



ENVS8407

Field Methods in Environmental Science

Session 3, In person-scheduled-intensive, Other 2024

School of Natural Sciences

Contents

<u>General Information</u>	2
<u>Learning Outcomes</u>	3
<u>General Assessment Information</u>	3
<u>Assessment Tasks</u>	4
<u>Delivery and Resources</u>	6
<u>Unit Schedule</u>	7
<u>Policies and Procedures</u>	8

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Simon Griffith

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MEnv or MSc or GradDipEnv or GradCertEnv or MEnvPlan or MPlan or MSusDev or GradDipSusDev or GradCertSusDev or MMarScMgt or MConsBiol or GradDipConsBiol or MEngEnvSafetyEng or MSclInnovationEnvSc

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit is run over the first two weeks of Session 3 and features an eight-day field trip to Jervis Bay on the New South Wales south coast. The unit focuses on coastal zone management issues, covering a mix of themes relevant to environmental science, such as: water quality, geomorphology, aquatic ecology, terrestrial ecology, coastal impacts, hazards and community attitudes. Students work in small groups to design a field data collection program, and learn different data collection and analysis methods. At the end of the field trip, each group presents their results, conclusions and recommendations to the class. Members of the local council and community are also invited to the presentations. For many students, this unit is the highlight of their Masters degree because of the opportunity to gain practical skills and knowledge, and build valuable collaborative networks with other students.

Important info:

- Check the university timetable for the dates of the field trip.
- There is a separate cost of approximately \$400 to cover accommodation during the field trip.
- Transport is not included, however, there will be a limited number of seats available in the mini-buses for a small additional cost.

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 evaluate the connections between different environmental problems, stakeholders and key factors influencing environmental management

ULO2: Design a field data collection program to address an environmental issue or problem

ULO3: Select and describe appropriate field survey and data collection methods

ULO4: Collect, analyse and evaluate field data, and assess the implications of results with respect to environmental science and management

ULO5: Develop skills in effective teamwork and communication of results

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 and instructions 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 Assessments 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. We aim to return your assessment grades and feedback within two 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.

Group Assessments For Group assessments, all members of the group will initially receive the same mark, but the group mark will be converted to an individual mark based on the outcomes of peer review. This means that your mark may be moderated up or down depending on your contribution to the group assessment.

Penalties for Late Assessments

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written 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. A 1-hour grace period is provided for online submissions of non-timed assessments for those 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, students need to submit an application for [Special Consideration](#).

Assessments where Late Submissions will be accepted

In this unit, late submissions will be accepted for the Annotated Mind Map as per the Standard Late Penalty Policy. The Field Participation assessment is mandatory. Students should withdraw from the unit if they can not participate on the field trip. All other assessments do not take late submissions unless Special Consideration is granted. Please see <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/assessment-exams/assessments> for more information.

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.

Academic Honesty In completing and submitting the Assessments, you must be aware of, and adhere to, the University policy on Academic Honesty, which can be accessed here: http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html. The University implements the Academic Honesty Policy for all pieces of academic work by using a number of systems and checks, including: • Copy detection software such as Turnitin • Random sampling of assessment items to check for similarities • Comparing student performance across a number of tasks • Requiring students to defend submitted work e.g. oral exams or presentations The penalties, where a person has been proven to have breached the policy (or any of its related procedures), are outlined here: http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/schedule_penalties.html

Each student is responsible for their own work and for reporting suspected breaches to the convenor or Head of School together with all relevant materials or evidence of the basis of the allegation.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Annotated mind-map	20%	No	2024-11-28
Knowledge of field methods	30%	No	2024-12-06
Data group presentation	30%	No	2024-12-07
Field group Engagement	20%	No	Throughout field course

Annotated mind-map

Assessment Type ¹: Qualitative analysis task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 18 hours

Due: **2024-11-28**

Weighting: **20%**

This assessment requires each student to create a detailed mind-map (or concept map) for their field theme based on the background readings and their own literature search.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically evaluate the connections between different environmental problems, stakeholders and key factors influencing environmental management

Knowledge of field methods

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 0 hours

Due: **2024-12-06**

Weighting: **30%**

This assessment is a written test of knowledge relating to the data collection methods and how to conduct field work more generally.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Design a field data collection program to address an environmental issue or problem
- Select and describe appropriate field survey and data collection methods

Data group presentation

Assessment Type ¹: Presentation

Indicative Time on Task ²: 0 hours

Due: **2024-12-07**

Weighting: **30%**

On the last day of the field trip, each Data Group will present the results and implications of their field projects.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Design a field data collection program to address an environmental issue or problem
- Collect, analyse and evaluate field data, and assess the implications of results with respect to environmental science and management
- Develop skills in effective teamwork and communication of results

Field group Engagement

Assessment Type ¹: Practice-based task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 0 hours

Due: **Throughout field course**

Weighting: **20%**

Students will demonstrate their learning & application of field work skills & data collection through group-based contributions to tasks & activities.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Collect, analyse and evaluate field data, and assess the implications of results with respect to environmental science and management
- Develop skills in effective teamwork and communication of results

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

Unit iLearn This unit has an iLearn page that can be accessed through ilearn.mq.edu.au. It contains important information and other materials relating to the unit, including further details on the assessments, links for uploading assessment submissions, details on the field trip, and a discussion page. It will also be used to circulate data and other materials related to the field trip and 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.

Classes and Unit Schedule This unit is delivered in intensive mode as a 2 week block. It includes several workshops and a multi-day field trip which are compulsory - the dates for these can be found by searching for ENV58407 in the [Timetable portal](#). The unit schedule and more detailed information on the unit will be provided through iLearn. This is particularly important especially if changes need to be made due to COVID.

Workload The expected workload for this 10-credit point unit is 150 hours of activity, comprising of workshops, group-based activities, the field trip, and independent study to complete the assessments.

Requirements to complete this unit satisfactorily

In order to successfully complete this unit, you must: 1. Attend and participate in all the workshops and group-based activities; 2. Attend and participate in all days of the field trip; 3. Submit all assessments; 4. 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](#). Non-attendance at the field trip for any reason other than those outlined in the Disruption to Studies Policy will result in an automatic fail. NOTE: If you cannot attend the field trip for any reason, you should inform the unit convenor and withdraw from the unit.

Recommended Texts and/or Materials There is no specific textbook for this unit. You will be required to research information independently and consult a wide variety of information sources to aid your learning in this unit.

Referencing In this unit, the preferred style of referencing is Harvard (author, date). For further details on the Harvard style, go to: <https://libguides.mq.edu.au/referencing/Harvard>

Technology Used and Required This unit will use iLearn. 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

Unit Schedule

Date	Scheduled activity	Format
Mon 25 Nov	Workshop 1	This will be an on-campus workshop, consisting of lectures and small-group activities
Tues 26 Nov – Thurs 28 Nov	Independent study	Undertake background reading and research to complete your annotated mind-map
Fri 29 Nov	Workshop 2	In this on-campus workshop, you will meet up in your Data Groups and start preparing for the field trip
Weekend (30 Nov- 1 Dec)	No class	Complete any remaining field trip preparation

Mon 2 – Sun 8 Dec	Field Trip at Jervis Bay	Depart MQ at 8 am and drive to Huskisson. Field data collection and analysis (Mon-Thurs), written test on field methods (Friday), and group presentations (Sat afternoon)
Sun 8 Dec	Return to MQ Pack-up and cleaning.	Drive back to MQ, arriving approx 2 pm

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 connect.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 the [Service Connect Portal](#), 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](#)