School of Medicine

MEDI300: Research Projects

Subject Outline
Autumn, 2016
On-Campus
Wollongong

Subject Information
Credit Points: 8
Pre-requisite(s): BIOL214 and SHS 211 or MEDI211 (Not relevant to Exercise Science students).
Credit average and permission of subject coordinator.
Co-requisite(s): Nil
Restrictions: Strict quota may apply. Preference may be given to Medical and Health Science Advanced and Exercise Science & Rehab students based on their curriculum and dependent up on
the availability of projects in these areas.
Contact Hours: 1 semester at approximately 1 day per week

Subject Contacts
Subject Coordinator/Lecturer
Name: Prof Paul Else
Location: Building 41, Room 337
Telephone: 61 2 4221 3496
Email: paul_else@uow.edu.au
Consultation mode and times: Email for appointment

Project Supervisor
Students will be provided with a list of available projects, and associated supervisors, at the start of
the session (in the 1st lecture). Some students may also want to discuss potential research projects
with potential supervisor prior to this meeting. All projects need to have an academic supervisor
involved even if the day to day running of the project may involve direction from postgraduate
students. The number of available projects is strictly limited by the ability of supervisors to provide
projects in any one semester. This limitation places a strictly limit on the number of student that can
be enrolled in the subject.

Student Support and Advice
For general enquiries please contact StudentHub 41:
Location: 41.138B
Telephone: 61 2 4221 3492
Email: smah-students@uow.edu.au
Student Consultation and Communication

University staff receive many emails each day. In order to enable them to respond to your emails appropriately and in a timely fashion, students are asked to observe basic requirements of professional communication:

Please ensure that you include your full name and student number and identify your practical class or tutorial group in your email so that staff know who they are communicating with and can follow-up personally where appropriate.

Consider what the communication is about
- Is your question addressed elsewhere (e.g. in the subject outline or, on the eLearning site)?
- Is it something that is better discussed in person or by telephone? This may be the case if your query requires a lengthy response or a dialogue in order to address. If so, see consultation times above and/or schedule an appointment.
- Are you addressing your request to the most appropriate person?

Specific email subject title to enable easy identification of issue
- Identify the subject code of the subject you are enquiring about (as staff may be involved in more than one subject) put this in the email subject heading. Add a brief, specific query reference after the subject code where appropriate.

Professional courtesy
- Address the staff member appropriately by name (and formal title if you do not yet know them).
- Use full words (avoid ‘text-speak’ abbreviations), correct grammar and correct spelling.
- Be respectful and courteous.
- Allow 3 – 4 working days for a response before following up. If the matter is legitimately urgent, you may wish to try telephoning the staff member (and leaving a voicemail message if necessary) or inquiring at the School Office.
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Section A: General Information

Subject Learning Outcomes

On completion of this subject, students should be able to:

1. Critically evaluate scientific literature (Proposal Document)
2. Plan, design and perform an experiment/investigation (Proposal Document & Research Report)
3. Collect and analyse data (Research Report)
4. Evaluate data and synthesise into ideas and concepts (Research Report)
5. Communicate research design, results and ideas to a general audience (Proposal Seminar & Poster, Research report)
6. Place specific research area into a broader scientific setting (Proposal Seminar & Poster)
7. Better understand the scientific process through the experience of research (Everything)
8. Work as a member of a team (where applicable involving Group assessment items)

Subject Description

This subject provides an opportunity for students to participate in a research project in one of the discipline areas; Medical Science, Exercise Science/Rehabilitation, Nutrition and Dietetics or other allied health area. Students should gain experience in experimental design, data collection, analysis, interpretation and report writing plus oral and poster presentation. The subject is particularly recommended for students intending to undertake further under- or post-graduate research based studies.

eLearning Space

This subject does not utilise eLearning.

Lecture, Tutorial, Laboratory Times

All timetable information is subject to variation. Check latest timetabling information on the 'Current Student' webpage on UOW website or log into SOLS to view your personal timetable prior to attending classes http://www.uow.edu.au/student/index.html

Timetable information can be accessed from http://www.uow.edu.au/student/timetables/info/index.html

Key University Dates can be accessed from http://www.uow.edu.au/student/dates/index.html

Readings, References and Materials

Textbooks
The following text(s) will need to be purchased by students enrolled in this class.

Nil

Prescribed Readings (includes eReadings)
The following texts are prescribed for this subject, but students are not expected to purchase these. They are available to students through the library on the subject’s eLearning site.

The primary scientific literature serves as the main source of information for research projects.

