



## UNSW Course Outline

# NEUR4442 Neuroscience Research (For students commencing in T1 2024) - 2024

Published on the 28 Jan 2024

## General Course Information

**Course Code :** NEUR4442

**Year :** 2024

**Term :** Term 1

**Teaching Period :** T1

**Is a multi-term course? :** Yes

**Additional Term(s) :** 2024, Term 3 2024, Term 2

**Faculty :** Faculty of Medicine and Health

**Academic Unit :** School of Biomedical Sciences

**Delivery Mode :** In Person

**Delivery Format :** Standard

**Delivery Location :** Kensington

**Campus :** Sydney

**Study Level :** Undergraduate

**Units of Credit :** 12

### Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

# Course Details & Outcomes

## Course Description

You will engage in an experimental research project, supervised by a member of academic staff. This research project includes project planning, literature review, experimental work, statistical analyses and oral and written reporting. This course represents part of the total 36 UOC research project that forms the core of Neuroscience Honours.

## Course Aims

The main aim of the course is to introduce you to neuroscience research. You will undertake a supervised research project that places emphasis on advanced disciplinary knowledge, the use of specialised techniques, critical thinking and scientific communication. You will gain experience in semi-independent research activity, scientific writing and oral presentation.

## Relationship to Other Courses

The Neuroscience Honours stream is run jointly by the School of Psychology and the School of Biomedical Sciences. It is a multi-disciplinary research-based course which can be taken full-time over one year or part-time over two years.

Specifically, Neuroscience Honours is a 48 UOC specialisation that includes a full-year research project component, and 2 coursework components. Students enrol in two 6 UOC courses; **NEUR4411 Behavioural Perspectives in Neuroscience**, and **NEUR4421 Biomedical Perspectives in Neuroscience**. The research project occupies the other 36 UOC, which students take by enrolling in the Neuroscience Research course (**NEUR4442**) that add up to 36 UOC.

You will engage in an experimental research project, supervised by a member of academic staff. This research project includes project planning, literature review, experimental work, statistical analyses and oral and written reporting. This course represents part of the total 36 UOC research project that forms the core of Neuroscience Honours.

The **Coursework component (NEUR4411 and NEUR4421)** comprises 25% of the final honours mark (12.5% per course). In NEUR4411 (Behavioural Perspectives in Neuroscience), students learn about neuroscience from a psychological perspective. Students will be introduced to a range of techniques and learn how to critically evaluate the primary literature. NEUR4421 (Biomedical Perspectives in Neuroscience) will be taught from a biomedical science perspective and consists of half-day workshops covering different cutting-edge neuroscience techniques,

statistics and research thesis writing. Together, the coursework will provide students with a broad knowledge base and appreciation of neuroscientific developments complementing the deep learning provided by the research project. The coursework is assessed by the staff that delivered the material.

NEUR4442 is also one of the possible entry requirements for a PhD in SBMS (e.g., anatomy-1750, pathology-1780, physiology & pharmacology-1790). You should consult with your supervisor, your mentor or the Honours Convenor by July 2024 if you are considering this option, as you may be able to apply for a number of scholarships.

#### **Assistance with progression checking:**

If you are unsure how this course fits within your program, you can seek guidance on optimising your program structure from staff at the [Nucleus Student Hub](#).

- Progression plans for UNSW Medicine and Health programs can be found on the [UNSW Medicine & Health website](#).
- Progression plans for UNSW Science programs can be found on the [UNSW Science website](#).

# Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Apply the practice of workplace health and safety in addition to laboratory safety standard operating procedures to a research project
CLO2 : Identify, critically evaluate, synthesise and reference a body of scientific literature that informs the research topic
CLO3 : Develop practical skills in research, including techniques directly related to the specific research topic, recording of experimental data and ability to work in a team
CLO4 : Critically analyse research data, integrate it into the wider field, and communicate effectively the findings in both oral and written formats

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Apply the practice of workplace health and safety in addition to laboratory safety standard operating procedures to a research project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Research Proposal</li><li>• Research Thesis</li></ul>
CLO2 : Identify, critically evaluate, synthesise and reference a body of scientific literature that informs the research topic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Proposal presentation</li><li>• Research Proposal</li></ul>
CLO3 : Develop practical skills in research, including techniques directly related to the specific research topic, recording of experimental data and ability to work in a team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Research Thesis</li></ul>
CLO4 : Critically analyse research data, integrate it into the wider field, and communicate effectively the findings in both oral and written formats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lay Summary</li><li>• Proposal presentation</li></ul>

## Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Microsoft Teams

## Learning and Teaching in this course

All course materials and course announcements are provided on the course learning management system, Moodle.

By accessing and using the ICT resources provided by UNSW, you are agreeing to abide by the ['Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources'](#) policy particularly on respect for intellectual property and copyright, legal and ethical use of ICT resources and security and privacy.

