



UNSW Course Outline

BIOM4953 Research Thesis C - 2024

Published on the 12 May 2024

General Course Information

Course Code : BIOM4953

Year : 2024

Term : Term 2

Teaching Period : T2

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : Faculty of Engineering

Academic Unit : Graduate School of Biomedical Engineering

Delivery Mode : Research

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : Kensington

Campus : Sydney

Study Level : Undergraduate

Units of Credit : 4

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

Seen as the highlight of study at UNSW, Biomedical Engineering Thesis Projects provide a unique opportunity for you to bring together the engineering principles learned over your previous years of study and apply these principles to develop innovative solutions to

unsolved engineering problems related to human health. This could include the development of a specific design prototype, process and/or the investigation of a new scientific hypothesis.

Thesis projects are complex, open-ended problems that allow room for your creativity, and the acquisition, analysis and interpretation of results. There will be multiple possible solutions or conclusions at the outset and sufficient complexity to require a degree of project planning.

Thesis Projects are completed over three terms under the course codes BIOM4951, BIOM4952 and BIOM4953.

While the project may develop as you explore new gaps in the scientific and engineering knowledge the overarching research themes and supervisor are retained across terms. BIOM4953 is the final step of this exciting capstone project opportunity and your research journey. BIOM4953 is the continuation of BIOM4952 and must be on the same topic. A pass mark in BIOM4952 is required before proceeding to BIOM4953 and should be completed with the same supervisor.

Course Aims

Biomedical Engineering Thesis Projects aim to provide an opportunity for students to bring together engineering principles learned over their previous years of study and apply these principles to solve important problems in engineering related to human health. Thesis projects aim to provide an opportunity to conduct research and develop the students' ability to work within a research and development environment. Thesis projects must include complex, open-ended problems that allow room for student creativity, and the acquisition, analysis and interpretation of results. There must be multiple possible solutions or conclusions at the outset and sufficient complexity to require a degree of project planning from the student. Thesis projects aim to improve the student's ability to formulate problems in engineering terms, manage an engineering project and find solutions by applying engineering methods. Thesis projects aim to up-skill the student's ability to communicate technical content effectively to a wide audience through the completion of written reports, oral seminars and conference/industry night poster presentations.

Relationship to Other Courses

Thesis Projects are completed over three terms under the course codes BIOM4951, BIOM4952 and BIOM4953. BIOM4953 is the final step of this exciting capstone project opportunity and potentially your future career in research and development.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Develop a design or a process or investigate a hypothesis following industry and professional engineering standards.
CLO2 : Critically reflect on a specialist body of knowledge related to their thesis topic.
CLO3 : Apply scientific and engineering methods to solve an engineering problem.
CLO4 : Analyse data objectively using quantitative and mathematical methods.
CLO5 : Demonstrate oral and written communication in professional and lay domains.
CLO6 : To solve biomedical problems by applying CLOs 1-5

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Develop a design or a process or investigate a hypothesis following industry and professional engineering standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conference Poster Presentation• Thesis Report• Participation
CLO2 : Critically reflect on a specialist body of knowledge related to their thesis topic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conference Poster Presentation• Thesis Report• Participation
CLO3 : Apply scientific and engineering methods to solve an engineering problem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conference Poster Presentation• Thesis Report• Participation
CLO4 : Analyse data objectively using quantitative and mathematical methods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conference Poster Presentation• Thesis Report• Participation
CLO5 : Demonstrate oral and written communication in professional and lay domains.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conference Poster Presentation• Thesis Report
CLO6 : To solve biomedical problems by applying CLOs 1-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participation• Conference Poster Presentation• Thesis Report

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Microsoft Teams

Other Professional Outcomes

<https://www.unsw.edu.au/engineering/student-life/student-resources/program-design>

Additional Course Information

You must still ensure your enrolment and registration is up to date in your enrolment. Your face-

to-face time needs to be organised with your supervisor, as you are expected to meet them at least once per week.

