



ZOOL19002 *Australian Vertebrate Fauna*

Term 2 - 2024

Profile information current as at 04/07/2025 11:38 am

All details in this unit profile for ZOOL19002 have been officially approved by CQUUniversity and represent a learning partnership between the University and you (our student). The information will not be changed unless absolutely necessary and any change will be clearly indicated by an approved correction included in the profile.

General Information

Overview

Australia is renowned for its unique and diverse vertebrate animals. This unit will provide you with an introduction to Australian vertebrate diversity and to the necessary tools to understand the evolutionary, morphological, behavioural and ecological diversity of Australian vertebrate fauna against the backdrop of global vertebrate diversity and evolution. You will learn to use a wide variety of 'tools' (taxonomy, phylogeny, fossils, ecophysiology, comparative anatomy, behavioural ecology) as methods for understanding the past, current, and future vertebrate fauna of Australia. You will also learn and practice the applied skill-sets and techniques required for fauna survey and wildlife research in Australia, proficiency in identification of Australian vertebrates and technical report writing for wildlife monitoring and surveying.

Details

Career Level: *Undergraduate*

Unit Level: *Level 2*

Credit Points: 6

Student Contribution Band: 8

Fraction of Full-Time Student Load: 0.125

Pre-requisites or Co-requisites

Prerequisites: (BIOL11099 Living Systems OR BIOL11102 Life Sciences Laboratory)

Important note: Students enrolled in a subsequent unit who failed their pre-requisite unit, should drop the subsequent unit before the census date or within 10 working days of Fail grade notification. Students who do not drop the unit in this timeframe cannot later drop the unit without academic and financial liability. See details in the [Assessment Policy and Procedure \(Higher Education Coursework\)](#).

Offerings For Term 2 - 2024

- Mixed Mode
- Rockhampton

Attendance Requirements

All on-campus students are expected to attend scheduled classes – in some units, these classes are identified as a mandatory (pass/fail) component and attendance is compulsory. International students, on a student visa, must maintain a full time study load and meet both attendance and academic progress requirements in each study period (satisfactory attendance for International students is defined as maintaining at least an 80% attendance record).

Website

[This unit has a website, within the Moodle system, which is available two weeks before the start of term. It is important that you visit your Moodle site throughout the term. Please visit Moodle for more information.](#)

Class and Assessment Overview

Recommended Student Time Commitment

Each 6-credit Undergraduate unit at CQUniversity requires an overall time commitment of an average of 12.5 hours of study per week, making a total of 150 hours for the unit.

Class Timetable

[Regional Campuses](#)

Bundaberg, Cairns, Emerald, Gladstone, Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville

[Metropolitan Campuses](#)

Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney

Assessment Overview

1. **Online Quiz(zes)**

Weighting: 50%

2. **Laboratory/Practical**

Weighting: Pass/Fail

3. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 50%

Assessment Grading

This is a graded unit: your overall grade will be calculated from the marks or grades for each assessment task, based on the relative weightings shown in the table above. You must obtain an overall mark for the unit of at least 50%, or an overall grade of 'pass' in order to pass the unit. If any 'pass/fail' tasks are shown in the table above they must also be completed successfully ('pass' grade). You must also meet any minimum mark requirements specified for a particular assessment task, as detailed in the 'assessment task' section (note that in some instances, the minimum mark for a task may be greater than 50%). Consult the [University's Grades and Results Policy](#) for more details of interim results and final grades.

CQUniversity Policies

All University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

You may wish to view these policies:

- Grades and Results Policy
- Assessment Policy and Procedure (Higher Education Coursework)
- Review of Grade Procedure
- Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – Domestic Students
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – International Students
- Student Refund and Credit Balance Policy and Procedure
- Student Feedback – Compliments and Complaints Policy and Procedure
- Information and Communications Technology Acceptable Use Policy and Procedure

This list is not an exhaustive list of all University policies. The full list of University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

Previous Student Feedback

Feedback, Recommendations and Responses

Every unit is reviewed for enhancement each year. At the most recent review, the following staff and student feedback items were identified and recommendations were made.

