**MOLS3003: Molecular Sciences Project**

**SESSION 2 - 96 PACE ACTIVITY HOURS**

**KEY PACE PROCESSES AND TIMELINES**

**HOW DOES THE UNIT WORK?**

PACE units combine theory-based curriculum with practical experience (PACE activity) to enhance your employability (i.e., being work and life ready in increasingly complex and evolving circumstances). In MOLS3003 you will undertake an individual or group-based research project based in chemistry and/or biomolecular sciences and in collaboration with a partner organisation. You must undertake the unit’s curriculum and the PACE activity in order to be eligible to complete MOLS3003.

Well in advance check the [Handbook](#) for information about MOLS3003, including pre-reqs and any Special Approval requirements. It can also help to look at previous [Unit Guides](#).

**EXAMPLES OF PREVIOUS MOLS3003 ACTIVITIES**

- **Science Education Program**: evaluated STEM engagement from remote learning/online teaching.
- **University Department**: contributed to a potential novel detection method for the identification of the COVID-19 virus.
- **Disease Research Centre**: using statistical computing software to analyse genomic sequence data to find novel gene variants for disease.

**PACE Timelines (see Unit Guide for academic dates)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key dates</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>At the end of your 2nd year</strong></td>
<td>Plan ahead and prepare to enrol in MOLS3003 to maximise outcomes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Two weeks before session starts** | - Join the MOLS3003 pre-enrolment iLearn site and review all its resources so that you know what you need to do, and by when.  
- Research which organisations/activities you would like to work with, and start contacting organisations to find a PACE activity.  
- Complete the online form for ‘Prepare your Activity’ – available through the MOLS3003 pre-enrolment iLearn site  
- Confirm your activity with your partner organisation and check with the Unit Convenor that it will be suitable. If the Unit Convenor feels it is suitable, submit the MOLS3003 ‘Student Activity Proposal’ (available through the MOLS3003 pre-enrolment iLearn site) to propose your activity for review. |
| **Ongoing** | - Reflect on your PACE activity and curriculum in preparation for assessments  
- Engage with your partner organisation as agreed by you and your host supervisor  
- Manage and plan carefully so you can meet all commitments |

**MOLS3003 STUDENT TESTIMONIAL**

“I gained so much more than just the knowledge required for my project within MOLS3003. The unit’s lectures offered a diverse source of experiences from many different professionals. Completing my project gave me insight into how I can use the knowledge I’ve gained over my degree in the world beyond uni. I also appreciated the flexibility that this unit offered, catering for the circumstances and interests of each individual student as they chose and executed their research project. The experiences and network I have gained through this unit have increased my employability and assisted in informing my career decisions.”

BIANCA MARCHIO, MOLS3003 student
HOW DO I FIND MY PACE ACTIVITY?
The first step in gaining professional experience through MOLS3003 is finding and proposing your own PACE activity. This enables you to:
• be more involved in negotiating your activity tasks and structure
• learn first-hand how to approach future employers and opportunities be it for the first time, changing directions, or progressing your career;
• enhance chances of finding something that meets your goals and interests no matter at what professional stage you are and;
• build professional contacts and networks
Go to the FSE PACE webpage for resources that can help you find your activity. Other guidance is available through the MOLS3003 pre-enrolment iLearn site.

Suitable activities and partner organisations must:
• Enable the learning outcomes of the unit;
• Meet PACE criteria (e.g. ethical; mutually beneficial);
• Be relatively low risk in terms of WHS and risk;
• Involve adequate supervision (e.g. discipline-specific knowledge; supervision as appropriate for minimising risk);
• Be relevant to Chemistry and/or Biomolecular Sciences and;
• Involve public liability insurance and the maintenance of safe work practices

When you have found a PACE activity, and discussed its suitability with your Unit Convenor, you will need to submit a MOLS3003 Student Activity Proposal. This form will be available through the MOLS3003 pre-enrolment iLearn site. Note: you must receive formal approval before you can start your PACE activity.

IS RECOGNITION OF 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. Evidence occurs through: having completed a PACE-like unit elsewhere, or submission of a portfolio demonstrating that all 4 essential PACE elements (as specified in the Policy) have been met.

Acknowledgement of past or current employment alone is not sufficient for this purpose; however, evidence could include demonstration of you having engaged in an experiential learning activity (as part of that employment) that:
• was mutually beneficial, and
• met or exceeded the minimum hours standard set in Senate's Criteria for the Accreditation of PACE units and activities, and
• enabled the integration of theory with practice, and
• was embedded in and supported by a reflective practice framework.

For more information, refer to the PACE-specific detail in the University's RPL Policy and if you want to apply go here.

ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW?

IPARTicipate
Once enrolled, you will have access to a system called 'iParticipate' which enables acknowledgement of your PACE Roles and Responsibilities (through the Student Undertaking form), provision of emergency contacts, identification of which activity you would like to complete, and information on background/health checks (see below).

BACKGROUND/HEALTH CHECKS
Some PACE activities require background/health checks before you commence such as Working With Children Check, National Police Check etc. Which checks you require will depend on your partner organisation and activity. Checks can take time to complete so it is important to prepare as early as possible.

REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS
PACE activities are available to all undergraduate Macquarie students regardless of personal circumstances. Students are encouraged to disclose and discuss any personal circumstances which may impact their PACE Activity before activity allocation is finalised.

For more information refer to the PACE Activity Management Procedure and the Student Disability Support Policy.

PACE AND ETHICAL PRACTICE
Ethical practice is a key component of PACE. It involves negotiating the ethical complexities in which you are working, engaging in an ethical manner and establishing ethical partnerships. Students should not undertake a PACE activity where a conflict of interest might exist. Please advise your Unit Convenor as soon as any ethical concerns arise.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS
Your PACE activity might result in the creation of intellectual property (IP). IP is the application of the mind to develop something new or original and can exist in various forms, such as an invention, brand, design, software program or artistic creation.

Discuss IP with your partner organisation before your PACE activity starts. 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. The University cannot provide you with IP legal advice in respect of IP creation, ownership or rights of use and recommends you obtain independent legal advice before signing an IP agreement. The University has developed a draft agreement that you and partners could use 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

PACEWISE
Re-visit PACEWISE to find out more about:
• Hints to present yourself professionally
• The Judyth Sachs Prize
• PACE Equity and Travel grants
• Your Roles and Responsibilities
• Work Health and Safety

CONTACT INFORMATION
For questions specific to the academic requirements of MOLS3003 contact the Unit Convenor.

For all other enquiries about MOLS3003, contact PACE:
T: +61 (2) 9850 6842
E: pace.science@mq.edu.au