Materials
Nil
Recommended Readings
The following references complement the prescribed readings and textbooks:

Nil

Recent Changes to this Subject
Nil

Ethical Objection to the Use of Animal and Animal Products
In order to achieve specific learning objectives, the use of animals, animal tissues, and or animal-derived products (such as sera) is inherent and unavoidable. Students with conscientious objections should enrol in an alternative subject.

Timetable of Topics/List of Topics Covered
As this is a research based subject the timetable of topics/list of topics covered will be negotiated between the student and their supervisor.
Section B: Assessment

Assessment Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Item</th>
<th>Form of Assessment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Return/Feedback</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment 1</td>
<td>Inductions</td>
<td>End of Week 2</td>
<td></td>
<td>0% but a required element of subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment 2</td>
<td>Research Proposal Seminar</td>
<td>End of Week 5</td>
<td>Within 21 days of due date</td>
<td>0% but a required element of subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment 3</td>
<td>Proposal Document</td>
<td>By 4pm Monday of Week 7</td>
<td></td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment 4</td>
<td>Final Research Seminar or Poster</td>
<td>Monday of Week 13</td>
<td></td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment 5</td>
<td>Research Report</td>
<td>By 4pm on the Friday of Wk 13</td>
<td>Release of results</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Marks 100%

Details of Assessment Tasks

Assessment tasks will be marked using explicit criteria that will be provided to students prior to submission.

Assessment 1

Inductions

Due date End of Week 2 or ASAP in semester of enrolment

Weighting 0% but a required element of subject

Submission Completed either online and/or in laboratory inductions as required dependent upon project and site specific requirements.

Type of Collaboration Individual Assessment

Length 1 hr or more dependent on number and type of inductions required

Details Required for working in lab and other research environments. (Week 1-2 of semester – needs to be completed before starting any experimental work)

Style and format e.g. Electronic on-line reading and quiz, tours, person to person

Subject Learning Outcomes 1-8

Assessment 2

Research Proposal Seminar

Due date By end of Week 5

Weighting 0% but a required element of subject

Submission Carried out in timetabled room or alternatively within research group

Type of Collaboration Individual Assessment / Group Project

Length 7-8 minutes + 2-3 minutes for questions

Details Carried out in timetabled room or alternatively with research group.

To be performed during Week 5 (or earlier) – This can take place within research groups or in week 5 at timetabled period and venue or as alternatively arranged with the subject coordinator – in some cases e.g. where research is to start later this can be postponed to when the research is about to commence to add flexibility (if necessary). Seminar should be a PowerPoint presentation that includes background to the research area, the specific aims of the research, a summary of methods to be employed and some indication of expected outcomes, hypotheses
etc. This is a requirement of the subject. Its purpose is to ensure students are making progress on their chosen topic and that they possess a clear understanding of the scope and purpose of their project. This presentation needs to be conducted in front of experienced researchers who can provide meaningful feed-back on the project and challenge (in a collegial manner) students on aspects of design, logic etc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Style and format</th>
<th>Seminar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subject Learning Outcomes</td>
<td>1-8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Assessment 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Proposal Document</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Due date</td>
<td>By 4pm Monday of Week 7 of semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weighting</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submission</td>
<td>To be advised</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of Collaboration</td>
<td>Individual Assessment / Group Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>8 double spaced typed pages</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Details**

The research proposal is a written report that builds on the work contained in the seminar. It needs to be a concise report (no more than 8 typed double spaced A4 pages; Note: references are not included in the page limit) that is an up to date synopsis of the current state of the research area including all major published papers in the area. It needs to say what has been done previously, and place the work in the context of that work (i.e. this is why we are doing this work because it answers this question, fills in this missing area of understanding, challenges this idea or tests this new concept etc). Having established the proposed research and the state of the current literature it then needs to lay out the plan of experimentation, data collection etc that is going to take place as part of the proposed research (i.e. it needs to lay out the experimental plan). Often a research proposal will also include aims of the project as hypotheses or as a set of expected outcomes etc. The form of the proposal is reasonably open (although the proposals are often organized under the common headings of Title, Introduction, Background, Project Aims, Materials and Methods, Expected Outcomes, References) as the forms of research may vary greatly between the different projects and therefore it does not need to absolutely follow this formula but it does need to ensure that the work and conclusions of other researchers are cited in the text and a full list of references are provided at the end of the document.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Style and format</th>
<th>Written document. See details below</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subject Learning Outcomes</td>
<td>1-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marking Criteria</td>
<td>Assessment tasks will be marked using explicit criteria that will be provided to students prior to submission</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Assessment 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Final Research Seminar or Poster</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Due date</td>
<td>Monday of Week 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weighting</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submission</td>
<td>On site on date of assessment – see details below.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of Collaboration</td>
<td>Individual Assessment / Group Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>To fit poster board or for seminar - 10 min + 5 min for questions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Details**

