



ENVS1000

Environment Skills

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

School of Natural Sciences

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General Information

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to BEnv

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This core skills-based unit introduces students to the employability and technical skills that are essential for a career in the environmental sciences, and lays the important groundwork for subsequent units in the Bachelor of Environment. The unit is delivered through a series of online modules, masterclasses and practical sessions, aimed at providing a fundamental understanding of what each skill is and why it is important. Opportunities for practical hands-on experience in the field and laboratory are also provided so that each student can be developing their capabilities and confidence in mastering these essential employability and technical skills.

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 an understanding of the technical and employability skills that are needed to work effectively in environmental roles.

ULO2: Describe why each skill is important and show using examples, how they are applied in different contexts.

ULO3: Achieve a basic level of competency in operating some of the tools and equipment that are commonly used in the office, laboratory and field by environment professionals.

ULO4: Demonstrate professional qualities and behaviours, including expertise in writing a formal email, and compliance with work, health and safety requirements when in the laboratory or in the field.

ULO5: Engage with feedback from others and undertake self-review, reflecting on how these apply to your performance both as an individual and as a team member.

ULO6: Show evidence of skills development by recording achievements in an ePortfolio, and demonstrate an understanding of the transferability of these skills within and between different disciplines.

General Assessment Information

Requirements to pass this unit

To pass this unit students must

- Attempt all assessments, and
- Achieve a total mark equal to or greater than 50%, and
- Pass all 7 hurdle activities, and
- Achieve at least 50% in the final exam

Hurdle Assessments The learning participation tasks are all Hurdle assessments (7 in total) - they carry no weighting but must be completed to pass this unit. This is because each activity tests a key employability skill and is linked to specific learning outcomes for the unit. If you make an attempt at a hurdle but fail you will be given an opportunity to resit this hurdle towards the end of semester - details will be provided in iLearn. The remaining assessments are three hand-in assessments all carrying a weighting of 20% and a final timed assessment at 40% - none of these assessments are hurdles.

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 will be made available when the assessment tasks are released to you on iLearn.

Submission of Assessments All assignments must be submitted online through Turnitin unless otherwise indicated. Links for the submission of each assignment will be available on iLearn. The due dates for all assessment tasks are not negotiable. If you have commitments that will significantly impact your study during the session then you must plan for this in advance as part

of an effective individual study plan and you may need to contact the unit convenor for advice.

Marking of Assessments Assignments will be marked through Turnitin and feedback will be noted on the assignment. Do not submit your assignments via email or in hard copy. Your grades will be returned using the Grades Report on iLearn. Grades from quizzes and the exam will also be made available on iLearn. We aim to return your assignments with feedback within two to three weeks of the date that you submit your assignment, and before your next assignment is due. We appreciate your patience and will advise you through iLearn when your marked assignments and feedback are available for viewing.

Submission deadlines Online quizzes, in-class activities, or scheduled tests and exam must be undertaken at the time indicated in the unit guide. Should these activities be missed due to illness or misadventure, students may apply for Special Consideration. All other assessments must be submitted by 11:59 pm on their due date. Should these assessments be missed due to illness or misadventure, students should apply for Special Consideration.

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 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 the final exam, 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.

Written Assessments: If you experience circumstances or events that affect your ability to complete the written assessments in this unit on time, please inform the convenor and submit a Special Consideration request through [**ask.mq.edu.au**](http://ask.mq.edu.au).

Weekly hurdle tasks: To pass the unit you need to demonstrate ongoing development of skills and application of knowledge in all 7 hurdles. If you miss a weekly practical class due to a serious, unavoidable and significant disruption, contact your convenor ASAP as you may be able to attend another class that week.

If it is not possible to attend another class, you should still contact your convenor for access to class material to review in your own time.

Note that a Special Consideration should **only be applied for** if you miss more than three of the weekly practical classes.

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 documentation (e.g. medical certificate - see advice for Special Consideration requests) and apply through ask.mq.edu.au. The final decision regarding the granting of an extension and/or a late penalty lies with the unit convenor. Permission for extension must be sought well before the due date unless this is absolutely impossible. 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 flexible in our requirements if you follow this advice.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Reference list	20%	No	06/03/24
GPS and map reading	20%	No	03/04/24
Presentation of figures	20%	No	01/05/24
Learning and participation tasks (Hurdle)	0%	Yes	Weeks 1-11
Timed assessment	40%	No	Week 13 in class

Reference list

Assessment Type ¹: Annotated bibliography

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **06/03/24**

Weighting: **20%**

Compile a reference list using the Harvard style of referencing

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Achieve a basic level of competency in operating some of the tools and equipment that are commonly used in the office, laboratory and field by environment professionals.

GPS and map reading

Assessment Type ¹: Quantitative analysis task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **03/04/24**

Weighting: **20%**

Determine different locations using GPS coordinates and maps

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Achieve a basic level of competency in operating some of the tools and equipment that are commonly used in the office, laboratory and field by environment professionals.

Presentation of figures

Assessment Type ¹: Report

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **01/05/24**

Weighting: **20%**

Create and present good quality figures that are suitable for inclusion in a report or scientific paper

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Achieve a basic level of competency in operating some of the tools and equipment that are commonly used in the office, laboratory and field by environment professionals.

Learning and participation tasks (Hurdle)

Assessment Type ¹: Practice-based task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 18 hours

Due: **Weeks 1-11**

Weighting: **0%**

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

Completion of online quizzes, peer review, attendance and engagement in an employability event, compliance with work health and safety, and creation of an ePortfolio

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the technical and employability skills that are needed to work effectively in environmental roles.
- Demonstrate professional qualities and behaviours, including expertise in writing a formal email, and compliance with work, health and safety requirements when in the laboratory or in the field.

- Engage with feedback from others and undertake self-review, reflecting on how these apply to your performance both as an individual and as a team member.
- Show evidence of skills development by recording achievements in an ePortfolio, and demonstrate an understanding of the transferability of these skills within and between different disciplines.

Timed assessment

Assessment Type ¹: Work-integrated task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **Week 13 in class**

Weighting: **40%**

Exam-style timed assessment covering all of the content presented in the unit including the online modules and practicals

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the technical and employability skills that are needed to work effectively in environmental roles.
- Describe why each skill is important and show using examples, how they are applied in different contexts.
- Show evidence of skills development by recording achievements in an ePortfolio, and demonstrate an understanding of the transferability of these skills within and between different disciplines.

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

CLASSES The class timetable can be found through the Timetable portal. A detailed class schedule with assessment due dates will be made available to all enrolled students through iLearn. Please note that **all classes start in Week 1** so come prepared to work

ONLINE MATERIALS This unit is supported by guided online learning via a series of online components. The link for these components can be found in the iLearn site. Each week you will be expected to complete the component (on a particular theme) for that week in your own study time and before the practical so that you are familiar with the content.

PRACTICALS The practicals are 3 hours, once a week. You are expected to attend your nominated (enrolled on estudent) prac every week. The pracs will be very interactive and hands-on, exploring the theme for each week. Make sure that you have completed the weekly online material before attending the prac, as they are designed to provide you with a framework with which to focus your study of the subject and are an essential and important component of the unit. The online learning components are by no means exhaustive on each and every topic, and you are expected to supplement them by reading. The practicals will be structured as small group discussions and tasks - the more you contribute the more you will learn and gain from this unit. The unit has been designed to start your skills mastery journey and you will be able to document this journey throughout your degree by using an eportfolio platform, which will be introduced discussed and started during the pracs.

FIELDWORK There is a compulsory 1-day field trip in Week 9 (Saturday 4 May). The location is the Sydney Olympic Park - Brick Pit.

ASSESSMENTS There are 4 assessments overall with different percentage weightings ranging from 20-40%. The first three assessments (Reference list, mapping task and presentation of figures) build on the skills that you will learn in the practicals. The fourth assessment is the online timed exam at 40%, which will examine your understanding of the content covered by the online materials and pracs.

HURDLES Certain learning and participation tasks are hurdles in this unit - meaning that they must be completed/passed to be able to pass this unit. There are 7 in total and they include the completion of an online quiz, a peer review activity, a reflective blog, and online course and the creation of an ePortfolio. These tasks are hurdles because they are vital to your mastery of the skills necessary for a Bachelor of Environment degree and for your future employability.

COMMUNICATION

Contact your convenor via email to ask questions or to make an appointment if you wish to communicate face to face. We will communicate with you via your university email (not gmail or hotmail emails) or through announcements on iLearn. Queries to convenors can either be placed on the iLearn discussion board or sent to the unit convenor 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.

Unit Schedule

Week	Guided online learning	Practicals (~3 hrs per week)	Homework, Hurdles and Assessments
1 20/02 KW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to employability skills 	Introduction Welcome, career literacy and what's your dream job	HURDLE TASK 1: Academic Integrity Module quiz – SUBMIT link in ilearn
2 27/02 KW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicator – Scientific writing 	Writing and Referencing Different styles of writing and referencing	HURDLE TASK 2: Practice your academic writing – SUBMIT - Assignments
3 5/03 MQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional – Act like a Professional and the importance of WHS 	Professionalism Being a professional in the environment sector	ASSESSMENT 1: Compile a reference list (20%) - due 6/03/2024
4 12/03 KW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborator – Peer review 	Problem Solving and Team work Group based activity	HURDLE TASK 3: Completion of your SparkPlus Peer review SUBMIT – Spark Plus app
5 19/03 KW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborator cont. – Giving, receiving and responding to feedback 	Feedback and Reflection Peer review and reflection using feedback on assessments and feedback from SparkPlus	HURDLE TASK 4: Reflection on how you've responded to feedback SUBMIT – Blog
6 26/03 MQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achiever – Self-review for improvement 	Mapping Skills Reading maps, using a GPS and translating coordinates onto a map	HURDLE TASK 5: Self-review on your mapping assessment SUBMIT - Blog
7 2/04 KW/ MQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achiever – Recording and documenting 	Observing and Recording (field) How to use basic field equipment and record data in a field note book	ASSESSMENT 2: Mapping task (20%) - due 03/04/2024
8 9/04 MQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learner – Independent learning and new technologies 	Data Analysis Data analysis and graphing using Excel and presenting information as figures	-
BREAK			

9 30/04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None – Revise Recording and documenting and Professional 	No prac in lieu of the Field Trip on Saturday 4 May	ASSESSMENT 3: Presentation of figures (20 %) – due 01/05/2024
KW/ MQ	Saturday 4 May: Field Trip to Sydney Olympic Park Brick Pit Mapping and stratigraphy		HURDLE TASK 6: Complete the maps and logs from SOP SUBMIT - Assignments
10 7/05 KT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Problem solver 	Create your ePortfolio How to sell yourself and your brand	HURDLE TASK 7: Upload the first page of your ePortfolio SUBMIT - Assignments
11 14/05 KW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning – Active Learner 	No prac – Enhance your employability Choose a course, workshop or other activity to enhance your employability or technical skills	No Tasks
12 21/05	None – Revise all modules	No prac – Enhance your employability Choose a course, workshop or other activity to enhance your employability or technical skills	No Tasks
13 28/05	None	ASSESSMENT 4: Timed assessment ONLINE during class time (40%)	No Tasks

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)

[du.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 from Previous Offering

This unit was a new offering in 2020 but is strongly based on the Skills mastery material that Kerrie Tomkins and Kira Westaway have been developing for the School of Natural Sciences and for the Faculty of Science and Engineering.

Unit information based on version 2024.02 of the [Handbook](#)