

## BIOL4003: Presenting Research

Callaghan

Semester 1 - 2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEWCASTLE  
AUSTRALIA

## OVERVIEW

<b>Course Description</b>	Presenting Research forms part of the Honours Program for Biological Sciences. This course allows students to showcase their presentation and communication skills, and knowledge of research process and outcomes. Students will share their findings to a range of audiences, communicating the results of their theoretical and/or experimental work through a Final Seminar, Thesis Defence and Viva.
<b>Academic Progress Requirements</b>	Nil
<b>Contact Hours</b>	<b>Callaghan Workshop</b> Face to Face On Campus 2 hour(s) per term
<b>Unit Weighting Workload</b>	20 Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

# COURSE OUTLINE

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# CONTACTS

**Course Coordinator**     **Callaghan**  
A/Pr Ian Grainge  
Ian.Grainge@newcastle.edu.au  
4921 7238  
Consultation: Please email to arrange a meeting

**Teaching Staff**             Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.

**School Office**             **School of Environmental and Life Sciences**  
Room C228 Chemistry Building  
Callaghan  
Science-SELS@newcastle.edu.au  
+61 2 4921 5080  
9am-5pm (Mon-Fri)

# SYLLABUS

**Course Content**             – Advanced capacity to clearly communicate research findings through a presentation and/or oral examination.  
   – Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the chosen thesis topic through a verbal presentation/discussion.

**Course Learning Outcomes**     **On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:**  
1. Demonstrate professionalism in presentation of thesis to an audience.  
2. Effectively communicate research methods and results to an audience.  
3. Structure and formulate responses to questions by written, graphic and oral means.

# ASSESSMENTS

This course has 3 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Final Seminar	FULL TIME COMMENCING IN SEMESTER 2, 2023 Final Seminar/Thesis Defence 2 weeks post Thesis submission (week of 10/06/2024)	Individual	40%	1, 2, 3
2	Viva	Usually the same day as or day after the final presentation.	Individual	20%	1, 2, 3
3	Thesis Defence	FULL TIME COMMENCING IN SEMESTER 2, 2023 Final Seminar/Thesis Defence ~2 weeks post Thesis submission (week of 10/06/2024)	Individual	40%	1, 2, 3

**Late Submissions** The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 10% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late. Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days.

## Assessment 1 - Final Seminar

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Presentation
<b>Purpose</b>	To gauge the student's ability to clearly communicate their results.
<b>Description</b>	The Final Seminar will report on the results of your Honours Project, and is held two weeks after Thesis submission. It will consist of 25 minutes oral presentation and 20 minutes Thesis Defence. The Thesis Defence questioning is initially led by the two Thesis Examiners (and can therefore cover any aspect of your assessed Thesis) and then becomes open to the general audience if time permits.
<b>Weighting</b>	40%
<b>Length</b>	25 minutes, plus 20 minutes for questions
<b>Due Date</b>	FULL TIME COMMENCING IN SEMESTER 2, 2023 Final Seminar/Thesis Defence 2 weeks post Thesis submission (week of 10/06/2024)
<b>Submission Method</b>	In Class
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	See Honours guidelines for more detail.
<b>Return Method</b>	Not Returned
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	In Person - Feedback will be given by examiners and examiners will question candidate.

## Assessment 2 - Viva

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Viva Voce
<b>Purpose</b>	To gauge the student's individual understanding of their project and ability to communicate their results.
<b>Description</b>	The final piece of assessment of your the Honours Program is the Viva. The Viva is an opportunity for the Honours Committee to discuss with the student matters relating to their Honours Project. This will be a broad discussion to gain a perspective of the student's independent accomplishment during their Honours. The Viva is also an opportunity for the student to provide feedback to the Discipline relating to their experience of the Honours Program and to raise any issues that the student may think has been relevant to their progress throughout their Honours program. The student's performance at the Viva in demonstrating an independent understanding of their project will ultimately confirm the level of Honours awarded. The Viva is extremely important for students whose mark places them at the interface between two Honours classifications.
<b>Weighting</b>	20%
<b>Length</b>	~10 minutes
<b>Due Date</b>	Usually the same day as or day after the final presentation.
<b>Submission Method</b>	In Class
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	See Honours guidelines for more detail.
<b>Return Method</b>	Not Returned
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	No Feedback

## Assessment 3 - Thesis Defence

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Thesis
<b>Purpose</b>	The thesis defence will test the student's ability to understand and communicate the methods they used, the results they generated and how these results fit into the wider context of the research field.
<b>Description</b>	The Final Seminar will report on the results of your Honours Project, and is held two weeks after Thesis submission. It will consist of 25 minutes oral presentation and 20 minutes Thesis Defence. The Thesis Defence questioning is initially led by the two Thesis Examiners (and can therefore cover any aspect of your assessed Thesis) and then becomes open to the general audience if time permits.
<b>Weighting</b>	40%
<b>Length</b>	20 minutes
<b>Due Date</b>	FULL TIME COMMENCING IN SEMESTER 2, 2023 Final Seminar/Thesis Defence ~2 weeks post Thesis submission (week of 10/06/2024)
<b>Submission Method</b>	In Class
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	See Honours guidelines for more detail.
<b>Return Method</b>	Not Returned
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	No Feedback

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Grading Scheme

This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.

\*Skills are those identified for the purposes of assessment task(s).

### Communication Methods

Communication methods used in this course include:

### Course Evaluation

Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement.

### Oral Interviews (Vivas)

As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination (viva) may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the [Oral Examination \(viva\) Procedure](#).

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In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the [Student Conduct Rule](#).

**Academic Misconduct** All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment. Academic Integrity policies apply to all students of the University in all modes of study and in all locations. For the Student Academic Integrity Policy, refer to <https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35>.

**Adverse Circumstances** The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s). Applications for special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where:

1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or
2. the assessment item is a minor assessment item and the Course Co-ordinator has specified in the Course Outline that students may apply the online Adverse Circumstances system;
3. you are requesting a change of placement; or
4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement.

Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstance Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at:  
<https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236>

**Important Policy Information** The Help button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures at <https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/respect-at-uni/policies-and-procedures> that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.

*This course outline was approved by the Head of School. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Head of School approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original.*

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