The primary activity of NEUR4442 is self-driven laboratory research, with the goal of producing a

research thesis authored by the student. This research will also be communicated to a wide audience through an oral in-person (proposal) presentation and a written lay summary. Neuroscience Honours engages you in contextualised learning by allowing you to conduct your own research project under the supervision of a specialist neuroscience researcher. You and the supervisor devise a project tailored to your strengths and to provide additional experience in areas that will help you develop.

You have the primary responsibility (a) to conduct all aspects of the research project (including literature searches, data collection, and data analyses), (b) for the timely completion of the Honours research thesis, and (c) for the form and content of the final product. You are expected to behave in an ethical, socially responsible, and professional manner throughout honours in accordance with [UNSW research integrity policies](#) and the [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#).

**Laboratory research** will provide the opportunity to develop knowledge and practical skills in research techniques, to work as part of a research team, and to accurately record experimental data. This will allow for responsibility and accountability for own learning and practice, collaboration with others, as well as for the identification of solutions to complex problems with intellectual independence.

**Research Thesis** writing will be self-driven and independent, and involve locating appropriate scholarly journal articles, and critical evaluation and synthesise of scientific literature. It will also allow for critical assessment of own research data, to integrate own data into the wider field of neuroscience, and to draw scientific conclusions. You will also have the opportunity to learn to use statistical and graphing software necessary for accurate presentation of data.

**The research proposal and lay summary** will provide the opportunity for developing communication skills to present a clear and coherent exposition of knowledge and ideas to a variety of audiences. You will develop your own presentation (including visual aids) and lay summary in collaboration with your supervisors and other laboratory members. It will also provide the opportunity to learn to respond to feedback.

The coursework has its own set of learning activities. Please see relevant course outlines for NEUR4411 Behavioural Perspectives in Neuroscience, and NEUR4421 Biomedical Perspectives in Neuroscience.

**Students are expected to:**

- develop an honours research thesis project and plan for completing the project within the required timeframe in conjunction with their supervisor(s). Supervisors may limit the topic to areas that fit within the work of the research group and for which equipment and reasonable resources are available. The project often constitutes one section of a larger study, but it is important to ensure the proposed work constitutes a stand-alone project. Once a topic is chosen, the development of the research proposal, hypotheses and appropriate design is the responsibility of the student working in conjunction with their supervisor(s).
- complete in a timely manner the Health & Safety online awareness training course and all required Work Health & Safety and laboratory safety training and to comply with all requirements. The Laboratory Safety Awareness Online, Work Health & Safety Awareness Online and Ergonomic Online courses must be completed by all students who are carrying out research within the Wallace Wurth building. Those students with projects that involve PC2 work, gene technology, radiation or animal handling must complete the additional courses. Students need to be enrolled into these courses via the H&S Student Online Training Registration or via myUNSW. Students carrying out research outside of the Wallace Wurth building need to complete all relevant H&S training provided by the place of work.
- gain ethical approval for your research project in conjunction with your supervisor (if it does not already exist) and to conduct your research in an ethical manner, treating tissue, animals or participants with respect and appreciation.
- follow experimental procedures as outlined by your supervisor(s), ensuring ethics compliance and consistency with other components of the larger project.
- treat with confidentiality any information identifying participants. Primary materials and confidential research data must be kept in secure storage. Confidential information must only be used in ways agreed with those who provided it.
- adopt and implement the standard practices of the research group. This may include methods for data identification and storage, resource bookings and equipment use, etc.
- keep organised, complete and confidential records of the data collected, particularly in a manner which can be easily accessed at any time by the student or supervisor(s) and be understood at a later date by a research group member not immediately involved in the work. Researchers have a legal responsibility to keep full, accurate and legible records of research methods, research data and primary materials (including laboratory notebooks and electronic data) in a durable, organised and accessible manner. Research data and materials remain the property the University/Institute/Centre, unless subject to a third-party agreement.
- seek the approval of your supervisor prior to consulting with other academic staff or other researchers in the field about the project and to undertake additional work towards the research thesis identified as necessary by your supervisor. Posting of unpublished experimental plans or research results on the internet without the permission of the research supervisor is prohibited.
- take responsibility for the quality and originality of all submitted work.
- establish with your supervisor the level of support required for successful completion of the research thesis and to maintain regular contact with her/him. Meetings with the supervisor are important, requiring the cooperation of both parties. These meetings can be virtual. Discuss with your supervisor how she/he prefers to operate, whether from informal discussions, drafts and outlines, question and answer sessions, individually or within the context of lab meetings, etc. Prepare in advance for supervisor meetings by determining the

areas in which advice would be useful. Present any required written material or graphs/figures to your supervisor in sufficient time to allow for comments before the meetings. You may find it useful to follow up meetings with an email to your supervisor indicating your understanding of agreed actions, responsibilities and timelines (thus minimising miscommunication).

