



The University of Southern Queensland

Course specification

The current and official versions of the course specifications are available on the web at <http://www.usq.edu.au/coursespecification/current>.
Please consult the web for updates that may occur during the year.

Description: Master of Science Dissertation Part Time (Science)

Subject	Cat-nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
SCI	9001	87144	1, 2009	ONC	2.00	Toowoomba

Academic group:	FOSCI
Academic org:	FOS002
Student contribution band:	6
ASCED code:	019999

STAFFING

Examiner: Grant Daggard
Moderator: Mark Sutherland

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

Part-time candidates undertaking Master of Science research in Biology, Physics, Climatology or Chemistry should enrol in this course for each semester of their candidature. This will normally be for a total of four semesters. Full time candidates undertaking Master of Science research in Biology, Physics or Chemistry should enrol in this course for each of the first two semesters of their candidature. They should enrol in the course SCI9003 Master of Science Dissertation Full Time (Science) in subsequent semesters (normally a further two). The subject of their Research Project will be decided in consultation with their Project Supervisors and the Faculty of Sciences.

OBJECTIVES

On completion of this course students will be able to:

1. identified their research topic (Supervisor's Report);
2. demonstrated their ability to proceed with the research topic (Supervisor's Report);
3. if appropriate, gained ethical clearance for their project (Supervisor's Report);
4. prepared their research proposal to their supervisor's satisfaction (Supervisor's Report);
5. demonstrated their ability to think analytically, critically and creatively about a chosen research topic and related issues within the area of specialisation chosen (Supervisor's Report);

6. demonstrated competence in each component of empirical research procedures, viz; identification and analysis of research problems, formulation of hypotheses, operationalised research procedures, collected relevant data, carried out appropriate analysis of data, interpreted results obtained, and drawn appropriate conclusions (Supervisor's Report);
7. competently written a dissertation based on the research project to communicate all aspects of the project to professional peers (Supervisor's Report);
8. presented one seminar per year within the Faculty, outlining the project aims and progress (Seminar).

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	300.00
Seminars	2.00
Supervisor Consultation	13.00

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks out of	Wtg (%)	Due date
THESIS	100.00	100.00	02 Mar 2009 (see note 1)

NOTES

1. Examiner will advise the due date of the Thesis.

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

- 1 Attendance requirements:
It is the students' responsibility to attend and participate appropriately in all activities (such as lectures, tutorials, research group discussions, 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.
- 2 Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:
Not applicable.
- 3 Penalties for late submission of required work:
Not applicable.
- 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). 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 at the start of the semester which may include delivery, at a satisfactory standard, of a public seminar within the Faculty reporting on the scope and progress of the project work.
- 5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
Not applicable.
- 6 Examination information:
There is no examination for 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

- 1 In accordance with University policy, the examiner may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances.
- 2 Completion of the final dissertation course in the Master of Science program is by dissertation examination.