



# BIOL8770

## Topics in Australian Marine Science

Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, Other 2025

*School of Natural Sciences*

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#### **Disclaimer**

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Chanelle Webster

[chanelle.webster@mq.edu.au](mailto:chanelle.webster@mq.edu.au)

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MConsBiol or GradCertResFSE or GradDipResFSE

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit introduces students to current research undertaken in various disciplines of marine science in Australia. It is a multi-institutional unit taught at the Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS) with contributions from the four University partners of SIMS. Lectures and tutorials will be taught by leading researchers in marine science. Topics cover physical and biological oceanography, climate change, molecular ecology, aquaculture, marine biology and marine geosciences. In practical classes, students will analyse and interpret remote-sensing data from the Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS), which provides comprehensive information on the biological and physical processes of Australia's coastal and oceanic waters. This gives students hands-on experience in working with and analysing big data sets. Students can attend lessons either at SIMS or fully online.

Learning in this unit enhances student understanding of global challenges identified by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals ([UNSDGs](#)) Climate Action; Life Below Water

## 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:** Understand the diversity of open access data and instrumentation for data collection

**ULO2:** Formulate and test hypotheses within a scientific framework

**ULO3:** Access and managing data, including those from large datasets

**ULO4:** Produce and present data visually

**ULO5:** Evaluate and synthesise a variety of expert opinions within marine science

## General Assessment Information

**Requirement to pass the unit:** To pass this unit you must achieve a total mark equal to or greater than 50%

We strongly encourage all students to actively participate in all learning activities. Regular engagement is crucial for your success in this unit, as these activities provide opportunities to deepen your understanding of the material, collaborate with peers, and receive valuable feedback from instructors, to assist in completing the unit assessments. Your active participation not only enhances your own learning experience but also contributes to a vibrant and dynamic learning environment for everyone.

### 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.

### Assessments where Late Submissions will be accepted

- o Assessment 1:Written assignments – YES, Standard Late Penalty applies
- o Assessment 2:Final test - 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 <https://connect.mq.edu.au>.

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<a href="#">Written assignments</a>	60%	No	Ongoing
<a href="#">Final test</a>	40%	No	15/05/2025

## Written assignments

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Professional writing

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 60 hours

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **60%**

You will submit 6 written assignments based on the results of exercises completed as part of the practical modules.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand the diversity of open access data and instrumentation for data collection
- Formulate and test hypotheses within a scientific framework
- Access and managing data, including those from large datasets
- Produce and present data visually
- Evaluate and synthesise a variety of expert opinions within marine science

## Final test

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 40 hours

Due: **15/05/2025**

Weighting: **40%**

You will sit a written test at the conclusion of the unit. The test format can include multiple choice questions and short answers.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand the diversity of open access data and instrumentation for data collection
- Formulate and test hypotheses within a scientific framework
- Access and managing data, including those from large datasets
- Produce and present data visually
- Evaluate and synthesise a variety of expert opinions within marine science

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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

### Practical classes

The practical classes will introduce you to the IMOS – Australia’s Integrated Marine Observing System, a national infrastructure facility that collects marine data from Australia’s coasts and oceans. These data are made publicly available and used by scientists to explore and monitor biological and oceanographic processes in the coastal and marine environment. In practical classes you will analyse and interpret remotely-sensed data from IMOS, which provides comprehensive information on the biological and physical processes of Australia’s coastal and oceanic waters. Practical classes are run at The Sydney Institute of Marine Science.

### Seminars

The seminar series is built around the most current research questions in Australian marine science. Scientists from a number of disciplines will present their research and the most important research questions in their field in a 1 hour seminar. Seminar topics cover physical and biological oceanography, climate change, molecular ecology, aquaculture, marine biology and marine geosciences. Seminars are given at The Sydney Institute of Marine Science.

### How to get to SIMS and where to park

You can travel to SIMS by public transport or by car. For the most up to date information on public transport please check <http://www.transportnsw.info/>

If you decide to drive to SIMS please ensure you arrive at class on time. A map of how to get to SIMS is available on the SIMS website [www.sims.org.au](http://www.sims.org.au). Parking is available at an hourly rate or if you have a valid national parks sticker you can park for free in designated areas.

Alternatively you can park up in Headland Park, Georges Heights and walk down through the bushtrack. See the course convenor if you need further information.

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

## 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](https://connect.mq.edu.au) or if you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto: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/>

## Academic Success

[Academic Success](#) 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/](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

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Unit information based on version 2025.04 of the [Handbook](#)