You must have selected a project before Week 0 of term. If you haven't done so already, please contact the course coordinator.

Expectations of Students:

- Meet your supervisor regularly
- Complete all the assessments on time

Attend Research Skills Workshops:

- Week 7 - Scientific Communication

Week 8 Present your poster as part of the Week 8 Biomedical Engineering Showcase

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Conference Poster Presentation Assessment Format: Individual	10%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Week 8
Thesis Report Assessment Format: Individual	65%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Week 11, Monday
Participation Assessment Format: Individual	5%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Not Applicable

Assessment Details

Conference Poster Presentation

Assessment Overview

Assessment Stages

- BIOM4951 Thesis A: Interim Report (10%)
- BIOM4952 Thesis B: Progress Seminar and Reflection (10%)
- BIOM4953 Thesis C: Final report (65%), Participation (5%), Conference Poster Presentation (10%)

BIOM4953 Thesis C Assessment Objectives

The aim of Thesis C is to finish any remaining research data collection, analyse your data and

finalise your research results. You must then disseminate them using the effective written and oral communication techniques you will have developed. Effective communication of project outcomes is a key part of being a successful research and development engineer. To that end, the assessment tasks provide students with a realistic experience of being a research and development engineer.

Conference Poster Presentation (10%)

Make a high impact A1 poster, stand next to it physically, give a short and engaging 3-minute presentation and then provide answers during a quick-fire 2-minute Q & A session. Presentation time is strictly controlled so be precise and to the point. All text should be readable by the group of markers who will be standing in 2-meters back from the poster.

- Students will present their poster in Week 8 as part of the Biomedical Engineering Projects Showcase event.
- This is a great opportunity to present your work to senior academics and industry partners.
- The target audience for this presentation are researcher and engineers who are not necessarily familiar with your field of expertise, so you will need to provide a background context.
- The audience knows the research process and will have some general engineering knowledge but may not be experts in your area so avoid highly technical jargon.
- Your challenge is to present the significance of your research problem as well as your key results that show whether you have met your aim or proved/disproved your hypothesis.
- You have 3-minutes so should focus on one or two key aspect only. You will not have time to cover everything. Narrow the focus of your presentation scope and do not speak faster than normal to try and fit more content in.
- The audience will then ask questions on your presentation that you must answer for 2-minutes.
- Minimise text. All text and figures should be readable from a distance of 2-meters.
- Success in this assessment will involve both a clear and cohesive presentation and an ability to concisely explain your research to engineers who are not necessarily in your field of study.

Assessment criteria

Your conference poster presentation will be marked by the people who attend poster session at the Biomedical Engineering Projects Showcase event in Week 8 using online-forms. It is therefore important you aim the poster presentation to be eye catching and interesting to a general educated audience and avoid overly technical language and fine print. The poster marking rubric will be available on the Moodle and Teams classroom pages. The poster presentation duration of 3-minutes minutes and 2-minute Q & A session must be strictly adhered to.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) and editing assistance in thesis projects

Editing assistance

For Biomedical Engineering Thesis projects, you may use standard editing and referencing software, (e.g. Microsoft Office suite, Grammarly, EndNote, etc). This does not need to be cited. You are also encouraged to use the UNSW approved online writing support platform Smart Thinking service, <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/smarthinking>

Generative AI

As this assessment task involves some planning or creative processes, you are permitted to use software to assist you in the generation of initial ideas. However, you must develop or edit those ideas to such a significant extent that what is submitted is your own work, i.e. only occasional AI generated words or phrases may form part of your final submission. It is a good idea to keep copies of the initial prompts to show your lecturer if there is any uncertainty about the originality of your work. Use of generative AI must be cited. When writing your thesis project and thinking about how to make use of generative AI tools you should strive to create an original master piece by drawing together the available information from a wide range of sources. It is expected that the final submission will be demonstrably greater than the sum of the contributing parts. You should also consider the new 2023 marking rubric whereby projects that do not demonstrate original contributions from the student or appear to rely heavily on generative AI or other tools will be marked in the lower bands for each category. Use of generative AI must be cited as follows:

* To cite: OpenAI (Year Accessed). ChatGPT. "Copy of text used to generate the output", [date generated dd/mm/yyyy], OpenAI. <https://openai.com/models/chatgpt/>

Please note that the outputs from these tools are not always accurate, appropriate, nor properly referenced. You should ensure that you have moderated and critically evaluated the outputs from generative AI tools and only use occasionally AI generated words or phrases in your submissions.

