



MOLS8001

Selected Topics in the Molecular Sciences

Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2025

School of Natural Sciences

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit convenor

Anwar Sunna

anwar.sunna@mq.edu.au

Contact via email

14EaR202

Monday to Thursday - by appointment

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to GradDipBiotech or MBiotech

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit will focus on special topics in Molecular Science. Topics may include biochemistry, cell biology, molecular biology and genomics, medicinal chemistry, organic chemistry, physical chemistry and analytical chemistry; and focus on processes in molecular sciences. Topics will be chosen to encourage students to explore the different disciplines in the Molecular Sciences and to develop knowledge and skills in analysis and investigation.

Learning in this unit enhances student understanding of global challenges identified by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals ([UNSDGs](#)) Good Health and Well Being; Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

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: Acquire a coherent and advanced knowledge of the principles and concepts within the discipline area

ULO2: Demonstrate an advanced knowledge of research principles and methods

ULO3: Synthesize and analyse information from a variety of sources

ULO4: Identify and provide solutions to complex problems with intellectual independence

ULO5: Articulate clearly a coherent argument in written, oral and technical communication skill as relevant to the specific needs of the discipline

ULO6: Think critically and make informed and logical judgement on the arguments of others to arrive at reasonable and meaningful arguments and positions, and formulate and apply ideas to new contexts

ULO7: Demonstrate the ability to apply accumulated knowledge and skills to make decisions in the context of professional practice and/or scholarship

General Assessment Information

General assessment information

Requirements to Pass this Unit

- Achieve a total mark equal to or greater than 50%,

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.

Assessments where Late Submissions will be accepted

Assessment Review Article - Yes, Standard Late Penalty applies

Assessment annotated bibliography - Yes, Standard Late Penalty applies

Assessment oral presentation - No, unless Special Consideration is Granted.

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.

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.

- Assessment Criteria - Use of rubrics for written assessments.
- Submission of Assessments - Submission of Review article and annotated references

should be made via Turnitin.

- Marking of Assessments - Marks and feedback will be provided individually within two weeks of the submission deadline

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.

Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Assessment Portfolio	100%	No	Week 11, Week 12

Assessment Portfolio

Assessment Type ¹: Portfolio

Indicative Time on Task ²: 100 hours

Due: **Week 11, Week 12**

Weighting: **100%**

Assessment tasks and weighting to be determined by supervisor for project/activity based units or as listed in unit guides where components of other units are being undertaken; and approved by Unit Convener.

Minimum 3 tasks required, with a maximum of 60% weighting for any one task. Tasks can vary, eg scientific report, essay (3000 words), exam. Workload must be appropriate for 10cp unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Acquire a coherent and advanced knowledge of the principles and concepts within the discipline area
- Demonstrate an advanced knowledge of research principles and methods
- Synthesize and analyse information from a variety of sources
- Identify and provide solutions to complex problems with intellectual independence
- Articulate clearly a coherent argument in written, oral and technical communication skill as relevant to the specific needs of the discipline
- Think critically and make informed and logical judgement on the arguments of others to arrive at reasonable and meaningful arguments and positions, and formulate and apply ideas to new contexts

- Demonstrate the ability to apply accumulated knowledge and skills to make decisions in the context of professional practice and/or scholarship
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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

MOLS8001 Unit structural outline

There are no scheduled classes for this unit as it is based on independent study. Students will be required to complete a broad literature review on a particular topic, and submit a draft of a manuscript in a format compatible to a peer-reviewed journal. There is no set timetable of activities for this offering, however, progress meetings will be scheduled during the semester.

Students will also be required to complete:

- A 10-min oral presentation of the key content and relevance of their review article.
- 5000 words review article (excluding bibliography)
- Submit 20 peer references selected from the article Reference Section. The selected references should explain the relevance of the paper to the subject, in no more than 200 words for each.

Workshop sessions will be held in weeks 3 and 5 in collaboration with the library. These sessions will be focussed on providing training to the students on how to effectively use the different databases and writing tools available to them from MQ and also use of some software programs to obtain, create and use figures in order to facilitate their completion of their different assessments.

In all cases, the requirements for a 10 credit point unit specify that it should be equivalent to a minimum of 150 hours of work for a student in a semester. The unit will be marked and graded. Students will receive a grade based on marking against a rubric which will be available on the unit iLearn site.

Methods of Communication

We will communicate with you via your university email and through announcements on iLearn. Queries to convenors can either be placed on the iLearn discussion board or sent to the unit convenor via the contact email on iLearn.

Unit Schedule

There are no strictly scheduled lectures associated with the unit. However focused workshop sessions will be held in weeks 3 and 5 in collaboration with the library and an introduction meeting with the unit convenor in week 1. These sessions will be focussed on providing training to the students on how to effectively use the different databases and writing tools available to them from MQ and also use of some software programs to obtain, create and use figures in order to facilitate their completion of their different assessments.

These sessions will be scheduled based on the discussion and availability of majority of the cohort. In addition to these workshop sessions, regular meetings will be scheduled to review the progress made by each student.

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.

Changes from Previous Offering

We value student feedback to be able to continually improve the way we offer our units. As such we encourage students to provide constructive feedback via student surveys, to the teaching staff directly, or via the FSE Student Experience & Feedback link in the iLearn page.

Unit information based on version 2025.03 of the [Handbook](#)