- maintain a professional and respectful relationship with your supervisor (e.g. to be punctual for meetings; to be willing to take advice and constructive criticism). Students are encouraged to deal promptly with any interpersonal issues that may arise with their supervisor, and if the relationship with the supervisor breaks down, students should seek advice from the Honours Convenor or the appropriate Grievance Officer.
- promptly notify the mentor of any significant disruptions to your capacity to undertake research.

# Assessments

## Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Proposal presentation Assessment Format: Individual	5%	Start Date: 10/04/2024 10:00 AM Due Date: 11/04/2024 03:00 PM
Research Proposal Assessment Format: Individual	10%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 18/04/2024 05:00 PM
Research Thesis Assessment Format: Individual	80%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 28/10/2024 05:00 PM
Lay Summary Assessment Format: Individual	5%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 04/11/2024 05:00 PM

## Assessment Details

### Proposal presentation

#### Assessment Overview

The presentation should largely cover the literature, aims, hypotheses and methods of the research project.

A clear, concise and appropriate introduction should be provided which identifies the limitations of the literature and areas of controversy. Clear and valid aims and hypotheses should also be stated. The presentation should cover the methods and the rationale for their use as well as the significance of the research.

The presentation should have clear and logical flow, good pace (i.e. neither hurried nor laboured) and use good quality visual aids. You should demonstrate understanding of the questions raised during question time by giving appropriate answers.

Assessment and feedback are based on a rubric aligned with that used for Honours in SBMS. Criteria within the rubric address the following: Background, Hypotheses, Aims, Methods, Presentation Skills and Questions. The presentation will be marked by the Neuroscience Honours Committee and formative feedback provided by academics from SBMS and the Neuroscience Honours cohort.

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

- CLO2 : Identify, critically evaluate, synthesise and reference a body of scientific literature that informs the research topic
- CLO4 : Critically analyse research data, integrate it into the wider field, and communicate effectively the findings in both oral and written formats

### **Detailed Assessment Description**

#### **Proposal Presentation (5%)**

- Students will outline their research proposal to the Neuroscience Honours Committee, other supervisors, students and SBMS audience members. The presentation is to be up to 10 minutes long, and students may use PowerPoint or Canvas. There is no limit to the numbers of slides to use. Under certain circumstances (e.g. COVID-19), students may be asked to include an additional 'contingency plan' slide. The presentation should convey the aims, hypotheses, experimental design & rationale, outcomes and significance of the proposed research along with a timeline of the honours year.
- Students are expected to have rehearsed the talk with their supervisors; You are allowed to have notes/palm cards, but you are expected to know your talk and not rely too heavily on your notes. Reading off your notes/palm cards too much will be reflected in your marks.
- The presentation is followed by up to 10 minutes of live questions and discussion between the candidate, supervisor(s), and the panel regarding the project, especially with regards to its feasibility in the timeframe. Students should expect to answer questions about the experimental design details.
- Students will receive written feedback on their talk from the audience.

Detailed information about this assessment will be provided on the course Moodle page.

### **Assessment Length**

Maximum 10 min, followed by 10 min Q&A

### **Submission notes**

This task does not have a short extension option.

### **Assessment information**

The presentation should be sent as a Power point slide deck to the Neuroscience Honours admin email ([SBMSneurhonoursadmin@unsw.edu.au](mailto:SBMSneurhonoursadmin@unsw.edu.au)) by 5 PM the day before the presentation.

**Feedback on the proposal presentation** will be provided by at least 4 members of the Neur Honours committee, as well as students in Neuroscience Honours course and other members of the audience present. Students will be provided with an average rating out of 10 for 10 categories that cover presentation content (e.g. how well background literature, aims, methods and potential outcomes were described) and presentation delivery (e.g. pacing, clarity, and professionalism). Each student will also be provided with all comments and feedback made by the honours committee and Neuroscience Honours students. Feedback will be emailed to the student within two weeks of task completion. The specific 10 categories for feedback are:

- Background conveyed the significance of the topic and set the scene for hypothesis and aims
- Background provided appropriate depth and focus
- Main research question/hypothesis is clearly explained
- Specific aims are clearly listed
- Methodology/experimental design is described with appropriate detail
- Clear and logical link between the aims and the research plan
- Potential outcomes and their significance are clearly presented
- Presentation delivery is clear, articulate, enthusiastic and professional
- Presentation is well-paced
- Slides are clear, clean and error-free with appropriately sized fonts and graphics. All figures and graphs are informative and labelled
- Question time: Student showed a clear understanding of the project and gave logical & thoughtful answers

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the assessment is permitted for SIMPLE EDITING ASSISTANCE. This means, for this assessment task, you may use AI-based software to *research* and *prepare* prior to presenting your assessment. You are permitted to use a standard editing and referencing functions in word processing software in the creation of your presentation. You must not use any functions that generate or paraphrase passages of text, whether based on your own work or not. Your oral presentation must be in your own words entirely.

This assessment is an oral presentation and does not entail a submission of your work. However, if during your presentation, your marker has concerns that your presentation contains passages of AI-generated text you may be asked to further explain your project and show evidence of the workup of your presentation. If you are unable to satisfactorily demonstrate that the entirety of your presentation was in your own words you may be referred to UNSW Conduct & Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.