If posters are used they need to be set up in the morning by 9:00am and will normally be assessed at 12:30pm (or other time by arrangement). Students (or delegated representative) will need to be present at assessment to explain their poster and answer any questions of an assessment panel selected from across the School. Student responses to questions will be incorporated into the marking scheme. Posters will need to be placed on poster boards in the foyer area (normally) of Bld 41 or other site by prior arrangement. The entire posters should be arranged to fit a total area of no more than ~1.5 square metre and to be attached with velcro.

_Hardcopies of this document are considered uncontrolled please refer to UOW website or eLearning for the latest version._

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or pins. The poster should indicate in some form the aim, method, results, and conclusion(s) of your research.

No specific form is prescribed for the poster presentations (as we do not want to restrict creative flair). Assessment will be based solely on the ability of the poster to communicate the research (and students ability to interpret their poster – i.e. defensible interpretation).

Based on previous experience a few things that might be worth considered in preparing the poster:
- is the font size large enough to be read from a distance, and are there too many words?
- can this poster be made simpler without compromising the data, clarity and impact?
- make sure that the content is strong (quantity, quality and analysis)
- do the stated aims match the stated conclusions etc
- in the contest between quality of science and glamour presentation - science wins

The alternative to a poster session is a seminar that would need to be given on Monday of Wk 13 – the determination between either doing a seminar or a poster will depend upon student numbers and will be communicated to you as early as possible in the semester. If research seminars are used as an assessment item the seminars will be of a total duration of 15 min (10 minutes of presentation and 5 minutes for questions).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Style and format</th>
<th>Poster or structured talk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subject Learning Outcomes</td>
<td>1-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marking Criteria</td>
<td>Assessment tasks will be marked according to the ability of the poster to communicate the science and ideas examined and on the quality of the research undertaken. There will also be assessment on the ability of the researcher/s to defend their research under critical analysis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment 5</th>
<th>Research Report</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Due date</td>
<td>By 4pm on the Friday of Wk 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weighting</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submission</td>
<td>To be advised</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of Collaboration</td>
<td>Individual Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>8 double spaced A4 pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Details</td>
<td>See appendix 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Style and format</td>
<td>Structured scientific report (as detailed below)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject Learning Outcomes</td>
<td>1-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marking Criteria</td>
<td>Based on deemed quality and strength of presentation, depth and creativity and connection to the scientific literature where relevant.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Minimum Requirements for a Pass in this Subject**

To receive a clear pass in this subject a total mark of 50% or more must be achieved. In addition, failure to meet any of the minimum performance requirements is grounds for awarding a Technical Fail (TF) in the subject, even where total marks accumulated are greater than 50%.

The minimum performance requirements for this subject are:
- fulfil WH&S requirements of the subject
- attend a seminar or poster session when required
• pass the essential requirements of the subject ie proposal document, final seminar/poster presentation, final research report.
• attempt all assessment tasks (including WH&S modules)
• meet the minimum attendance and participation requirements as set out below.

Minimum Student Attendance and Participation
It is expected that students will allocate a minimum of 8 hours per week to this subject, including any required class attendance, completion of prescribed readings and assessment tasks.

Student attendance at seminars and participation in research activities as required by the research supervisor (to be organised in combination with the research supervisors) is essential. The biggest area for a potential Technical Failure to occur in this subject is where a student in a group opts out of equal participation – if this occurs a Technical Fail grade may be awarded. Therefore students who do not meet minimum attendance/participation requirements may be awarded a Technical Fail (TF) for this subject.

Absences will require the submission of an application for Academic Consideration via SOLS and the presentation of suitable documentation, for example a Medical Certificate, to Student Central as soon as practical. For further details about applying for academic consideration visit the Student Central webpage: [http://www.uow.edu.au/student/central/academicconsideration/index.html](http://www.uow.edu.au/student/central/academicconsideration/index.html)

Scaling
Scaling may occur in this subject (by a combination of methods dependent upon circumstances pertaining to the result in any one year eg addition/subtraction, percentage adjustment or piecewise linear scaling). Any adjustment will normally be very minor (eg <2% of final mark).

