



FOSC300: Participation and Community Engagement in Science and Engineering

UNIT SUMMARY FOR STUDENTS

Combine classroom learning with a PACE activity that matches your skills and interests, and put your theoretical knowledge to practice.

Network with professionals and engage with community, while enhancing your C.V.

Kick-start the next steps in your professional pursuits.

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT FOSC300?

FOSC300 is a Professional and Community Engagement (PACE) unit open to all undergraduate students who meet eligibility requirements at the time of applying for Special Approval. It provides students the opportunity to apply theory learnt through their degree to real-world situations, to consider what they might want to do after graduation, to learn through participation, and further develop their employability. Learning is facilitated through:

- Orientation and induction activities
- Curriculum which fosters skill and knowledge development on topics such as Graduate Capabilities, career skills, ethics and ethical practice, communicating science, reflection, and more
- Debriefing on experiences
- Rigorous academic assessment

Please see the *FOSC300 Unit Outline* for more detailed information.

Enrolment in FOSC300 is by Special Approval only. In addition to meeting the 39 credit points pre-requisite, eligibility is based on:

- Attendance in person or virtual of the pre-enrolment workshop and review of the

essential resources found in the FOSC300 pre-enrolment iLearn site

- A projected PACE activity and partner organisation meeting the PACE criteria (e.g. mutual benefit, ethical, etc.)
- A projected PACE activity enabling the unit learning outcomes
- WHS/risk considerations (e.g. should be relatively low risk)

FOSC300 is classified as a 300-level elective unit, and it is Science and Medical Science designated. It can be used to meet degree requirements when any PACE unit can be chosen or to extend experience in addition to specifically required PACE units.

KEEP SPACE FOR PACE

It is very important to keep elective space in your student planner (e-student) to enrol in FOSC300. If PACE is a general requirement of your degree and you have to complete a PACE unit, but do not have elective space available, please contact Student Connect about making space about making space.

"I helped conduct cross cultural biodiversity surveys and wetland monitoring with the Yirralka Rangers in North East Arnhem, Northern Territory. This activity not only allowed me to to put theory I'd learnt at



Photo credit: Julia Salt 2017

Macquarie into practise, but also feel empowered knowing that my actions had real social and environmental benefits."

Bridget Campbell, BABSc Anthropology and Biology.

I'M INTERESTED, TELL ME MORE!

Step 1: Check out the essentials. Add yourself to the FOSC300 Pre-enrolment iLearn site: <http://ilearn.mq.edu.au/course/view.php?id=26740> and attend the pre-enrolment workshop either in person, or virtually (both powerpoints and Echo360 recording). Following this, review all other essential resources as listed in the site.

LEARN MORE AND ENROL

The FOSC300 Pre-enrolment iLearn site is your Explorer's Guide to the unit. Check the site regularly for essential resources Announcements, and required processes.

Step 2: Prepare for Special Approval, then apply for it. Once you have attended the pre-enrolment workshop (in person or virtually), and as part of reviewing essential resources 'Prepare for Special Approval' by learning what information is needed. For example: your plans for the PACE activity, possible partner organisations, and your core skills and interests. If you want to enrol in FOSC300, click on the the Web link 'Apply for Special Approval' to provide this information to the FSE PACE Team.

SPECIAL APPROVAL

Students must apply for Special Approval using the online form through the FOSC300 Pre-enrolment iLearn site (not through Ask MQ) no later than 4 weeks before the start of session. PDF forms will not be accepted.

Step 3: Act on Special Approval decision. Applications for Special Approval are processed on a rolling basis. Eligible students will receive an email to confirm receipt of Special Approval. These students should finalise enrolment asap via e-student (i.e. as you would normally enrol for a unit).

Once enrolled, you will have access to a system called 'iParticipate' which enables acknowledgement of your PACE roles and responsibilities, provision of emergency contacts, information on checks such as Working With Children as appropriate, and expressions of interest for limited PACE activities that might become available. In cases where additional information is required or enrolment is not possible, students will be consulted by email.

WHAT IS A PACE ACTIVITY AND HOW DO I FIND ONE?

A PACE activity is the practical experience students complete as part of the PACE unit. PACE activities occur in partnership with a relevant organisation, and must:

- Enable the learning outcomes of the unit
- Meet the PACE criteria (e.g. contribute to the host organisation's goals in a way that benefits you and them)
- Be suitable in terms of WHS and risk.

Think carefully about activities that align with your own interests and skills, while also being flexible and open to opportunities that might not seem obvious at first.

In FOSC300 the main way of finding your PACE activity is to Bring Your Own Activity (BYOA). This method can have the greatest amount of benefit and security. Where possible, there may be very limited and highly competitive activities advertised by FSE PACE; however there is no guarantee these will be available or that you will be successful therefore, it is important that you place priority on BYOA. See below for more detail.

BRING YOUR OWN ACTIVITY (BYOA)

FOSC300 students are encouraged to make the most of BYOA: you can be more involved in negotiating your activity tasks and terms;

learn first-hand how to approach future employers and opportunities be it for the first time, changing directions, or progressing your career; and enhance chances of securing something that meets your goals and interests no matter at what professional stage you are. Begin by reviewing the FOSC300 pre-enrolment workshop, and the essential resources which includes a video of how to find your PACE activity and helpful tips. Be realistic in your expectations and truthful in your dealings with organisations.

DIRECT APPLICATION TO A PARTNER-RUN SELECTION PROCESS

Some partner organisations prefer to run their own selection process for the limited opportunities they have available. These activities will be advertised on the [PACE Opportunities page: http://pace-opportunities.mq.edu.au/uat/en/listing/](http://pace-opportunities.mq.edu.au/uat/en/listing/) and students will be required to apply directly to the partner organisation as per the details of the promotion. Due to the competitive nature of these students are encouraged to put their best foot forward well ahead of the deadline.

Even if you plan to apply for such an opportunity, you should demonstrate independent research of other organisations, and your efforts to BYOA as there is no guarantee your application will be successful.

EXPRESSING INTEREST FOR AN ACTIVITY WITH AN FSE PACE PARTNER

Depending on the session there can be limited and competitive opportunities available through existing FSE PACE partner organisations. Only students enrolled in FOSC300 can express an interest for these. You are welcome to consult these opportunities; however, you should also demonstrate independent research of other organisations, and especially your

efforts to BYOA. This is important as these opportunities are unpredictable and not guaranteed, might not match your skills and interests, and generally are not available well in advance of a session. Where they exist the FSE PACE team will communicate them to students, as well as explain what is needed to express an interest, and by when.

Important: If you have exceptional circumstances that require you to start your PACE activity prior to the session, you must contact FSE PACE about the possibility of Early Commencement: <https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/participation-activity>



Photo: Jonathan Kennedy 2016

"I learnt how to apply and practice 'hard science' in a communication and interpersonal role...[It] gave me far greater scope on the opportunities that exist for those with a scientific background."

Jono Kennedy (BSc Biomolecular Studies) did his work experience at the Centre for Genetics Education.



(Left) B MarSci students, Emily Best and Mitchell Hawtrey, Manly Sealife Sanctuary (Photo credit: Chris Stacey 2015).

FIND OUT MORE

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