**Assignment submission Turnitin type**

Not Applicable

# Research Proposal

## Assessment Overview

The Research Proposal should give a detailed account of published scientific literature most directly relevant to the project being undertaken.

It should provide sufficient background literature to the research project and should be critical and highlight the limitations and/or areas of controversy. Aims and hypotheses must be clearly stated. There should also be a conclusion relating the literature to the research aims and hypotheses.

The experimental procedures used in the research project should be outlined including a rationale for the procedures chosen.

Expected outcomes and the significance of the research project should be included, as well as a timeline of the planned activities.

The research proposal should have a clear and logical flow and be adequately referenced with recent and appropriate studies.

You will receive written feedback in the form of questions from the examiners to which you will need to write a Rejoinder.

Marks are determined by the examiners of the Research proposal (and Rejoinder) and reviewed by the Neuroscience Honours Committee.

## Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Apply the practice of workplace health and safety in addition to laboratory safety standard operating procedures to a research project
- CLO2 : Identify, critically evaluate, synthesise and reference a body of scientific literature that informs the research topic

## Detailed Assessment Description

### **Research Proposal (10%)**

- The written proposal should be no more than 4000-5000 words. The research proposal consists of an approximately 2000-2500 words overview of the background literature followed by a research plan of no more than 2000-2500 words that outlines the project, covering aims, hypotheses, experimental design & rationale, outcomes & significance, and timeline.
- Supervisor(s) are expected to read and provide editorial input on the research proposal;

however, they must not author the document.

- You should submit the Project Research Proposal via Turnitin portal on Moodle as a PDF using the file name format “LASTNAME\_zID\_proposal.pdf” and send a PDF copy by email to the [SBMSneurhonoursadmin@unsw.edu.au](mailto:SBMSneurhonoursadmin@unsw.edu.au) mailbox.
- You will receive written comments from two examiners on your research proposal document, with a minimum of 2, and maximum of 5, questions from each examiner. You will then respond in writing addressing all questions and justify your response. There is a strict 2-page limit (2-cm margins; 12-point Times New Roman; single spaced accepted) to the **rejoinder document** including any figures and references. The reference list does not need to follow APA format and you may use a minimal referencing style (e.g. Kumar 2015; Science 358(6240):1255 or citing the pubmed ID (e.g. the PMID for the Kumar 2015 paper is PMID:26068853). The rejoinder should clearly indicate which examiner and what questions are being addressed.

**Feedback on the written research proposal** will be provided by two examiners. Feedback from both examiners will be emailed to you usually within two weeks of task completion (but sometimes up to 3 weeks after task completion). Each examiner will provide 0.5-1 page feedback on writing style, and 0.5-1 page on proposal content. This feedback will give you an opportunity to improve your research project and writing prior to submission of your research thesis. You will also be asked to address at least two questions but not more than 5 questions from each examiner on your research proposal in your rejoinder document. This will allow you to clarify and improve aspects of your research proposal and to demonstrate a greater understanding of your project where needed.

Detailed information about this assessment will be provided on the course Moodle page.

#### Assessment Length

4000-5000 words

#### Submission notes

This task does have a short extension option. A short extension of 2 days is available for this task. You should submit the Project Research Proposal via Turnitin portal on Moodle as a PDF using the file name format “LASTNAME\_zID\_proposal.pdf”. You should also send a PDF copy by email to the mailbox: SBMSneurhonoursadmin@unsw.edu.au.

#### Assessment information

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the assessment is permitted for SIMPLE EDITING ASSISTANCE. This means, for this assessment task, you may use AI-based software to *research* and *prepare* prior to writing your assessment. You are permitted to use a standard editing and referencing functions in word processing software in the creation of your submission. You must

not use any functions that generate or paraphrase passages of text, whether based on your own work or not.

Please note that your submission will be passed through an AI-generated text detection tool. If your marker has concerns that your answer contains passages of AI-generated text you may be asked to explain your work. If you are unable to satisfactorily demonstrate your understanding of your submission you may be referred to UNSW Conduct & Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.

#### **Assignment submission Turnitin type**

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

## **Research Thesis**

#### **Assessment Overview**

The Research Thesis is a written scientific account of your independent research conducted during your Honours year.

The Research Thesis should contain an abstract, statement of contribution, acknowledgements (optional), background literature including aims and hypotheses, materials and methods, results, discussion, and list of references.

The abstract should succinctly and accurately summarise the literature, methods, aims and outcomes of the project.

The statement of contribution should specifically identify the components of the research project undertaken by you, and indicate which aspects of the research were undertaken by others.

The background literature, aims and hypothesis should define the research question and place it in the context of published work in the area. It should identify the limitations of the literature and areas of controversy.

The methods should be clearly described, including statistical approaches.

