BIOL8601

Biology Research Placement

Full year 1, In person-placement, On location 2023

School of Natural Sciences

Contents

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Fleur Ponton
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Credit points
20

Prerequisites
(20cp from (BIOL8610 or BIOL861) or BIOL873 or (BIOL8740 or BIOL874) or (BIOL8750 or BIOL875) or (BIOL8770 or BIOL877) or (BIOL8870 or BIOL887)) and permission by special approval

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit enables the student to acquire biological research experience by undertaking an independent research project under academic supervision, or in conjunction with a private or public organisation within the conservation sector. The research topic may be flexible, but in most cases it will be aligned with the objectives of an academic staff member involved in research, or the external conservation organisation. Students must organise their project and supervisor well before commencing this unit.

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 professionalism by adhering to all workplace standards, particularly with regard to ethics, occupational health and safety, and legal requirements.

ULO2: Plan and implement a research project to address a hypothesis using principles of experimental design and appropriate data collection methods for measuring and assessing biological processes.

ULO3: Demonstrate effective time and project management skills by working independently to collect scientific data and by documenting these efforts using a project

notebook.

ULO4: Communicate research findings to a scientific audience in written form by constructing a coherent, well structured document.

ULO5: Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the scientific, social, and legal dimensions of an issue of particular relevance to the conservation sector.

General Assessment Information

Assessments

Should assessments be missed due to illness or misadventure, students should apply for Special Consideration (see below). Assessments not submitted by the due date will receive a mark of zero **unless** late submissions are specifically allowed as indicated in the unit guide or on iLearn.

Late Assessment Submission Penalty

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark of the task) will be applied for each day a written report or presentation assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a grade of '0' will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. The submission time for all uploaded assessments is 11:55 pm. A 1-hour grace period will be provided to students who experience a technical concern. For any late submission of time-sensitive tasks, such as scheduled tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, and/or scheduled practical assessments/labs, please apply for Special Consideration.

Special Consideration

The Special Consideration Policy aims to support students who have been impacted by short-term circumstances or events that are serious, unavoidable and significantly disruptive, and which may affect their performance in assessment. If you experience circumstances or events that affect your ability to complete the assessments in this unit on time, please inform the convenor and submit a Special Consideration request through ask.mq.edu.au.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Poster	15%	No	28/06/2023
Supervisor Report	25%	No	05/11/2023
Project proposal	10%	No	19/03/2023
Scientific Report	50%	No	05/11/2023

Poster

Assessment Type [1]: Poster

Indicative Time on Task [2]: 10 hours
Due: **28/06/2023**
Weighting: **15%**

Develop a poster outlining your project and methodology.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Demonstrate professionalism by adhering to all workplace standards, particularly with regard to ethics, occupational health and safety, and legal requirements.
- Plan and implement a research project to address a hypothesis using principles of experimental design and appropriate data collection methods for measuring and assessing biological processes.
- Demonstrate effective time and project management skills by working independently to collect scientific data and by documenting these efforts using a project notebook.
- Communicate research findings to a scientific audience in written form by constructing a coherent, well structured document.

Supervisor Report

Assessment Type [1]: Performance
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 0 hours
Due: **05/11/2023**
Weighting: **25%**

Supervisors will provide a report on student performance, progress, abilities acquired and attendance throughout placement.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Demonstrate professionalism by adhering to all workplace standards, particularly with regard to ethics, occupational health and safety, and legal requirements.
- Plan and implement a research project to address a hypothesis using principles of experimental design and appropriate data collection methods for measuring and assessing biological processes.
- Demonstrate effective time and project management skills by working independently to collect scientific data and by documenting these efforts using a project notebook.

- Communicate research findings to a scientific audience in written form by constructing a coherent, well structured document.
- Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the scientific, social, and legal dimensions of an issue of particular relevance to the conservation sector.

Project proposal

Assessment Type [1]: Design Task
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 5 hours
Due: **19/03/2023**
Weighting: **10%**

Develop a short proposal explaining the work that you will undertake

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Plan and implement a research project to address a hypothesis using principles of experimental design and appropriate data collection methods for measuring and assessing biological processes.
- Demonstrate effective time and project management skills by working independently to collect scientific data and by documenting these efforts using a project notebook.

Scientific Report

Assessment Type [1]: Report
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 45 hours
Due: **05/11/2023**
Weighting: **50%**

Complete the Full Scientific Report in the form of a Scientific Paper

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Plan and implement a research project to address a hypothesis using principles of experimental design and appropriate data collection methods for measuring and assessing biological processes.
- Demonstrate effective time and project management skills by working independently to collect scientific data and by documenting these efforts using a project notebook.
- Communicate research findings to a scientific audience in written form by constructing a

coherent, well structured document.

- Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the scientific, social, and legal dimensions of an issue of particular relevance to the conservation sector.

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[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

Methods of Communication

We will communicate with you via your university email or through announcements on iLearn. Queries to convenors can either be placed on the iLearn discussion board or sent to BIOL8601@mq.edu.au from your university email address.

COVID Information

For the latest information on the University's response to COVID-19, please refer to the Coronavirus infection page on the Macquarie website: https://www.mq.edu.au/about/coronavirus-faqs. Remember to check this page regularly in case the information and requirements change during semester. If there are any changes to this unit in relation to COVID, these will be communicated via iLearn.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (https://policies.mq.edu.au). 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
- Assessment Procedure
- Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public
- Special Consideration Policy

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

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit Policy Central (https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the search tool.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/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

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe academic integrity – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free online writing and maths support, academic skills development and wellbeing consultations.

Student Support

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

The Writing Centre

The Writing Centre provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- Workshops
- Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader
- Access StudyWISE
- Upload an assignment to Studiosity
- Complete the 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

Macquarie University offers a range of Student Support Services including:

- IT Support
- Accessibility and disability support with study
- Mental health support
- Safety support to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues
- Student Advocacy provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via AskMQ, or contact Service Connect.

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.

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
03/02/2023	submission dates changed from 2022 to 2023 ;-)