Late Submission
Late submission of an assessment task without an approved extension of the deadline is not acceptable. If you are unable to submit an assessment due to extenuating circumstances (e.g. medical grounds or compassionate grounds), you can make an application of academic consideration. Not all circumstances qualify for academic consideration. For further details about applying for academic consideration visit the Student Central webpage: [http://www.uow.edu.au/student/central/academicconsideration/index.html](http://www.uow.edu.au/student/central/academicconsideration/index.html)

Late Submission Penalty
Marks will be deducted for late submission at the rate of 5% of the total possible marks for that particular assessment task per day. This means that if a piece of work is marked out of 100, then the late penalty will be 5 marks per day (5% of 100 possible marks per day). The formula for calculating the late penalty is: the total possible marks x 0.05 x number of days late. For the purposes of this policy a weekend (Saturday and Sunday) will be regarded as two days.

For example:

• Student A submits an assessment which is marked out of 100. The assessment is submitted 7 days late. This means that a late penalty of 35 marks will apply (100 x 0.05 x 7). The assessment is marked as per normal out of 100 and is given a mark of 85/100, and then the late penalty is applied. The result is that the student receives a final mark of 50/100 for the assessment (85 (original mark) – 35 marks (late penalty) = 50/100 (final mark)).
• Student B submits a report which is marked out of 20. The report is submitted three days late. This means that a late penalty of 3 marks will apply ((20 x 0.05 x 3). The report is marked as per normal out of 20 and is given a mark of 17/20, and then the late penalty is applied. The result is that the student receives a final mark of 14/20 for the report (17 (original mark) – 3 marks (late penalty) = 14/20 (final mark)).

No marks will be awarded for work submitted either after the assessment has been returned to the
students or more than two weeks after the due date, whichever is the sooner. This does not apply to situations where a particular assessment task is undertaken by students at different times throughout the session, but where the assessment is based on experiments or case studies specific to a student. In this case no marks will be awarded for work submitted more than two weeks after the due date.

Notwithstanding this, students must complete all assessment tasks to a satisfactory standard and submit them, regardless of lateness or loss of marks, where submission is a condition of satisfactorily completing the subject.

Supplementary Assessments
This subject has been identified as unsuitable for supplementary assessment, and no supplementary assessment will be offered.

System of Referencing Used for Written Work
The Author-Date (Harvard) referencing system should, unless otherwise specified for a particular assessment (check Details of Assessment Tasks), be utilised. A summary of the Harvard system can be accessed on the Library website at: http://public01.library.uow.edu.au/refcite/style-guides/html/

Use of Internet Sources
Students are able to use the Internet to access the most current information on relevant topics and information. Internet sources should only be used after careful critical analysis of the currency of the information, the role and standing of the sponsoring institution, reputation and credentials of the author, the clarity of the information and the extent to which the information can be supported or ratified by other authoritative sources.

Plagiarism
The full policy on Academic Integrity and Plagiarism is found in the Policy Directory on the UOW website.

"The University’s Academic Integrity and Plagiarism Policy, Faculty Handbooks and subject guides clearly set out the University’s expectation that students submit only their own original work for assessment and avoid plagiarising the work of others or cheating. Re-using any of your own work (either in part or in full) which you have submitted previously for assessment is not permitted without appropriate acknowledgement. Plagiarism can be detected and has led to students being expelled from the University.

The use by students of any website that provides access to essays or other assessment items (sometimes marketed as ‘resources’), is extremely unwise. Students who provide an assessment item (or provide access to an assessment item) to others, either directly or indirectly (for example by uploading an assessment item to a website) are considered by the university to be intentionally or recklessly helping other students to cheat. This is considered academic misconduct and students place themselves at risk of being expelled from the University."

Submission of Assessments
Submission details to be advised by subject coordinator.

Assessment Return
Students will be notified when they are able to view their marked assessment. In accordance with University Policy marked assignments will usually only be held for 21 days after the declaration of marks for that assignment.
Section C: General Advice

Students should refer to the Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health website for information on policies, learning and support services and other general advice.