Presentation of the results should be clear and logical and should be communicated appropriately (using figures and tables as well as text), and include sufficient controls, replicates and analysis of data. Material needed for a complete understanding or evaluation of the work, but which does not fit well in the manuscript format, should be included as supplementary data.

The discussion should be clear and logical, show critical analysis and place the findings of the research project in the context of past studies and have suggestions for future studies.

The Research Thesis should have a clear and logical flow and be adequately referenced with recent and appropriate studies.

You will receive a grade and written feedback from two independent examiners.

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

- CLO1 : Apply the practice of workplace health and safety in addition to laboratory safety standard operating procedures to a research project
- CLO3 : Develop practical skills in research, including techniques directly related to the specific research topic, recording of experimental data and ability to work in a team

### **Detailed Assessment Description**

#### **Research Thesis (80%)**

- The written thesis (8,000-10,000 words) will be marked by two examiners.
- **Supervisor(s) are expected to read and provide editorial input on maximum of two drafts of the research thesis aside from the discussion. Supervisors are only allowed to read and comment on a single version of the research thesis discussion.** Discussion feedback is limited to constructive feedback on the structure of the discussion, its strengths and weaknesses, and the general writing style. Supervisors are permitted to draw the student's attention to any errors or inconsistencies but must NOT under any circumstances, rewrite any words, phrases or sentences. You may receive feedback from each supervisor; however, the supervisors must be given the same version of the discussion.
- You should submit your Research Thesis by **28 October 2024 (5pm)** via Turnitin on Moodle as a PDF using the file name format "LASTNAME\_zID\_Thesis.pdf", and also send a PDF copy by email to the Neuroscience Honours Administrative mailbox:  
[SBMSneurhonoursadmin@unsw.edu.au](mailto:SBMSneurhonoursadmin@unsw.edu.au).
- The supervisor(s) will be provided with a copy of the submitted document and asked to confirm the validity of the data and rate the student's independence in generating, conducting, and writing up the research. This feedback will not contribute formally to the mark but may be used by the examiners in arriving at their decision. The feedback form will be emailed to supervisors prior to the research thesis submission date.
- The research thesis grading criteria used by the examiners are included in this course outline. Where there is a discrepancy of greater than 10 marks, the two examiners will confer and where possible, reach an agreement in consultation with the Neur Honours Convenor. However, where agreement is not possible, the research thesis will be examined by a third marker. The three marks will then be averaged to determine the final grade.

Detailed information about this assessment will be provided on the course Moodle page.

### Assessment Length

8000-10000 words

### Submission notes

This task does have a short extension option. A short extension of 2 days is available for this task. You should submit your Research Thesis via Turnitin on Moodle as a PDF using the file name format "LASTNAME\_zID\_Thesis.pdf", and also send a PDF copy by email to the Neuroscience Honours Administrative mailbox: SBMSneurhonoursadmin@unsw.edu.au.

### Assessment information

**Feedback on the research thesis** will be provided by two examiners. Feedback from both examiners will be emailed to you within three weeks of task completion. Each examiner will provide 0.5-1 page feedback on any aspect of the thesis such as writing style and thesis content.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the assessment is permitted for SIMPLE EDITING ASSISTANCE. This means, for this assessment task, you may use AI-based software to *research* and *prepare* prior to writing your assessment. You are permitted to use a standard editing and referencing functions in word processing software in the creation of your submission. You must not use any functions that generate or paraphrase passages of text, whether based on your own work or not.

Please note that your submission will be passed through an AI-generated text detection tool. If your marker has concerns that your answer contains passages of AI-generated text you may be asked to explain your work. If you are unable to satisfactorily demonstrate your understanding of your submission you may be referred to UNSW Conduct & Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.

### Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

## Lay Summary

### Assessment Overview

You will provide a summary of the research project in language suitable for an educated audience outside the field to understand.

The lay summary is marked by the Neuroscience Honours Committee. The marks and feedback are communicated to you.

## Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO4 : Critically analyse research data, integrate it into the wider field, and communicate effectively the findings in both oral and written formats

## Detailed Assessment Description

### Lay Summary (5%)

- This 2000 character or less (not exceeding 2 pages) summary of the Research Thesis is targeted at an educated audience without a scientific background. Preparation guidelines can be found in this course outline.
- Students should submit their Lay Summary by **4 November 2024 (5pm)** via Turnitin on Moodle as a PDF using the file name format “LASTNAME\_zID\_lay\_summary.pdf”, and also send a PDF copy by email to the Neuroscience Honours Administrative mailbox:  
[SBMSneurhonoursadmin@unsw.edu.au](mailto:SBMSneurhonoursadmin@unsw.edu.au).

Detailed information about this assessment will be provided on the course Moodle page.

### Assessment Length

Maximum 2000 characters, not exceeding 2 pages.

### Submission notes

This task does have a short extension option. A short extension of 2 days is available for this task. Lay summary should be submitted via Turnitin on Moodle as a PDF using the file name format “LASTNAME\_zID\_lay\_summary.pdf”. You also need to send a PDF copy by email to the Neuroscience Honours Administrative mailbox: [SBMSneurhonoursadmin@unsw.edu.au](mailto:SBMSneurhonoursadmin@unsw.edu.au).

