



BIOL8601

Conservation Internship

Full year 2, In person-placement, North Ryde 2026

School of Natural Sciences

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff Sally Potter sally.potter@mq.edu.au
Credit points 20
Prerequisites Admission to MConBiol and 20cp from 8000-level Biology units
Corequisites
Co-badged status
Unit description This unit enables the student to acquire experience in conservation practice by undertaking an internship under academic supervision, or in conjunction with a private or public organisation within the conservation sector. The possible topics for the internship are broad in scope as long as work is associated with the conservation of biodiversity. Students must organise their project and supervisor well before commencing this unit. Learning in this unit enhances student understanding of global challenges identified by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) Life on Land

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 professionalism by adhering to all workplace standards, particularly with regard to ethics, occupational health and safety, and legal requirements.

ULO2: Plan and implement an internship project that clearly articulates the aims, methods and outcomes of work that contributes to the conservation of biodiversity.

ULO3: Demonstrate effective time and project management skills by working independently to collect scientific data and by documenting these efforts using a project notebook.

ULO4: Communicate the conservation outcomes of the internship in written form by

constructing a coherent, well structured document.

ULO5: Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the scientific, social, and legal dimensions of an issue of particular relevance to the conservation sector.

General Assessment Information

To pass this unit you need to 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 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.

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.

Extensions

- **Automatic short extension:** Some assessments are eligible for automatic short extension. You can only apply for an automatic short extension before the due date.
- **Special Consideration:** If you need more time due to serious issues and for any assessments that are not eligible for Short Extension, you must apply for Special Consideration.

Need help? Review the Special Consideration page [HERE](#)

Project proposal

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission Indicative Time on Task ²: 5 hours Due: 24/08/2026
Weighting: **25%** Groupwork/Individual: Individual Short extension ³: Yes AI Approach: Open

Develop a short proposal explaining the work that you will undertake

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Plan and implement an internship project that clearly articulates the aims, methods and outcomes of work that contributes to the conservation of biodiversity.
- Demonstrate effective time and project management skills by working independently to collect scientific data and by documenting these efforts using a project notebook.

Poster

Assessment Type ¹: Professional task Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours Due: **15/02/2027**

Weighting: **25%** Groupwork/Individual: Individual Short extension ³: No AI Approach: Observed

Develop a poster outlining your project and methodology.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate professionalism by adhering to all workplace standards, particularly with regard to ethics, occupational health and safety, and legal requirements.
- Plan and implement an internship project that clearly articulates the aims, methods and outcomes of work that contributes to the conservation of biodiversity.
- Demonstrate effective time and project management skills by working independently to collect scientific data and by documenting these efforts using a project notebook.
- Communicate the conservation outcomes of the internship in written form by constructing a coherent, well structured document.

Internship Report

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission Indicative Time on Task ²: 45 hours Due: **17/05/2027**

Weighting: **50%** Groupwork/Individual: Individual Short extension ³: Yes AI Approach: Open

Describe the full internship in the form of a report or scientific paper

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Plan and implement an internship project that clearly articulates the aims, methods and outcomes of work that contributes to the conservation of biodiversity.
- Demonstrate effective time and project management skills by working independently to collect scientific data and by documenting these efforts using a project notebook.
- Communicate the conservation outcomes of the internship in written form by constructing a coherent, well structured document.
- Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the scientific, social, and legal dimensions of an issue of particular relevance to the conservation sector.

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](#).

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Internship Report	50%	No	07/05/2027	Individual	Yes	Open
Poster	25%	No	15/02/2027	Individual	No	Observed
Project proposal	25%	No	24/08/2026	Individual	Yes	Open

Internship Report

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task ²: 45 hours

Due: **07/05/2027**

Weighting: **50%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Describe the full internship in the form of a report or scientific paper

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Plan and implement an internship project that clearly articulates the aims, methods and outcomes of work that contributes to the conservation of biodiversity.
- Demonstrate effective time and project management skills by working independently to collect scientific data and by documenting these efforts using a project notebook.
- Communicate the conservation outcomes of the internship in written form by constructing a coherent, well structured document.
- Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the scientific, social, and legal dimensions of an issue of particular relevance to the conservation sector.

Poster

Assessment Type ¹: Professional task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **15/02/2027**

Weighting: **25%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

Develop a poster outlining your project and methodology.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate professionalism by adhering to all workplace standards, particularly with regard to ethics, occupational health and safety, and legal requirements.
- Plan and implement an internship project that clearly articulates the aims, methods and outcomes of work that contributes to the conservation of biodiversity.
- Demonstrate effective time and project management skills by working independently to collect scientific data and by documenting these efforts using a project notebook.
- Communicate the conservation outcomes of the internship in written form by constructing a coherent, well structured document.

Project proposal

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task ²: 5 hours

Due: **24/08/2026**

Weighting: **25%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Develop a short proposal explaining the work that you will undertake

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Plan and implement an internship project that clearly articulates the aims, methods and outcomes of work that contributes to the conservation of biodiversity.
- Demonstrate effective time and project management skills by working independently to collect scientific data and by documenting these efforts using a project notebook.

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Delivery and Resources

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.

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/>

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.

Unit information based on version 2026.02 of the **Handbook**