University Policies

Students should be familiar with the following University policies:

a. Code of Practice – Teaching and Assessment

b. Code of Practice – Research, where relevant

c. Code of Practice – Honours, where relevant

d. Student Charter

e. Code of Practice – Student Professional Experience, where relevant

f. Academic Integrity and Plagiarism Policy

g. Student Academic Consideration Policy

h. Course Progress Policy

i. Graduate Qualities Policy

j. Academic Complaints Policy (Coursework and Honours Students)

k. Policy and Guidelines on Non-Discriminatory Language Practice and Presentation

l. Workplace Health and Safety, where relevant

m. Intellectual Property Policy

n. IP Student Assessment of Intellectual Property Policy, where relevant

o. Policy on Ethical Objection by Students to the Use of Animal and Animal Products in Coursework Subjects, where relevant

p. Human Research Ethics Guidelines, where relevant

q. Animal Research Guidelines, where relevant
r. Student Conduct Rules and accompanying Procedures or Research Misconduct Policy for research students

Student Support Services and Facilities
Students can access information on student support services and facilities at the following link. This includes information on “Academic Support”, “Starting at University,” “Help at University” as well as information and support on “Career’s and Jobs”. http://www.uow.edu.au/student/services/index.html

Student Etiquette
Guidelines on the use of email to contact teaching staff, mobile phone use in class and information on the university guide to eLearning ‘Netiquette’ can be found at http://www.uow.edu.au/student/elearning/netiquette/index.html

Version Control Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Version Control</th>
<th>Release Date</th>
<th>Author/Reviewer</th>
<th>Approved By</th>
<th>Amendment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>20151221</td>
<td>Prof Paul Else – Subject Coordinator</td>
<td>Sonia Losinno – ADE Nominee</td>
<td>Final MEDI300 Autumn 2016 Subject Outline</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix 1: Assessment Task #5 Additional Details

Final Research Report (60%) - Individual work

(Wk 13 Friday by 4pm)

Reports should be written up as if being sent off for publication in a scientific journal. It is important to remember that this is to be an individual piece of work and that the University policy on plagiarism will be strictly applied – while discussion of results within a group on such projects is expected the project final report must represent an individual effort. Also, the final mark in this area will also have a variable component (~ 5%) that reflects the workload/participation and contribution in terms of work effort and creative ideas etc donated to the project (this will be decided in discussions with the research supervisor).

The following format will be required: the report (similar to that of a scientific paper) should be no longer than 8 double spaced (12 font) typed A4 pages (page limit excludes title page, references, tables and graphs) and consist of:

Title - No longer than 100 characters (including spaces)

Abstract - No more than 150 words in length. Should contain a clear statement of the aims of the study or hypothesis to be tested. This should include a summary of methodology, any important numerical and statistical data and 1-2 sentences stating the major conclusion/s of the research (no references).

Introduction – Normally no more than 1-2 pages that includes the aims/reasons for doing the study. The introduction should provide the necessary research background (literature information) required for a scientifically literate but not necessarily an expert in the area to be able to understand the basis for the project. The end of the introduction should provide the aims of the project and what is expected in terms of achievement. All literature used needs to be referenced (as outlined below).

Note: It is expected that some of the literature from the research proposal will be reused in the introduction but its use should be limited to the space available. Other use of this literature is likely to occur in the discussion.

Materials and Methods Section – Should consist of a concise summary of the materials and methods used in performing the described research. Including any suppliers of specialised equipment or chemicals etc used also statistical methods and numbers of subjects trials etc performed. Where a project is working with existing data, then a concise summary of how that data was collected is required. Nomenclature and abbreviations used in the text should be in accordance with internationally agreed standards (e.g. °C rather than Fahrenheit, official & distinct rather than trivial or trade names).

Note: One of the biggest failings in this area is the tense used – there is a tendency to carry over methods from the proposal document that is what you intended to do in future tense (e.g. tissues will be dissected….) but in the research report it should be written in the past tense (e.g. tissues were dissected….). Do not run the fault of cut and paste as this will lose you marks.

Results - A basic written summary of what you found – not just a compilation of Tables and Figures without text descriptions. This description may involve tables, statistics, graphs including titles/legends etc (NB simply showing graph/figures etc without any written description is totally inappropriate).

Discussion - A summary of how you interpret your findings. This is where you demonstrate your skills in analysis, synthesis and evaluation of both your own work and the work of others (that you might refer to). In some reports results and discussion may be combined if this produces a more logical flow to the work. The discussion needs to hold the quality and needs to be on topic and pull in other comparable literature etc where appropriate. This is where you can impress the assessor with your ability to logically build up your arguments and if possible make saltatory leaps of deductive reasoning to create new ideas (if you’re lucky).

References - Should be presented in the form prescribed below.
Referencing Style - applies to both the Proposal Document and the Final Report
References within the text will be author name up to two authors or et al., for more than two authors followed by the date –(eg - Jones and Smith, 1999; Jones et al., 2000)]. The reference list can simply be formed alphabetically. References should contain the names and initials of all the authors of each paper, together with the full title of the paper, the abbreviated journal title (according to Index Medicus), the volume number, the first and last page number, and the year as follows for;

