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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Unit Convenor
Grant Hose
grant.hose@mq.edu.au
E8B109

Credit points
4

Prerequisites
Admission to MRes

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
The aim of this unit is to search, read and critically review the available scientific literature across a broad range of fields within biological sciences at an advanced level. The topics are to be decided by the student in consultation with a mentor from the Department of Biological Sciences. All students undertake independent literature research, with regular contact with their topic mentor either in person or via e-mail. Students will need to take responsibility for organising their workload throughout the semester. This unit encourages students to directly interact with research active academic staff, postdoctoral researchers and PhD students within the department and to explore the most current and controversial issues in biological sciences.

Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates

Learning Outcomes

1. Develop skills in scientific writing
2. Build on existing skills in the use of online databases and bibliographical software
3. Develop a working relationship with a research supervisor
4. Develop skills in the review of own written work and that of peers
Assessment Tasks

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
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<td>Literature review outline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annotated bibliography</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peer Review</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20/10/16, 27/10/16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Literature Review</td>
<td>60%</td>
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Literature review outline
Due: 19/8/16
Weighting: 10%

Students will meet and discuss with their supervisor a structure and outline for their literature review. Students will provide a 1-2 page outline of their lit review, presented as a brief, annotated table of contents that lists the major sections for their review and the information covered.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
• Develop a working relationship with a research supervisor

Annotated bibliography
Due: 9/9/16
Weighting: 10%

Students will provide a bibliography including at least 30 relevant papers. The bibliography should be prepared using a referencing database program such as Endnote. For each paper in the database you should include a short description (up to 200 words) of the main points and relevance of the paper to your review. Endnote may be downloaded free from the library website. The bibliography must be submitted as a database file containing your annotated references.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
• Develop skills in scientific writing
• Build on existing skills in the use of online databases and bibliographical software

Peer Review
Due: 20/10/16, 27/10/16
Weighting: 20%

Copies of student draft literature reviews will be disseminated among the class. Students are to provide detailed written feedback and comments on the work of their peers.
Completed draft literature reviews are due 11 September 2015.
Comments on peer reviews are due 18 September 2015.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
- Develop skills in the review of own written work and that of peers

**Literature Review**

**Due:** 7/11/16  
**Weighting:** 60%

Students are to complete a 2500 word literature review based on the topic that they expect to research in year 2 of the MRes. Students are to engage with their supervisor through regular meetings and explore the structure and content of the review.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
- Develop skills in scientific writing
- Build on existing skills in the use of online databases and bibliographical software

**Delivery and Resources**

This unit will run over the entire semester.

**Unit Schedule**

There are no centrally timetabled classes for this subject. Students are required to attend sessions throughout the semester.

**Session 1. Introduction to 799**

Thursday 4 August 1000-1100 Biology Tea Room – E8A 280.

**Session 2. How to review a scientific paper**

Friday 2 September 1000-1100 Biology Tea Room – E8A 280.

**Session 3. Writing workshop (optional) Drop-in**

Friday 16 September 9 – 3 location TBC

**Policies and Procedures**

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central. Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:


In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint_management/procedure.html) of Policy Central.

**Student Code of Conduct**

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: [https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)

**Results**

Results shown in *iLearn*, 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 [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au).

**Student Support**

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit [http://students.mq.edu.au/support/](http://students.mq.edu.au/support/)

**Learning Skills**

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- **Workshops**
- **StudyWise**
- **Academic Integrity Module for Students**
- **Ask a Learning Adviser**

**Student Enquiry Service**

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au)
Equity Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Service who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

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.

Graduate Capabilities

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Develop skills in scientific writing
- Develop skills in the review of own written work and that of peers

Assessment tasks

- Annotated bibliography
- Peer Review
- Literature Review

PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Develop skills in scientific writing
- Develop a working relationship with a research supervisor
- Develop skills in the review of own written work and that of peers
Assessment tasks

- Literature review outline
- Annotated bibliography
- Peer Review
- Literature Review

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Develop skills in scientific writing
- Build on existing skills in the use of online databases and bibliographical software

Assessment tasks

- Annotated bibliography
- Literature Review

PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Build on existing skills in the use of online databases and bibliographical software

Assessment tasks

- Annotated bibliography
- Literature Review

PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:
Learning outcome

- Develop skills in the review of own written work and that of peers

Assessment task

- Peer Review