



The University of Southern Queensland

## Course specification

<b>Description: Science Masters Project 8</b>						
Subject	Cat-nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
SCI	9108	54273	2, 2006	ONC	1.00	Toowoomba

<b>Academic group:</b>	FOSCI
<b>Academic org:</b>	FOS002
<b>Student contribution band:</b>	2
<b>ASCED code:</b>	019999

### STAFFING

Examiner: Mark Sutherland

Moderator: Alfio Parisi

### RATIONALE

This course is part of a supervised research project which provides opportunities for motivated and highly qualified students to undertake advanced study and to produce a research-based dissertation. Students develop the appropriate research skills and specialist knowledge which will enhance their career prospects or allow them to undertake further studies. The emphasis of the programme is on developing the appropriate knowledge and skills to undertake independent research and professional practice.

### SYNOPSIS

This course and other courses with the course numbers in the range of SCI9101 to SCI9108 comprise the research component of the Master of Science. On completion of all of the courses students will have prepared and undertaken a supervised research project and prepared a dissertation for examination. Students will present at least one seminar annually as part of the requirements. The enrolment pattern in courses SCI9101 to SCI9108 will need to be established for each student on enrolment. Activities to be undertaken in each of the courses will be determined on an individual student basis by the student's supervisor.

### OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of the courses SCI9101 to SCI9108 students will be able to:

1. identify a research topic;
2. proceed with the research topic;
3. if appropriate, gain ethical clearance for their project;
4. prepare a satisfactory research proposal;
5. think analytically, critically and creatively about a chosen research topic and related issues within the area of specialisation chosen;
6. demonstrate competence in each component of empirical research procedures, viz; identification and analysis of research problems, formulation of hypotheses,

- operationalised research procedures, collection of relevant data, appropriate analysis of data, interpretation of results obtained, and draw appropriate conclusions;
7. competently write a dissertation based on the research project to communicate all aspects of the project to professional peers;
  8. present a research seminar to the Department of Biological and Physical Sciences, outlining the project aims and progress.

## TOPICS

Description	Weighting (%)
1. To be determined by the supervisor in consultation with the student.	100.00

## TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED

ALL textbooks and materials are available for purchase from USQ BOOKSHOP (unless otherwise stated). Orders may be placed via secure internet, free fax 1800642453, phone 07 46312742 (within Australia), or mail. Overseas students should fax +61 7 46311743, or phone +61 7 46312742. For costs, further details, and internet ordering, use the 'Textbook Search' facility at <http://bookshop.usq.edu.au> click 'Semester', then enter your 'Course Code' (no spaces).

## REFERENCE MATERIALS

Reference materials are materials that, if accessed by students, may improve their knowledge and understanding of the material in the course and enrich their learning experience.

To be determined by the student's supervisor.

## STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Directed Study	13.00
Private Study	140.00
Seminars	1.00
Supervisor Consultation	13.00

## ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks out of	Wtg(%)	Due date
RESEARCH DISSERTATION	100.00	100.00	25 Jul 2006 (see note 1)

### NOTES

1. Postgraduate Coordinator/Supervisor to advise due date of Research Dissertation.

## IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

- 1 Attendance requirements:

It is the students' responsibility to attend and participate appropriately in all activities (such as lectures, tutorials, laboratories and practical work) scheduled for them, and to study all material provided to them or required to be accessed by them to maximise their chance of meeting the objectives of the course and to be informed of course-related activities and administration. Students are also expected to attend Department Research Seminars.

- 2 Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:  
Students must submit four copies of a Research Dissertation (in University approved format) to the Department's Postgraduate Coordinator for examination. Upon submission of the Dissertation for examination, the student will be awarded a grade of IIP (Incomplete in progress) until such time as the Dissertation is examined and approved in accordance with USQ Academic Regulation 5.15: Rules regarding the examination and award of research higher degrees.
- 3 Penalties for late submission of required work:  
The course will be graded as P (Pass) or F (Fail) based on the results of the Dissertation's examination in accordance with USQ Academic Regulation 5.15: Rules regarding the examination and award of research higher degrees. A grade of P (Pass) will be not awarded until such time as three copies of the bound Dissertation and one electronic copy (incorporating corrections as required by the Department's Postgraduate Coordinator) are presented to the Department's Postgraduate Coordinator for distribution to the Student, the Principal Supervisor and the Faculty. An electronic copy must be lodged with the USQ library for submission to the Australian Digital Theses (ADT) Program. If the student wishes, the library will also accept an additional hardcopy for lodgement in the collection.
- 4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:  
The course will be graded as SP (Satisfactory Progress) or F (Fail). A grade of SP is required to allow progress to the next course in the sequence SCI9101 to SCI9108. To be awarded the grade of SP, a student must be assessed by their Supervisor as having made satisfactory progress against a set of objectives provided by the Supervisor and have presented, at a satisfactory standard, one seminar reporting on the scope and progress of the project work to the Department of Biological and Physical Sciences.
- 5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:  
Not applicable.
- 6 Examination information:  
There is no examination in this course.
- 7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:  
There will be no Deferred or Supplementary examinations in this course.
- 8 University Regulations:  
Students should read USQ Regulations 5.1 Definitions, 5.6. Assessment, and 5.10 Academic Misconduct for further information and to avoid actions which might contravene University Regulations. These regulations can be found at the URL <http://www.usq.edu.au/corporateservices/calendar/part5.htm> or in the current USQ Handbook.

## **ASSESSMENT NOTES**

- 9 In accordance with University policy, the examiner of a course may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances.