



# MOLS8902

## Molecular Sciences Research Experience

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

*School of Natural Sciences*

### Contents

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<a href="#"><u>General Information</u></a>	2
<a href="#"><u>Learning Outcomes</u></a>	2
<a href="#"><u>General Assessment Information</u></a>	3
<a href="#"><u>Assessment Tasks</u></a>	3
<a href="#"><u>Delivery and Resources</u></a>	5
<a href="#"><u>Policies and Procedures</u></a>	5
<a href="#"><u>Changes from Previous Offering</u></a>	7

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#### **Disclaimer**

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Sally Potter

[sally.potter@mq.edu.au](mailto:sally.potter@mq.edu.au)

Contact via 02 9850 9681

Room 148, 205a Culloden Road

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MBiotech and 40cp at 8000 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit provides students the opportunity to undertake a research project/internship supervised by leaders in the area of molecular sciences within the context of Natural Sciences. Students will acquire research skills, including literature searching, project planning, experimental design, data analysis and scientific communication. Interested students should contact potential supervisors in their preferred research areas to discuss available projects.

## 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:** Conduct research to solve problems in areas relevant to molecular sciences

**ULO2:** Use laboratory skills common in molecular sciences and conduct laboratory work in a safe and responsible manner.

**ULO3:** Collect, record and critically interpret their research findings.

**ULO4:** Critically analyse and interpret published literature of relevance to their research.

**ULO5:** Communicate in written and oral format their research findings to scientific audiences.

## General Assessment Information

### Requirements to Pass this Unit

Achieve a total mark equal to or greater than 50% across all assessments.

### 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 7<sup>th</sup> day (including weekends). After the 7<sup>th</sup> 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

- Assessment (Final Report) - YES, Standard Late Penalty applies

### Special Consideration Policy

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:* this is a flexibly scheduled unit so 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 see if we can negotiate a solution before submitting a Special Consideration request through [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au).

### Descriptions of Assessment Activities and other information

- Submission of Assessments – the final report is to be submitted via Turnitin link on the iLearn site.
- Assessment Criteria – examples of previous report submissions and a marking rubric for the final report are available on the iLearn site
- Final reports are marked against the rubric by two academic markers

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<a href="#">Seminar</a>	10%	No	Completed by 08/06/2025

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<a href="#">Research Report Portfolio</a>	90%	No	08/06/2025

## Seminar

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Presentation

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 5 hours

Due: **Completed by 08/06/2025**

Weighting: **10%**

A 10-15 min seminar presentation at a laboratory group meeting will be scheduled in the last week of semester to give the student an opportunity to present research aims and outcomes.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Communicate in written and oral format their research findings to scientific audiences.

## Research Report Portfolio

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Portfolio

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 75 hours

Due: **08/06/2025**

Weighting: **90%**

Students will complete a minimum of 3 assessment tasks, with a maximum of 60% weighting for any one task. Tasks include project planning, a major report with initial literature review (complying with journal publication guidelines), oral presentation, reflective statement, and others as appropriate for a 10cp unit. The research report portfolio will be examined by two examiners. The report will be formatted for submission to a scientific journal, and must conform to published guidelines, which include a strict page limit and allowance for a data appendix. Assessment tasks and weightings will follow a learning plan agreed upon with the unit convenor and supervisor, which is appropriate for a project-based unit, or will be as listed in the unit guide.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Conduct research to solve problems in areas relevant to molecular sciences
- Use laboratory skills common in molecular sciences and conduct laboratory work in a safe and responsible manner.

- Collect, record and critically interpret their research findings.
  - Critically analyse and interpret published literature of relevance to their research.
  - Communicate in written and oral format their research findings to scientific audiences.
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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

### Class scheduling

There are no scheduled classes for this unit as it is based on independent study. The student and supervisor need to agree upon a schedule which meets the requirements of both.

### Methods of Communication

The unit convenor will communicate mainly via Discussion Forum and Announcements on the iLearn site, and also via emails to students MQ email addresses. Personal email addresses must not be used.

## Policies and Procedures

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

## 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/](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

### Changes to the unit from last 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. Student feedback from the previous offering of this unit was very positive overall, with students pleased with the clarity around assessment requirements and the level of support from teaching staff. As such, no change to the delivery of the unit is planned, however we will continue to strive to improve the level of support and the level of student engagement.

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Unit information based on version 2025.02 of the [Handbook](#)