***** If the outputs of generative AI such as ChatGPT form a part of your submission and they are not cited or include complete sentences or paragraphs, it will be regarded as serious academic misconduct similar to plagiarism (coping work and then passing it off as your own work) and subject to the standard penalties, which may include 00FL, suspension and exclusion. *****

Course Learning Outcomes

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- CLO5 : Demonstrate oral and written communication in professional and lay domains.
- CLO6 : To solve biomedical problems by applying CLOs 1-5

Assessment Length

Poster Presentation - make a poster and talk about your research

Assessment information

The poster presentation is due in WEEK 8.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This is not a Turnitin assignment

Thesis Report

Assessment Overview

Thesis Report (65%)

The objective of this report is to summarise the results of your thesis journey in the form of a concise 25 to 50 page report. The report highlights the problem you're trying to solve, your project aims, justification of aims and methods with a literature review, the methods used to solve the problem, the results of your experiments, and a discussion of those results in context. In today's fast paced world, it is important to focus on clarity of writing and use a Goldilocks approach whereby you most effectively convey meaning within page recommendations.

Structure

Project Manuscripts must include the following:

- Title Page
- Abstract
- Statement of Contribution
- Acknowledgements,
- Introduction
- Methods
- Results*

- Discussion*
- Conclusion
- References
- Supplementary Data (optional)
- 25 to 50 pages in total

Figures and Tables should be integrated at appropriate places in the text, as per instructions below.

*Students can combine results and discussion if it is commonly performed in their field.

Title Page

The title page should contain the following:

- Title: The title should contain no more than 150 characters (including spaces) and clearly indicate the subject matter of the paper.
- Student's Name.
- Supervisors' Names and Titles.
- Running Title: A running title containing no more than 50 characters (including spaces) is required.
- Key Words: Three to Five key words should be provided.
- Word Count: The word count excluding abstract, statement of contribution, acknowledgments, references and figure legends should be listed.

Abstract

An abstract of up to 250 words should follow the title page. The abstract should provide the background for the study, experimental approach, major findings and conclusions. It should be understandable without reference to the rest of the paper. References must not be cited.

Statement of Contribution

The statement of contribution should specifically identify the components of research undertaken by the student. Work done by others must be limited to steps that would enable the student to undertake their project, not the project themselves. The supervisor must approve the statement of contribution before submission. Seek advice from your supervisor if you are unsure about this.

Acknowledgements

The author should acknowledge those who have provided funds, reagents, technical guidance and/or training and scientific advice.

Introduction

The introduction should give a clear account of the background for the study, and the research objective or hypothesis tested should be stated. The introduction should be understandable to a non-specialist. Introductions should be written in a “funnel” style: It begins with the general, global problem that is to be addressed. Usually this is the disease or ailment that your research may eventually impact with the final paragraph revealing the aim of the research and your hypotheses and outlining the contents of the report.

Methods

The methods must be described in enough detail to allow the experiments to be interpreted and repeated by an experienced investigator. Give references to established methods, provide references and brief descriptions for methods that have been published but are not well known. If human subjects or tissues are used, the UNSW HREC or HREA project number must be cited.

Results

Present your results in logical sequence in the text, tables, graphs and illustrations. The description of the experimental results should be succinct, but in enough detail to allow the experiments to be analysed and interpreted by the reader. Where group data is presented a statistical analysis should be included.

