



MOLS3003

PACE: Molecular Sciences Project

Session 2, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2026

School of Natural Sciences

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Koushik Venkatesan

koushik.venkatesan@mq.edu.au

Contact via 02 9850 8296

4WW228

By appointment (please email)

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Corequisites

30cp from CHEM or BMOL units at 3000 level

Co-badged status

Unit description

This PACE unit offers students specialising in Chemistry, Advanced Chemistry, Biomolecular Science, and Chemical and Biomolecular Sciences work experience in the Molecular Sciences. Students engage in research projects with industry or community partners, supervised by Macquarie staff and external experts. Projects must be relevant to Molecular Sciences and approved by the Unit Convenor. Students, either individually or in small teams, will undertake research in chemistry or biomolecular science, with project design and direction shaped by collaboration between students, internal advisors, and external partners. All projects are research-based and aligned with partner needs. Visit [Employability Connect](#) for important information on this unit.

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

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: Design a research project in the context of a PACE activity with active engagement with a relevant partner

ULO2: Produce a professional report of the size and complexity required of workers in the field

ULO3: Create and maintain a group for the duration of the PACE activity, including delegating tasks and accepting tasks from colleagues/group members and taking some responsibility for aspects of group management

ULO4: Present information to a diverse audience in a confident and professional manner.

ULO5: Reflect on the PACE activity, including the ethical, social, personal and intellectual aspects of the activity.

ULO6: Demonstrate a sense of social, environmental and ethical awareness.

General Assessment Information

Requirements to Pass this Unit

To pass this unit you must:

- Undertake a research project at Macquarie University OR an internship at a suitable external organisation for a minimum of 40 hours.
- 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. For any late submission of time-sensitive tasks, such as performance assessments/presentations, and/or scheduled practical assessments/labs, please apply for [Special Consideration](#).

Assessments where Late Submissions will be accepted

- Detailed project proposal and Project report – YES, Standard Late Penalty applies
- NO, unless [Special Consideration](#) is Granted
- Assessment Criteria - It will be based on the use of rubrics for all assessments.
- Submission of Assessments - Submission of detailed project proposal and project report will be through Turnitin.
- Marking of Assessments - Marks and feedback for each assessment will be provided individually by email within two-weeks after the submission deadline.

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 <https://connect.mq.edu.au>.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Project report	40%	No	30/10/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Project Presentation	30%	No	Week 11 and Week 12	Individual	No	Observed
Detailed project proposal	30%	No	11/09/2026	Individual	Yes	Open

Project report

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **30/10/2026**

Weighting: **40%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

The project report encompasses the practical aspects of communicating and analyzing your project in the context of real world research encompassing the scientific disciplines of chemistry and biomolecular sciences. You will be challenged to think in different ways as you come to grips what it means to work in these scientific disciplines and also reflect on the your work and findings.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Produce a professional report of the size and complexity required of workers in the field
- Create and maintain a group for the duration of the PACE activity, including delegating tasks and accepting tasks from colleagues/group members and taking some responsibility for aspects of group management
- Present information to a diverse audience in a confident and professional manner.
- Reflect on the PACE activity, including the ethical, social, personal and intellectual

aspects of the activity.

Project Presentation

Assessment Type ¹: Presentation task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 18 hours

Due: **Week 11 and Week 12**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

This assessment is an example of communicating science in action. You can use creative media (e.g. Prezi, Powerpoints with animation) to showcase your research project and the way in which this relates to their discipline. The duration of the presentation is 10 minutes and is a component of the wrap up/debrief at the end of semester.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Present information to a diverse audience in a confident and professional manner.

Detailed project proposal

Assessment Type ¹: Professional task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 16 hours

Due: **11/09/2026**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

The detailed project proposal assessment is a key component of the unit. The purpose of this assessment is to require students to actively interact with the partner to agree on a project and write a proposal that can be executed within the context of the PACE experience.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Design a research project in the context of a PACE activity with active engagement with a relevant partner
- Demonstrate a sense of social, environmental and ethical awareness.

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
- [Academic Success](#) 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.

³ An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the [Service Connect Portal](#).

Delivery and Resources

- The project will take place either in the research laboratories of the project supervisors at MQ or at organisations where the students will be hosted. In the case where no space is available in research laboratories, the projects can be carried out in the teaching laboratories
- The weekly SGTA's will be delivered face-to-face on campus.

A number of online resources will be provided on the iLearn site to help you carry out the task and fulfil the learning objectives of the unit.

Week 1 classes

The SGTA and the project activities will commence in Week 1.

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

Please check the iLearn site for the most up-to-date Unit schedule

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) 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/>

Academic Success

[Academic Success](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Ask a Study Coach](#)
- [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 <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk>.

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

There have been no changes made from the previous offering

Unit information based on version 2026.02 of the [Handbook](#)