

# Ilha Byrne

Brisbane, QLD, Australia

ilhabyrne@gmail.com

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## Languages

English (Native)

Italian (Native)

Kiswahili (Professional Working)

French (Limited Working)

Spanish (Elementary)

## Skills

R | Python | Bash

GIS

Scientific diving

Microsoft Office

Public speaking

Marketing

## Education

**Bachelor of Science (Honours), Genetics**

Brisbane, QLD, Australia

2020 - 2021

GPA: 7.0 (Class 1A)

**Bachelor of Science, Extended Marine**

**Biology Major**

Brisbane, QLD, Australia

2017 - 2019

GPA: 6.9

## Certifications

ADAS Scientific Diver (Part 1R)

PADI Divemaster Certification

Recreational Boat License

Coxswain Grade 1 Near Coastal

Advanced Resuscitation (HLTAID015)

First Aid (HLTIAD011)

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Website: [ilhab-notion-website](#)

LinkedIn: Ilha Byrne

X: @ilha\_byrne

Instagram: @a.science.journal | @ilhabyrne



## Achievements

### University awards

- \* School of Biological Sciences Honours Prize, 2022
- \* University Medal, 2022
- \* Faculty of Science Graduate of the Year, 2022
- \* 6 x Dean's Commendation for Academic excellence
- \* Faculty of Science Summer Research Scholarship, 2018/2019
- \* Gordon Grigg Prize in Vertebrate Zoology, 2019
- \* School of Biological Sciences Genetics Prize, 2019
- \* Science Leader's Academy Award, 2019
- \* Future Leader's Program, 2021
- \* University of Queensland Employability Award, 2021

### Professional awards

- \* Partnership and Collaboration Award (team), Faculty of Science, 2023
- \* Outstanding Service and Citizenship, School of Biological Sciences, 2022

### Research awards

- \* Global Change Scholars Program, 2023-2024
- \* Australian Coral Reef Society Lizard Island Research Station Award, 2023
- \* Research Training Program (RTP) Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Scholarship, 2022-2025
- \* ELEVATE Women in STEM scholarship, 2022-2025

## Employment history

### Research Intern and Global Change Scholar, Health and Biosecurity - CSIRO

Brisbane, QLD, Australia: 2023 - Present

In June 2023 I was selected as a Global Change Scholar at The University of Queensland. This year-long program gives research students at the university an opportunity to work alongside other students from a diverse array of disciplines and backgrounds to solve global challenges. The program is run by the graduate school and exposes scholars to incredible networking opportunities, weekly workshops, and exclusive training opportunities.

A key component of the program is to work in a multi-disciplinary team with an industry partner as part of an 'industry challenge'. I am currently working alongside a team comprised of a business student, engineer, agricultural scientist, and an environmental scientist (myself) in collaboration with the eHealth team from CSIRO. Our goal is to develop a systematic review protocol and commence a thorough review of the literature on the relationship between climate change and antimicrobial resistance. The challenge will culminate in a final report and showcase in July 2024.

### Research Assistant, School of the Environment - University of Queensland

Brisbane, QLD, Australia: 2021 - Present

I previously worked as a full-time research assistant (RA) in the Riginos Research Group (2021-2023) assisting with tasks related to the Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program (Molecular ecology subprogram) and the Sustainable Urban Seascapes Moreton Bay (SUSMB) Project. Since beginning my postgraduate-research studies, my role has shifted to a casual position.

As an RA I have completed extensive molecular laboratory tasks including, but not limited to DNA extractions, PCR amplification, primer design, sequencing, metabarcoding, whole genome, and reduced representation library preparations. My lab tasks also include inducting and training new students, and I actively supervised two students (Masters and Undergraduate). I have also been involved in metadata collection and curation, data analysis (statistics in R) and presentation (conferences), and bioinformatics (primer design and metabarcoding data processing).

My role also involved a substantial amount of field work on the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) and in Moreton Bay, as part of the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) and University of Queensland (UQ) teams, respectively. My field tasks included underwater photogrammetry, settlement tile deployment and retrieval, collection of marine invertebrate samples for molecular analyses, environmental DNA sample collection (sediment, water and tiles), and boating.

I also provided administrative support by supporting lab logistics and management e.g., ordering, inventories, streamlining processes, OH&S administration, risk assessments, and annual reporting. I was also heavily involved in the stakeholder engagement aspect of the SUSMB project, where I led the organisation of workshops and stakeholder meetings (indigenous, government, NGO, and academic stakeholders). Additionally, I was tasked with monitoring the SUSMB budget (this was a large multi-disciplinary project) and providing monthly reporting, as well organising and acting as a secretary for fortnightly meetings and quarterly workshops.

### **Casual Team Leader, southeast Queensland - Reef Check Australia**

Brisbane, QLD, Australia: 2022 – Present

As a team leader for Reef Check Australia (RCA) I am responsible for organising events in the Moreton Bay region such as beach and underwater clean-ups. I also lead and organise underwater reef health surveys as part of our citizen science programme. Part of my role also includes developing and circulating promotional material and recruiting new volunteers and ambassadors through social media. One of my most exciting and rewarding jobs is to organise and host the monthly Coast to Coral RCA seminar series (currently online). This requires me to find relevant speakers to showcase their work and act as a seminar host and moderator.

### **Casual Academic, School of the Environment - University of Queensland**

Brisbane, QLD, Australia: 2018 – Present

I have been a casual academic (demonstrator) with the Faculty of Science (FoS) at UQ since 2019. I previously acted as a practical demonstrator for the first-year geography course GEOS1100 (2019 – 2021). More recently, I have assisted with workshops for the first-year marine science course MARS1001 (2023) and have been a practical demonstrator for the second-year zoology course BIOL2006 (2023). I have also been lucky enough to be an International Programs teaching assistant for the University of California study abroad program (marine ecology) in 2023.