Discussion

In the discussion explore possible mechanisms or explanations for the findings of your study, compare and contrast your results with those from other relevant studies, state the limitations of the study, and explore the implications of the findings for future research. Do not repeat in detail data or other material given in the Introduction or the Results sections.

Conclusions

Provide a one paragraph conclusion to your research. This is not a copy of the abstract, rather it is a succinct summation of your results and whether your hypotheses were proven or disproven, with a short explanation why.

References

Refer to your supervisor for an appropriate referencing style, as these are usually journal and

discipline specific. As a guide, many engineering reports using IEEE Numbered or Harvard. Whichever style you use, ensure that it is consistent throughout.

Tables

Each table must be cited in the text (e.g. "The results from the study [Table 1] show a decrease in attention span over time") and then integrated at an appropriate position within the text. Tables should be self-explanatory and readable (10-pt font minimum) with necessary descriptions provided in footnotes underneath the table. Give each column a short or abbreviated heading.

Figures and Legends

Each figure must be cited in the text (e.g. "The results from the study [Figure 1] show a decrease in attention span over time" and integrated at an appropriate position within the text. Each figure needs a title, labelled axes with units specified and a legend that explains the figures in enough detail that they can be understood without reference to the text. All symbols and abbreviations should be explained within the legend.

Supplementary Data

Material needed for an in-depth evaluation of the work, but which does not fit well in manuscript format should be included as Supplementary Data. Must summarised and referred to in the main text.

Abbreviations, Units and Symbols

Use only standard abbreviations; the full term for which an abbreviation stands should precede its first use in the text. SI units and symbols should be used for all quantities unless convention dictates otherwise.

Formatting and Technical Instructions

Text should be times roman, 12-point font, with 1.5 line spacing throughout the manuscript. Margin should be 2cm on all sides. The Thesis Report should be between 25 and 50 pages in length total. In today's fast paced world, it is important to focus on clarity of writing and use a Goldilocks approach whereby you most effectively convey meaning to a busy reader within page recommendations.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Develop a design or a process or investigate a hypothesis following industry and professional engineering standards.
- CLO2 : Critically reflect on a specialist body of knowledge related to their thesis topic.
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- CLO6 : To solve biomedical problems by applying CLOs 1-5

Assessment Length

25 to 50 pages total

Submission notes

Submit via link provided in Moodle

Assessment information

Please review the new 2023 marking rubrics in teams and moodle. Extension requests must use official online School forms.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

Participation

Assessment Overview

Participation (5%)

This is an assessment completed by the supervisor after the student has submitted their final report based on the following criteria and considering Thesis A, B and C.

1. Initiative and Engagement

- Intellectual contribution

2. Sustained activity throughout the term

- Attendance at lab meetings

3. Diligence and competence in performing the task

- Amount of work and engagement with problem
- Risk assessments complete (when relevant)
- Other project-specific evidence (e.g. lab book completion)

All students must complete the Project Exit Form for all assessments to be completed and the marks can be released.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Develop a design or a process or investigate a hypothesis following industry and professional engineering standards.
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Detailed Assessment Description

Participation also includes attendance at the Research Skills Workshop Series over BIOM4951, BIOM4952 and BIOM4953.

Assessment Length

Online Survey

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This is not a Turnitin assignment

General Assessment Information

Presenting your conference poster results to your research group is an important communication learning outcome of BIOM4953. At a minimum, we require the supervisor to provide a poster mark and three other markers to attend. Your supervisors mark contributes 50% and the other markers contribute 50% to the final conference poster grade.

