



# BIOL3420: Biodiversity and Conservation Session 2, 2020 – 60 PACE ACTIVITY HOURS



- Combine theory with practice as you work on conservation based activity while enhancing your C.V. and professional experience
- Explore real world conservation and management of marine, freshwater and/or terrestrial ecosystems
- No matter what stage you are at in life or career, this unit enhances professional pursuits

## **HOW DOES THE UNIT WORK?**

PACE units combine theory-based curriculum with practical experience. BIOL3420 students work as a class-based group, and at times smaller groups within that, to engage with resource managers and other relevant stakeholders in typical field settings. This leads to experience in the area of natural resource management and conservation biology, while enabling partners to achieve organisational goals. You must undertake all curriculum (e.g. workshops/lessons and assessment) and the PACE activity in order to be eligible to complete the unit.

To find out more about BIOL3420 and eligibility requirements visit the [Handbook](#)

## **HOW DO I FIND MY PACE ACTIVITY?**

BIOL3420 PACE activities will be made available to you through the unit. The Unit Convenor will allocate students to groups and activities where necessary and as appropriate.

## **BIOL3420 PACE-SPECIFIC TIMELINES (See Unit Guide for academic dates)**

Key dates	Activity information
ASAP	Plan ahead and prepare to enrol in BIOL3420 to maximise outcomes.
Week 1 of Session	Fieldwork details will be confirmed
Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Throughout the session - spend time reflecting on your PACE activity experiences and the unit curriculum in preparation for completing assessments.</li> <li>• Students should manage and plan carefully so they can meet their other commitments (e.g. part-time work or other university studies).</li> </ul>

## **IS RECOGNITION FOR PRIOR LEARNING (RPL) POSSIBLE?**

As per the University's RPL Policy, if you can evidence prior achievement of the [Academic Senate's criteria for PACE units](#) then RPL for PACE might be possible. Acknowledgement of past or current employment alone is not sufficient for this purpose; however, evidence could include demonstration of achieving core PACE criteria through experiential learning that has occurred as part of that employment, or successful completion of a PACE-like unit elsewhere. Refer to the PACE-specific information in the University's [RPL Policy](#) for more detail. Information on how to apply can be found [here](#).

## ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW?

- **Student Undertaking**

Once enrolled, you will be asked to agree to your Roles and Responsibilities and provide emergency contact details via a Student Undertaking form in iParticipate. Doing this and receiving approval for your PACE activity are necessary before you can start your PACE activity.

- **Background checks (WWCC, Police Check, Health Check etc.)**

Some PACE activities require background checks before you commence such as Working With Children Check, National Police Check etc. The checks necessary (if any) will depend on your activity and the requirements of your partner organisation.

- **Reasonable adjustments**

PACE activities are available to ALL undergraduate Macquarie students regardless of their personal circumstances. Students are encouraged to disclose and discuss any personal circumstances which may impact on their ability to complete a PACE Activity before selection or allocation of PACE Activities is finalised. For more information refer to the [PACE Activity Management Procedure](#) and the [Student Disability Support Policy](#). [Reasonable adjustments video](#)

- **PACE and Ethical Practice**

Ethical practice features heavily in PACE and involves negotiating the ethical complexities of the context in which you are working, engaging in activities in an ethical manner, and ethical partnerships. Students should not undertake a PACE activity that would cause a conflict of interest (e.g. with a current employer). Please advise the Unit Convenor as soon as any ethical concerns (including conflict of interest) arise.

- **Intellectual property rights**

It is possible that a PACE activity might result in the creation of intellectual property (IP). IP is a term that describes the application of the mind to develop something new or original. IP may exist in various forms, such as a new invention, brand, design, software program or artistic creation.

Discussion about this should occur with your partner organisation at the start of the session. You might even be asked to sign an IP agreement. Note: IP generated by students with substantial use of partner organisation resources and input (e.g. the initial problem for which a solution is being developed) will normally be required to be assigned to the partner organisation.

If you are uncertain about your rights, speak with your Unit Convenor or Faculty PACE team. The University does not provide students with legal advice in respect of IP creation, ownership or rights of use and recommends students obtain independent legal advice before signing an IP agreement. The University has developed a draft agreement that could be used by students and partners to assign IP and this is available through your Unit Convenor.

For further advice you can contact the Office of Commercialisation and Innovation by emailing [commercialisation@mq.edu.au](mailto:commercialisation@mq.edu.au)

- **Fieldwork**

As BIOL3420 is focused on the integration of science in applied practice, an important part of the unit is the completion of fieldwork. The occurrence and specifics of this will be advised by the Unit Convenor at the start of the session. Fieldwork-based activities are undertaken in collaboration with a partner and are conducted on a site in the natural and/or built environment in order to collect data (e.g. soil samples, asking questions of humans, documenting information about animals, etc.) for the purposes of informing a study about that environment or site. If fieldwork involves any sample testing or analysis and there is a cost involved, you should confirm who will pay for any associated expenses beforehand, so that this is not expected of you.

Fieldwork may be led by students as the discipline experts; however, it requires supervision by an appropriately qualified Macquarie University staff or external partner. The BIOL3420 Unit Convenor will inform you about any additional WHS and risk procedures that might be necessary. All fieldwork must be officially approved by relevant staff before it commences.

## PACEWISE

Re-visit [PACEWISE](#) to find out more about:

- Great hints on how to present yourself professionally
- The Judyth Sachs Prize
- PACE Equity and Travel grants
- Your Roles and Responsibilities
- Your Work Health and Safety

## HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

For questions specific to the academic requirements of BIOL3420 contact the Unit Convenor.

For all other enquiries about BIOL3420, contact the Faculty of Science and Engineering PACE team at [pace.science@mq.edu.au](mailto:pace.science@mq.edu.au) or +61 2 9850 6842