



**School of Biomedical Sciences**

## **Unit Outline**

**Advanced Specialisation 695 (5511)**

**Semester 1**

**2012**

**General Description:** This unit is designed for individual study outside the normally available units, within the Master of Biomedical Science and Postgraduate Diploma in Biomedical Science. Study may include a review of the literature in a specific field and/or project laboratory work.

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**Learning Tasks:** Self-guided Literature-based Study, and/or  
Supervised Laboratory Project

**Learning Outcomes:** At completion of this unit the student will:

**For Literature Review:**

1. Collect and collate information from various literature sources.
2. Evaluate competing views on the basis of evidence presented.
3. Construct a balanced review of the literature on a specific topic.
4. Create and support a series of conclusions based on available information.

**For Laboratory-based Project:**

1. Collect and collate information from various literature sources.
2. Construct a project description for laboratory work based on that information.
3. Conduct a research or diagnostic project within the same topic.
4. Create a report on laboratory work completed, including evaluation of data, deduction of conclusions from those data, and synthesis of possible future plans.

**Before commencing work for this unit, students must contact the unit coordinator, to create a formal record of the study plan or project aims. This must be completed within (or before) the first week of semester.**

**Important Note:** as with all units at Curtin University, students are required to acquaint themselves with rules on academic misconduct and particularly the definition and consequences of plagiarism within any study unit. This is **particularly important** when compiling information from published sources, using copy and paste processes. All material submitted for assessment **must** be the student's own composition to avoid plagiarism. All information should be appropriately referenced and any direct quotes from other writers must be placed in quotation marks.

**Please be aware that** only the most minor academic offences can be dealt with by unit or course coordinators. Offences that are categorized as grade 2 or grade 3 academic misconduct **must** be referred to the executive Dean of the Faculty, and consequences can be extremely serious.

## **1. Literature-based Studies**

### **Overview**

The Advanced Specialisation Literature Review is a self-guided collection, collation, and interpretation of published literature from reliable scientific sources, on a topic that is selected by the student. The topic may be any that fits within the general categories relevant to the Masters degree or the Postgraduate Diploma.

## Assessment

The review will be assessed by an examiner qualified to evaluate material in the chosen field and chosen by the unit coordinator. The review can be chosen by the student to represent 85% or 100% of the unit marks.

**At the request of the student**, the student may deliver a seminar on the review topic, which will be attended by staff who will assign a mark to the seminar on the basis of content, understanding displayed, the student's ability to deal with questions, and on the overall quality of presentation, including graphic materials used in the seminar. If the student chooses to add this option, the seminar will represent 15% of the final mark, with the review comprising the remaining 85%.

## 2. Laboratory-based project.

### Overview

A project-based Advanced Specialisation can be performed in any field that is relevant to the postgraduate Biomedical Science courses. Acceptance of the student for this option will depend upon the availability of a suitable project supervisor in this, or other schools of Curtin University. Subject to availability of a suitable placing, the project may be performed in a laboratory outside Curtin, at the discretion of the unit coordinator. It is recommended that a student intending to conduct a laboratory project approaches potential supervisors early. A delayed start may be approved, subject to the nature of the project.

### Assessment

The essential assessment for this form of the unit is based on a Project Report written by the student with guidance from the project supervisor and, if appropriate, from the unit coordinator. Assessment of the Project Report can be performed by the Project Supervisor or a suitably qualified person nominated by the Project Supervisor.

**At the request of the student**, assessment may be divided between a literature review describing the background to the project in detail, and the Project Report itself. This will allow the Introduction section of the Project Report to be minimised, describing the purpose of the project and just the key factors in its design. The allocation of marks between Project Report and literature review will be decided in consultation between the student and unit coordinator, with input from the project supervisor where appropriate.

The purpose of this partition is to accommodate students who are uncomfortable with all marks being assigned to a single assessment task.

**At the request of the student**, the mark may also include a seminar presented on the project topic, if appropriate, which can compose a maximum 15% of the total mark. In some areas of research, confidentiality requirements may not allow a seminar to be presented.

**At the request of the student**, a supervisor's assessment of laboratory performance may be used as part of the final mark. The percentage of the total mark allocated to this component will be determined by discussion with the project supervisor.

The decision on how the final mark is comprised can be made by the student, but must be agreed with the unit coordinator and recorded formally to avoid confusion at later times.

**Timetable:** Students may commence studies for this unit at any time after the completion, by the unit coordinator, of a record of agreed tasks and assessment procedures.

For laboratory-based studies, the student must work within a schedule agreed with both the project supervisor and unit coordinator.

**Final reports must be submitted by the last day of Semester, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2012.**

Submission at a later date will be permitted **only** under exceptional circumstances.

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