### **Casual Engagement Assistant, Faculty of Science - University of Queensland**

Brisbane, QLD, Australia: 2018 – Present

My role as a casual engagement assistant includes the delivery of tutorials, practicals and workshops (ecology and genetics) to a range of high-school students. Part of the activities we organise are tailored to deliver curriculum-specific content to students ahead of their final assessments and exams. A large part of my role is to also showcase the breadth of opportunities on offer at UQ and promote the pursuit of our science majors.

## **Casual Administration Assistant, Faculty of Science - University of Queensland**

Brisbane, QLD, Australia: 2019 – 2021

I was a casual administration assistant for the FoS at UQ during my undergraduate studies. My role included answering and filtering student queries, scheduling meetings with students, academics, and careers counsellors, and assisting with the day-to-day running of the office. I also assisted with more complex tasks such as checking student transcripts and degree progress, advising students on timetabling and course-specific issues, and organising and filing sensitive paperwork.

## **Casual Teaching Assistant, Faculty of Science - University of Queensland**

Brisbane, QLD, Australia: 2018 – 2020

During my undergraduate studies, I worked as a casual teaching assistant (tutor) for the “peer-assisted study sessions” for the first-year earth science course EARTH1000. I also tutored for the FoS “science learning centre” by supporting first-year science students with their studies in Biology, Ecology, Statistics, and Genetics.

## **SCUBA Divemaster, Blue World Diving - Kinasi Lodge**

Mafia Island, Tanzania: 2016 – 2017

After completing my PADI SCUBA divemaster internship, I worked as a full-time divemaster for six months before commencing my undergraduate degree. My role included leading and guiding dive groups underwater, assisting instructors with open-water SCUBA courses, managing dive bookings and schedules, cleaning and maintaining diving and boating equipment.

## **Volunteer and research experience**

- ~ **Global Change Scholar Internship, CSIRO** (2023 – Present)
- ~ **AMSA southeast Queensland HDR Representative** (2023 – Present)
- ~ **CMS-HDRC Committee Member** (2023 – Present)
- ~ Leeds University Field Volunteer (2023)
- ~ **Women in Science Association Postgraduate Officer** (2023 – 2024)
- ~ **Women in Ocean Science University Ambassador** (2023 – 2024)
- ~ Coral Reef Ecosystems Laboratory Field Volunteer (2022)
- ~ Mooloolaba Ecological Assessment and Mapping (2020 – 2022)
- ~ Marine Society UQ Vice President and Treasurer (2020), SEQUEST officer (2021)
- ~ Summer Research Internship (2019 – 2020)
- ~ Summer Research Scholarship (2018 – 2019)
- ~ Bush Heritage Australia Volunteer (2018 – 2020)
- ~ **Reef Check Australia Surveyor and Ambassador** (2018 – Present)
- ~ Laboratory Assistant (2018 – 2020)
- ~ Faculty of Science Mentor (2018 – 2021)

## **Research outputs**

### **Conference presentations**

Spatio-temporal Distribution of Echinoderm Larvae on the Great Barrier Reef (*Australian Marine Sciences Association conference, Cairns, August 2022*)

Environmental DNA (eDNA) Assessment of Marine Biodiversity on Sub-tropical Reefs in Quandamooka (Moreton Bay) Australia (*Australian Coral Reef Society conference, Brisbane, November 2022*)

Mooloolaba Ecological Assessment and Mapping – a Citizen Science Approach (*Australian Coral Reef Society conference, Brisbane, November 2022*)

## Reports

(In review) **Ilha Byrne**, Cynthia Riginos, Sven Uthicke, Dean Brookes, and Iva Popovic. Spatio-temporal Distribution of Echinoderm Larvae on the Great Barrier Reef (202X). *Coral Reefs*.

(In review) Max L Giaroli, Matthew Taylor, **Ilha Byrne**, Ben Gilby, Craig Chargulaf, and Ian R Tibbetts. The Distribution and Significance of Stingray Feeding Pits in Quandamooka (Moreton Bay), Australia (202X). *Marine and Freshwater Research*.

(In review) Alistair Grinham, Tony Constantini, Nathaniel Deering, Cameron Jackson, Carissa Klein, Catherine E. Lovelock, John M. Pandolfi, Gal Eyal, Michael Linde, Matthew Dunbabin, Brendon Duncan, Nicholas Hutley, **Ilha Byrne**, Craig Wilson, and Simon Albert (202X). Short and Long-Term Impacts of a Major Flood on Fine Sediment and Nitrogen Loading to a Large Coastal Embayment.

Chris Roelfsema, Delphine Gonchond, Nic Hammerman, Nataly Gutierrez Isaza, **Ilha Byrne**, Sophie Kalkowski-Pope, Trevor Barrenger, Douglas Stetner, Jodi Salmond, Cedric van den Berg, Rachel McVeigh, Alice Twomey, Catherine Kim, Karen Johnson, and Jennifer Loder (2022). Ecological Assessment of the Flora and Fauna of Mooloolaba Reefs, Queensland. UniDive, The University of Queensland Underwater Club, Brisbane, Australia. *UQ eSpace*.

## Academic referees

Professor Cynthia Riginos, Professor, University of Queensland

[c.riginos@uq.edu.au](mailto:c.riginos@uq.edu.au)

Dr Iva Popovic, Postdoctoral research fellow, University of Queensland

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Dr Gurion Ang, Teaching-focussed academic, University of Queensland

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