Grading Basis

Standard

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 0 : 20 May - 26 May	Blended	By Week 0, reach out to your confirmed supervisor and set up a weekly meeting schedule with your supervisor.
Week 7 : 8 July - 14 July	Workshop	Scientific Communication
Week 8 : 15 July - 21 July	Presentation	Conference Poster Presentation as part of the Week 8 Biomedical Engineering Projects Showcase
Week 10 : 29 July - 4 August	Assessment	Final Report by Monday Week 11 (11:59 PM)

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

General Schedule Information

There is no official class time for this course. You must still ensure your enrolment and registration is up to date in your enrolment. Your face-to-face time needs to be organised with your supervisor, as you are expected to meet them at least once per week. Your supervisor will guide you through the thesis research project.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

Resources will be made available to help students guide them in their journey for Thesis

A.Extensions

You can apply for [special consideration](#) when illness or other circumstances interfere with your assessment performance.

Other applications for extension of submission of thesis reports (e.g. equipment breakdown, etc.):

Discuss the possibility of an extension with your supervisor first. Requests can then be lodged by the student here <http://tinyurl.com/yy2jzpyv>. The supervisor will then receive an email asking them to approve, before it is escalated to the decision panel. Request must be lodged by Week 6 of term. Panel decision will be made by end of week 7. The decision will be made by a panel – consisting of the HoS (or their nominee), Thesis Coordinator, and 1 other person. Students should be alerted to the fact that this is not guaranteed, and thus should not rely on getting an extension. Typically, extensions are granted UP TO 3 weeks. The length of the extension needs to be requested and justified by the supervisor. Panel will decide the length of time granted.

Procedure if you fail Thesis A, B or C

Fail in Thesis A (interim report mark < 50>– must re-enrol in Thesis A again.

Fail in Thesis B (seminar mark < 50> – must re-enrol in Thesis B again

Fail in Thesis C – Students have three options.

This last option is only available if the original mark was ≥40, OR if the student is in their last semester before graduation (regardless of the original mark).

- Students must re-enrol in Thesis B again, and cannot concurrently enrol in C. They can then take Thesis C when Thesis B has been satisfactorily completed.

Industry based projects

We encourage students to seek partnerships with industry, so students can have a co-supervisor from industry. However, if confidentiality is required, a confidential disclosure agreement (CDA) is obligatory. The agreement will protect the intellectual property rights of the industry partner, UNSW and the student. Students or academics are not authorised to sign confidential disclosure agreements on behalf of UNSW and are advised to talk to the course coordinator and UNSW legal office to arrange for drafting and signing of the confidential disclosure or research agreement.

To complete an industry-based thesis, you must complete the following steps:

Identify an industry supervisor and share with them these guidelines. Identify a GSBmE Academic who can be your academic supervisor. Complete this Industry thesis permission form and make sure your industry supervisor AND your academic supervisor have signed the form. Upload the signed form here (you may need to log in with your zID@ad.unsw.edu.au and zPass). Late procedure

In all cases, applications for late submission can be applied for BEFORE the due date. This is at the discretion of the thesis coordinator but should only be granted in exceptional circumstances. As per normal, students can also apply through myUNSW for special consideration.

For Thesis A, B or C, 5 marks will be deducted off the thesis for every day late. Penalty applies until the marks for the course decrease to 50, and further lateness does not result in failure of the course, but might be a failure of the thesis (weekends count as days).

Additional support for students

- The Current Students Gateway: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/>
- Academic Skills and Support: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/academic-skills>
- Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing>
- Disability Support Services: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/disability-services>
- UNSW IT Service Centre: <https://www.it.unsw.edu.au/students/index.html>

Recommended Resources

Not available

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Matthew Brodie		Samuels 515	Moodle/ TEAMS Thesis Channel	Drop in help Wednesday 09:30 to 11:30, Samuels 515c	No	Yes
	Tianruo Guo		Samuels 515	Moodle/ TEAMS Thesis Channel	Weekdays by appointment	No	No

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

I. Special consideration and supplementary assessment

If you have experienced an illness or misadventure beyond your control that will interfere with your assessment performance, you are eligible to apply for Special Consideration prior to, or within 3 working days of, submitting an assessment or sitting an exam.

Please note that UNSW has a Fit to Sit / Submit rule, which means that if you sit an exam or submit a piece of assessment, you are declaring yourself fit enough to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration.

