



NSCI7930

Research Topics in Natural Sciences 1

Session 1, In person-scheduled-infrequent, North Ryde 2024

School of Natural Sciences

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Disclaimer

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.

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff Martin Whiting martin.whiting@mq.edu.au
Credit points 10
Prerequisites Admission to MRes
Corequisites
Co-badged status It is co-badged with FOSE7701.
Unit description This unit comprises study of special topics in the natural sciences, and is designed to supplement a student's existing knowledge and coursework with targeted material and techniques that will be required for their MRes thesis project in year two. 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. Topics and activities will be selected with the aid of an academic supervisor.

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:** Critically synthesize and evaluate information from a variety of sources
- ULO2:** Demonstrate an advanced knowledge of research principles and methods
- ULO3:** Rigorously apply scientific methods to address a research question
- 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
Learning plan	5%	Yes	Week 3
Assessment tasks (3+)	95%	No	Week 8-10

Learning plan

Assessment Type [1](#): Learning plan

Indicative Time on Task [2](#): 5 hours

Due: **Week 3**

Weighting: **5%**

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

You will work with the supervisor or unit convenor to develop a learning plan for the unit that includes all assessment tasks and the total time to be spent on these tasks (not to exceed 132 hrs).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically synthesize and evaluate information from a variety of sources
- Articulate clearly a coherent argument in written, oral or technical communication as relevant to the specific activity chosen

Assessment tasks (3+)

Assessment Type [1](#): Project

Indicative Time on Task [2](#): 132 hours

Due: **Week 8-10**

Weighting: **95%**

You will have a minimum of 3 assessment tasks, 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. Assessment tasks and weightings will follow the learning plan agreed upon with the supervisor for a project-based unit, or will be as listed in the unit guides when components of other units are being undertaken with the approval of the unit convenor.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically synthesize and evaluate information from a variety of sources
- Demonstrate an advanced knowledge of research principles and methods
- Rigorously apply scientific methods to address a research question
- 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

MRes Shell units are designed to provide flexibility in learning options for year 1 Masters of Research students. The goal of these units is to provide a way for students to acquire capabilities that will be useful for their year 2 project or cross-disciplinary experience. The goal is not to provide them with extra time to start their projects.

The activities and assessments are determined between the supervisor and the student and equate to a workload of 150 hours.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](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 \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies\)](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 \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](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.

Unit information based on version 2024.03 of the [Handbook](#)