

Information for Students undertaking SCI501: Special Topics in Science A, or SCI 502:Special Topics in Science B as part of their Master of Neuroscience

This unit provides students with the opportunity to undertake a mini-research project or literature review in an area of scientific interest upon agreement of potential supervisor(s) and the Course Coordinator. (UNE Course & Unit Catalogue)

SCI501 and SCI502 are generic units, designed for students across any area of study within the School of Science and Technology.

Within the **Master of Neuroscience**, they are also generic, allowing students to undertake a wide range of research activities that might include laboratory work, research studies, literature reviews, or other research activities negotiated between the student's Supervisor, the Course Coordinator of the M. Neuroscience, and the student.

There are **three people** you need to contact: The Course Coordinator for the M Neuroscience, the Unit Coordinator for SCI501 or SCI502, and your proposed Supervisor (this last one is left to you to decide).

Your contact with the Course Coordinator and the Unit Coordinator is minimal—really just giving the relevant details as per the attached form. Your **Supervisor** is the person whom you will work with most intensively.

NB: The Course and Unit Coordinators do not undertake to find a place for the student to do these units, or their UNE Supervisor. That is the responsibility of the student. However, the Course Coordinator and Unit Coordinator do retain the right to approve or not approve the place chosen by the student, or their UNE Supervisor.

As the first step in this negotiation, students need to provide the following information to the Course Coordinator of the M. Neuroscience at least one month prior to the commencement of the trimester in which the student hopes to undertake their SCI501 or SCI502 studies. You must also start discussions with the Unit Coordinator for SCI501 or SCI502 as soon as possible, to determine their requirements of you.

Information for the Course Coordinator at least one month before starting studying:

1. What you will do: (ie, laboratory work, research studies, literature reviews, other research).
2. Where you will do it: (organisation name, sub-dept, etc).
3. Nature of the organisation (teaching, research, clinical treatment, etc).
4. The Principal Site Supervisor within the organisation who will take day-to-day responsibility for your work (if applicable).
5. The UNE Supervisor who will undertake to supervise your work from UNE and who will grade your submitted assignments (see below).
6. Your own role within the organisation (if any).
7. The topic or issue your work will seek to address.
8. The intended outcome of your work.

9. Proposed practical activities (e.g., lab work, data-gathering, reviews, other research, etc).
10. Who you will perform these activities on (if applicable, ie, who are the research subjects).
11. What UNE Ethics approvals you will need if you are undertaking research (students cannot commence their research until they have this approval, if relevant).
12. The proposed dates of your SCI501 or SCI502 activities (these are usually the trimester dates).

Assessment tasks: These are also set out in the Course Catalogue, UNE.

All assignments are due by 11.59pm, Friday, of the week specified below to the student's UNE Supervisor, who will grade these assignments and send the results to the Unit Coordinator for SCI501 or SCI502, and the Course Coordinator for the M Neuroscience.

Lab-Based Research Project		100%		7000-7500
<p><i>Assessment Notes</i></p> <p>Students must select one of two assessment options: Option A: Laboratory Based Research Project Assessment 1: 20% 1500 Initial Literature Review (must be submitted within the first 5 weeks of the teaching period) Assessment 2: 80% 5500-6000 Scientific Report (must be submitted by the Friday ending the first week of the examination period for that Trimester)</p>				
Literature Review Project			100%	7000-7500
<p><i>Assessment Notes</i></p> <p>Students must select one of two assessment options: Option B: Literature Review Project Assessment 1: 10% 500 Written Project Outline Assessment 2: 20% 1000 Draft Literature Review Initial Literature Review (must be submitted within the first 5 weeks of the teaching period) Assessment 3: 70% 5500-6000 Final Literature Review (must be submitted by the Friday ending the first week of the examination period for that Trimester)</p>				