For details of applying for Special Consideration and conditions for the award of supplementary assessment, please see the information on UNSW's [Special Consideration page](#).

II. Administrative matters and links

All students are expected to read and be familiar with UNSW guidelines and polices. In particular, students should be familiar with the following:

- [Attendance](#)
- [UNSW Email Address](#)
- [Special Consideration](#)
- [Exams](#)
- [Approved Calculators](#)
- [Academic Honesty and Plagiarism](#)

- [Equitable Learning Services](#)

III. Equity and diversity

Those students who have a disability that requires some adjustment in their teaching or learning environment are encouraged to discuss their study needs with the course convener prior to, or at the commencement of, their course, or with the Equity Officer (Disability) in the Equitable Learning Services. Issues to be discussed may include access to materials, signers or note-takers, the provision of services and additional exam and assessment arrangements. Early notification is essential to enable any necessary adjustments to be made.

Note: This course outline sets out the description of classes at the date the Course Outline is published. The nature of classes may change during the Term after the Course Outline is published. Moodle or your primary learning management system (LMS) should be consulted for the up-to-date class descriptions. If there is any inconsistency in the description of activities between the University timetable and the Course Outline/Moodle/LMS, the description in the Course Outline/Moodle/LMS applies.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

UNSW has an ongoing commitment to fostering a culture of learning informed by academic integrity. All UNSW students have a responsibility to adhere to this principle of academic integrity. Plagiarism undermines academic integrity and is not tolerated at UNSW. *Plagiarism at UNSW is defined as using the words or ideas of others and passing them off as your own.*

Plagiarism is a type of intellectual theft. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement. UNSW has produced a website with a wealth of resources to support students to understand and avoid plagiarism, visit: student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism. The Learning Centre assists students with understanding academic integrity and how not to plagiarise. They also hold workshops and can help students one-on-one.

You are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and the proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment tasks.

Repeated plagiarism (even in first year), plagiarism after first year, or serious instances, may also

be investigated under the Student Misconduct Procedures. The penalties under the procedures can include a reduction in marks, failing a course or for the most serious matters (like plagiarism in an honours thesis or contract cheating) even suspension from the university. The Student Misconduct Procedures are available here:

www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/documents/studentmisconductprocedures.pdf

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Work submitted late without an approved extension by the course coordinator or delegated authority is subject to a late penalty of five percent (5%) of the maximum mark possible for that assessment item, per calendar day.

The late penalty is applied per calendar day (including weekends and public holidays) that the assessment is overdue. There is no pro-rata of the late penalty for submissions made part way through a day. This is for all assessments where a penalty applies.

Work submitted after five days (120 hours) will not be accepted and a mark of zero will be awarded for that assessment item.

For some assessment items, a late penalty may not be appropriate. These will be clearly indicated in the course outline, and such assessments will receive a mark of zero if not completed by the specified date. Examples include:

- Weekly online tests or laboratory work worth a small proportion of the subject mark;
- Exams, peer feedback and team evaluation surveys;
- Online quizzes where answers are released to students on completion;
- Professional assessment tasks, where the intention is to create an authentic assessment that has an absolute submission date; and,
- Pass/Fail assessment tasks.

Faculty-specific Information

[Engineering Student Support Services](#) – The Nucleus - enrolment, progression checks, clash requests, course issues or program-related queries

[Engineering Industrial Training](#) – Industrial training questions

[UNSW Study Abroad](#) – study abroad student enquiries (for inbound students)

UNSW Exchange – student exchange enquiries (for inbound students)

UNSW Future Students – potential student enquiries e.g. admissions, fees, programs, credit transfer

Phone

(+61 2) 9385 8500 – Nucleus Student Hub

(+61 2) 9385 7661 – Engineering Industrial Training

(+61 2) 9385 3179 – UNSW Study Abroad and UNSW Exchange (for inbound students)

School Contact Information

Student Services can be contacted via unsw.to/webforms.