information in this publication without notice. Users of this publication are advised to check the website version of this publication [or the relevant faculty or department] before acting on any information in this publication.

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

Emilie Ens

emilie.ens@mq.edu.au

By email appointment

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MGeoSc or MScInnovationGeologyGeophys or GradDipGeoSc

Corequisites

Co-badged status

GEOS7711

Unit description

This unit comprises study of special topics in Earth and Environmental Sciences and is designed to supplement a student's existing knowledge and coursework with targeted material and techniques that will be required for their on-going Masters units. Activities may include attending a national or international summer school, cross-institutional study or highly tailored units of study that are exemplars of current analytical/theoretical concepts or problem-solving applications of Earth and Environmental Sciences research methods. Topics and activities are selected with an academic advisor to encourage students to explore emerging themes in Earth and Environmental Sciences. Students develop skills in investigation and deep analysis required to undertake more advanced research.

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 advanced knowledge of the principles and concepts within the discipline

ULO2: Demonstrate an advanced knowledge of research principles and methods

ULO3: Synthesize and analyse information from a variety of sources

ULO4: Articulate clearly a coherent argument in written, oral or technical communication

as relevant to the specific activity chosen

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Unit plan	5%	Yes	Week 2
Assessment portfolio	95%	No	Week 13

Unit plan

Assessment Type ¹: Learning plan

Indicative Time on Task ²: 5 hours

Due: **Week 2**

Weighting: **5%**

This is a hurdle assessment task (see [assessment policy](#) for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)

With your supervisor develop a learning plan for the unit including assessment tasks and total time to be spent on the tasks.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate advanced knowledge of the principles and concepts within the discipline
- Articulate clearly a coherent argument in written, oral or technical communication as relevant to the specific activity chosen

Assessment portfolio

Assessment Type ¹: Portfolio

Indicative Time on Task ²: 132 hours

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **95%**

Supervisor and student to determine Assessment Tasks and weightings for project based units OR as listed in unit guides where components of other units are being undertaken; and approved by the Unit convenor. Minimum 3 tasks required, with a maximum of 60% weighting for any one task. Tasks can vary and may include a scientific report, report, essay or exam, as appropriate for a 10cp unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate advanced knowledge of the principles and concepts within the discipline
- Demonstrate an advanced knowledge of research principles and methods
- Synthesize and analyse information from a variety of sources
- Articulate clearly a coherent argument in written, oral or technical communication as relevant to the specific activity chosen

¹ 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.

² 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

This Unit consists of tailored projects or activities relevant to the Masters (Coursework) program. Students should contact the Unit convenor to discuss potential supervisors for projects/activities. In Week 1 all students should meet up with their supervisor and discuss projects or activities that are relevant for this Unit. Students should meet weekly with their nominated supervisor.

Unit Schedule

There is no fixed timetable or ilearn site for this unit. Please contact the Unit convenor if you have any questions or concerns.

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

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

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit 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.