### Assessment information

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the assessment is permitted for SIMPLE EDITING ASSISTANCE. This means, for this assessment task, you may use AI-based software to *research* and *prepare* prior to writing your assessment. You are permitted to use a standard editing and referencing functions in word processing software in the creation of your submission. You must not use any functions that generate or paraphrase passages of text, whether based on your own work or not.

Please note that your submission will be passed through an AI-generated text detection tool. If your marker has concerns that your answer contains passages of AI-generated text you may be asked to explain your work. If you are unable to satisfactorily demonstrate your understanding of your submission you may be referred to UNSW Conduct & Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.

### Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

## General Assessment Information

Proposal assessments (presentation, research proposal document and rejoinder document) are worth 15% of the final research mark. The main purpose of the Project Research Proposal is to provide timely and formative feedback to you regarding your project, including details of design, conduct and analysis. The structure of the research proposal and assessment process are modelled after the National Health and Research Council Project Grant Scheme. This process allows the Committee to raise issues around feasibility and fallback plans and models the iterative process of how science (grants, papers) is actually conducted.

The rejoinder document is due two (2) weeks after you receive the examiner feedback on your research proposal.

Students should submit all written assignments via Turnitin portal on Moodle and send a PDF copy by email to the [SBMSNeurhonoursadmin@unsw.edu.au](mailto:SBMSNeurhonoursadmin@unsw.edu.au) mailbox.

Links to previous research proposal documents and research theses are provided on the course Moodle page.

Detailed instructions for preparing the project presentation, project research proposal, research thesis and lay summary are provided on the course Moodle page.

For student information on results, grades, and guides to assessment see: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/assessment>

### Grading Basis

Standard

### Requirements to pass course

### Honours Grades

At the completion of your Honours program, you will be awarded an honours grading as follows:

- Honours Class 1: mark of 85 or greater
- Honours Class 2 Division 1: mark from 75 to 84.99
- Honours Class 2 Division 2: mark from 65 to 74.99
- Honours Class 3 or Pass: mark below 65

The calculation of class of award will be determined from the student's weighted average mark (WAM) for all research (75%; 36 UOC) and coursework (25%; 12 UOC) components required for the program.

Honours marks and grades will be scrutinised at a School level as either part of an Honours Committee or School Assessment Committee to ensure consistency across sub-disciplines and cohorts. The Faculty will also review these marks and grades prior to the release of results.

## Course Schedule

### Attendance Requirements

#### Teaching times and locations:

There are relatively few formal contact hours. Most of the time will be spent engaged in research work under the direct supervision of a UNSW neuroscience researcher.

#### The formal contact hours include:

- student induction and information session
- a presentation of the project research proposal to the School of Biomedical Sciences (SBMS) academics, including the Neuroscience Honours Committee and the Honours cohort
- nine weekly two-hour sessions (NEUR4411 Behavioural Perspectives in Neuroscience)
- four ~ 8-hour workshops (NEUR4421 Biomedical Perspectives in Neuroscience)
- 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) presentation (NEUR4421 Biomedical Perspectives in Neuroscience)
- NEUR4411 Behavioural Neuroscience is offered during Term 1 and runs as weekly 2-hour classes, commencing week 1, for a duration of 9 weeks (the meeting room and timetable to be advised on Moodle).
- NEUR4421 Biomedical Perspectives in Neuroscience is offered during Term 2 and runs for 9 weeks as a series of workshops, commencing week 1 (timetable to be advised on Moodle).

The attendance requirements for the research component of this course are to be arranged between you and your supervisor. The underlying assumption is that Neuroscience Honours is a full-time course and so the workload is equivalent to that of a full-time job. Holidays are to be negotiated with the supervisor, as there are no fixed holiday periods. A timeline for the project including expected absences of both you and supervisor's forms part of the project research proposal.

You will also be assigned a mentor (which is a member of the Neuroscience Honours Committee) in approximately week 2 of your candidature. You should seek help and advice from your mentor when difficulties of a personal or professional nature arise. All discussion with your

mentor will be strictly confidential. It is your responsibility to organise to meet with your mentor in early March. Mentors will also meet with you to discuss the mid-honours progress report.

We encourage you to attend our weekly e-meetings (held online) where you will have the opportunity to ask any questions you have about the course to the course convenors, as well as to have contact with other students in the course. There is a coffee club for the same purpose. Attendance is not compulsory to either meeting.

You are also expected to take advantage of research talks within your assigned laboratory as well as your department or school, and you will have the opportunity to attend lab meetings and journal clubs.

## General Schedule Information

There are no set times and locations of classes for this course as you will be working in a research laboratory. However, the underlying assumption is that Neuroscience Honours is a full-time course and so the workload is equivalent to that of a full-time job. You must discuss a timeline for the project with your supervisor as part of the project research proposal.

## Course Resources

### Recommended Resources

Recommended resources for this course are provided on the course Moodle page.

### Additional Costs

There are no additional costs associated with this course.

## Course Evaluation and Development

Student feedback is taken seriously, and continual improvements are made to the course based, in part, on such feedback.

We use student feedback from custom surveys to develop and make improvements to the course each year. We do this by identifying areas of the course that require development from both the rating responses and written comments. Please spare a few minutes to complete the end of Honours survey posted at the top of the Moodle page at the end of the Honours year.

# Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Jennie Ced erholm		Room 350, Level 3SW, Wallace Wurth building	9065 7495	By appointment, requests via email.	Yes	Yes
Administrator	John Redmond		Room 255, Level 2, Wallace Wurth Building	9065 6070	Monday-Friday, 9.00-4.00pm	No	No

## Other Useful Information

### Academic Information

As a student of UNSW Medicine & Health you are expected to familiarise yourself with the contents of this course outline and the UNSW Student Code and policies and procedures related to your studies.

### Student Code of Conduct

Throughout your time studying at UNSW Medicine & Health, you share a responsibility with us for maintaining a safe, harmonious and tolerant University environment. This includes within the courses you undertake during your degree and your interactions with the UNSW community, both on campus and online.

The [UNSW Student Code of Conduct](#) website provides a framework for the standard of conduct expected of UNSW students with respect to both academic integrity and your responsibility as a UNSW citizen.

Where the University believes a student may have breached the code, the University may take disciplinary action in accordance with the [Student Misconduct Procedure](#).

The [Student Conduct and Integrity Office](#) provides further resources to assist you to understand your conduct obligations as a student at UNSW.

### Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

#### Academic integrity

UNSW has an ongoing commitment to fostering a culture of learning informed by academic integrity. All UNSW staff and students have a responsibility to adhere to the principle of

academic integrity, and ethical scholarship of learning is fundamental to your success at UNSW Medicine & Health.

Plagiarism, contract cheating, and inappropriate use of generative AI undermine academic integrity and are not tolerated at UNSW. For more information see the [Academic Integrity and Plagiarism toolkit](#).

In addition to the information you are required to review in your [ELISE training](#), UNSW Medicine & Health strongly recommends that you complete the [Working with Academic Integrity](#) module before submitting your first assessment task.

## Referencing

Referencing is a way of acknowledging the sources of information that you use to research your assignments. Preferred referencing styles vary among UNSW Medicine & Health disciplines, so check your course Learning Management System (e.g. Moodle or Open Learning) page for information on preferred referencing styles.

For further information on referencing support and styles, see the Current Student [Referencing page](#).

## Academic misconduct and plagiarism

At UNSW, academic misconduct is managed in accordance with the [Student Misconduct Procedure](#). Allegations of plagiarism are generally handled according to the [UNSW Plagiarism Management Procedure](#). Plagiarism is defined in the [UNSW Plagiarism Policy](#) and is not tolerated at UNSW.

## Use of Generative AI and other tools in your assessment

UNSW has provided guiding statements for the [use of Generative AI in assessments](#). This will differ, depending on the individual assessment task, your course requirements, and the course stage within your program.

Your course convenor will outline if and how you can use Generative AI in each your assessment tasks. Options for the use of generative AI include: (1) no assistance; (2) simple editing assistance; (3) planning assistance; and (4) full assistance with attribution.

You may be required to submit the original generative AI responses, or drafts of your original

work. Inappropriate use of generative AI is considered academic misconduct.

See your course Moodle (or Open Learning) page for the full instructions for individual assessment tasks for your course.

## Submission of Assessment Tasks

### Short extensions and special consideration

#### *Short extension*

Commencing in Term 1, 2024, UNSW has introduced a short extension procedure for submission of assessment tasks. Not all tasks are eligible, and eligible tasks have a predetermined extension length. UNSW Medicine and Health have set School-level extension lengths for eligible assessment tasks. See your course assessment descriptions for more information.

Students must check the availability of a short extension in the individual assessment task information for their courses.

Short extensions do not require supporting documentation. They must be submitted before the assessment task deadline. No late applications will be accepted.

Late penalties apply to submission of assessment tasks without approved extension.

#### *Special consideration*

In cases where short term events beyond your control affect your performance in a specific assessment task you may formally apply for [Special Consideration](#) through myUNSW.

UNSW has a **Fit to Sit rule**, which means that by sitting an examination on the scheduled date, you are declaring that you are fit to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration. Examinations include centrally timetabled examinations and scheduled, timed examinations and tests managed by your School.

Important information relating to Short Extension and Special Consideration is available [here](#), including eligibility for Special Consideration, circumstances where students with Equitable Learning Plans can apply for Short Extensions and Special Consideration, and the appeals process.

## Examinations

Information about the conduct of examinations in your course is provided on your course Moodle page.

### Timed online assessment tasks

If you experience a technical or connection problem during a timed online assessment, such as a timed quiz, you can apply for Special Consideration. To be eligible to apply you need to contact the Course Convenor and advise them of the issue immediately. You will need to submit an application for Special Consideration immediately, and upload screenshots, error messages or other evidence of the technical issue as supporting documentation. Additional information can be found on: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>

### Other assessment tasks

#### *Late submission of assessment tasks*

UNSW has standard late submission penalties as outlined in the [UNSW Assessment Implementation Procedure](#), with no permitted variation. All late assignments (unless extension or exemption previously agreed) will be penalised by 5% of the maximum mark per calendar day (including Saturday, Sunday and public holidays).

Late submissions penalties are capped at five calendar days (120 hours). This means that a student is not permitted to submit an assessment more than 5 calendar days (120 hours) after the due date for that assessment (unless extension or exemption previously agreed).

#### *Failure to complete an assessment task*

You are expected to complete all assessment tasks for your courses. In some courses, there will be a minimum pass mark required on a specific assessment task (a “hurdle task”) due to the need to assure clinical competency.

Where a hurdle task is applicable, additional information is provided in the assessment information on your course Moodle page.

### Feedback on assessments

Feedback on your performance in assessment tasks will be provided to you in a timely manner. For assessment tasks completed within the teaching period of a course, other than a final assessment, feedback will be provided within 10 working days of submission, under normal

circumstances.

Feedback on continuous assessment tasks (e.g. laboratory and studio-based, workplace-based, weekly quizzes) will be provided prior to the midpoint of the course.

**Any variation from the above information that is specific to an assessment task will be clearly indicated in the course and assessment information provided to you on your course Moodle (or Open Learning) page.**

## Faculty-specific Information

### Additional support for students

The university offers a wide range of support services that are available for students. Here are some links for you to explore.

- The Current Students Gateway:<https://student.unsw.edu.au>
- Academic Skills and Support:<https://student.unsw.edu.au/academic-skills>
- Student support:<https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/support>
- Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety:<https://student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing>

Mind Smart Guides are a series of mental health self-help resources designed to give you the psychological flexibility, resilience and self-management skills you need to thrive at university and at work.

- Mind Smart Guides: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/mindsmart>
- Equitable Learning Services:<https://student.unsw.edu.au/els>
- Guide to studying online: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/online-study>

Most courses in UNSW Medicine & Health use Moodle as your Learning Management System. Guidance for using UNSW Moodle can be found on the Current Student page. Difficulties with Moodle should be logged with the IT Service Centre.

- Moodle Support: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/moodle-support>

The IT Service Desk is your central point of contact for assistance and support with remote and on-campus study.

- UNSW IT Service Centre:<https://www.myit.unsw.edu.au/services/students>

## Course evaluation and development

At UNSW Medicine & Health, students take an active role in designing their courses and their overall student experience. We regularly seek feedback from students, and continuous improvements are made based on your input. Towards the end of the term, you will be asked to participate in the [myExperience survey](#), which serves as a source of evaluative feedback from students. Your input to this quality enhancement process is valuable in helping us meet your learning needs and deliver an effective and enriching learning experience. Student responses are carefully considered, and the action taken to enhance educational quality is documented in the myFeedback Matters section of your Moodle (or Open Learning) course page.

## School-specific Information

### Laboratory or practical class safety.

For courses where there is a laboratory or practical-based component, students are required to wear the specified personal protective equipment (e.g., laboratory coat, covered shoes, safety glasses) indicated in the associated student risk assessments. The student risk assessments will be provided on the course Moodle page and must be read and acknowledged prior to the class.

### Master of Science in Health Data Science courses

Courses in the Master of Science in Health Data Science are hosted through [Open Learning](#). Additional resources are available on the [Health Data Science Student Hub](#).

## School Contact Information

School guidelines on contacting staff:

### Course questions

All questions related to course content should be posted on Moodle (or Open Learning) or as

directed by your Course Convenor.

In cases where email communication with course convenors is necessary, we kindly request the following:

- Use your official email address for any correspondence with teaching staff.
- We expect a high standard of communication. All communication should avoid using short-hand or texting language.
- Include your full name, student ID, and your course code and name in all communication.

Our course convenors are expected to respond to emails during standard working hours of Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm.

### **Administrative questions**

If you have an administrative question about your program of study at the School please submit your enquiry online at [UNSW Ask Us](#).

### **Complaints and appeals**

Student complaints and appeals: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/complaints>

If you have any grievances about your studies, we invite you to address these initially to the Course Convenor. If the response does not meet your expectations, you may then contact the School Grievance Officer, Prof Nick Di Girolamo ([n.digirolamo@unsw.edu.au](mailto:n.digirolamo@unsw.edu.au)).

**For MSc. HDS students:** School Grievance Officer, Dr Sanja Lujic ([s.lujic@unsw.edu.au](mailto:s.lujic@unsw.edu.au)), Centre for Big Data Research in Health