Feedback from Verbal feedback during residential school.

Feedback

Found the use of the remote monitoring technology a valuable experience.

Recommendation

Continue to employ and teach the use of non-invasive remote monitoring technology to monitor Australian wildlife.

Feedback from Verbal feedback during residential school.

Feedback

Appreciated the use of acoustic software to identify and analyze bat calls.

Recommendation

Maintain and continue teaching the use of acoustic software analysis and identification of Australian bat calls

Unit Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Describe the evolution, diversity and distribution of major vertebrate fauna in Australia
2. Explain the significance of behavioural, reproductive, physiological, and nutritional adaptations in Australian vertebrates
3. Apply knowledge about the biology of a species to their applied conservation and management to explain why invasive species pose a threat to Australian vertebrate fauna
4. Practice industry and ethical standards and techniques in monitoring, surveying Australian vertebrate fauna
5. Communicate knowledge and study findings in verbal and written scientific reports.

Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes

 N/A Level	 Introductory Level	 Intermediate Level	 Graduate Level	 Professional Level	 Advanced Level
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Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes				
	1	2	3	4	5
1 - Online Quiz(zes) - 50%	•	•	•		
2 - Laboratory/Practical - 0%			•	•	•
3 - Written Assessment - 50%	•	•			•

Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Learning Outcomes

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes				
	1	2	3	4	5
1 - Communication	•	•	•		•
2 - Problem Solving		•	•	•	
3 - Critical Thinking		•	•	•	•
4 - Information Literacy	•		•		•
5 - Team Work				•	
6 - Information Technology Competence				•	•
7 - Cross Cultural Competence	•				
8 - Ethical practice				•	
9 - Social Innovation					
10 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures					

Textbooks and Resources

Textbooks

There are no required textbooks.

IT Resources

You will need access to the following IT resources:

- CQUniversity Student Email
- Internet
- Unit Website (Moodle)

Referencing Style

All submissions for this unit must use the referencing style: [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)
For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

Teaching Contacts

Guy Carton Unit Coordinator
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Schedule

Week 1 - 08 Jul 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Subject overview: understanding and explaining vertebrate diversity in Australia An overview of Australian vertebrate biogeography and evolution		

Week 2 - 15 Jul 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Fish and Amphibians		Theory Quiz 1 will open 7:00am Wednesday of Week 2 (AEST).

Week 3 - 22 Jul 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Reptiles		Theory Quiz 1 will close 11:55pm Wednesday of Week 3 (AEST).

Week 4 - 29 Jul 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Birds		Theory Quiz 2 will open 7:00am Wednesday of Week 4 (AEST).

Week 5 - 05 Aug 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Monotremes and Marsupials		Theory Quiz 2 will close 11:55pm Wednesday of Week 5 (AEST).

Vacation Week - 12 Aug 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Week 6 - 19 Aug 2024		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Eutheria 'True' Mammals		
Week 7 - 26 Aug 2024		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Bats		Theory Quiz 3 will open 7:00am Wednesday of Week 7 (AEST).
Week 8 - 02 Sep 2024		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Communication and Subterfuge		Theory Quiz 3 will close 11:55pm Wednesday of Week 8 (AEST).
Week 9 - 09 Sep 2024		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Residential School		Assessment 2 - Residential School (P/F) Due: Week 9 Thursday (12 Sept 2024) 3:00 pm AEST
Week 10 - 16 Sep 2024		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Sexual Selection and Optimising mating decisions		
Week 11 - 23 Sep 2024		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Parental care, conflict and mating systems		
Week 12 - 30 Sep 2024		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Where to from here? The future for Australian vertebrates		Assessment 3 - Practical Report: Surveying and Monitoring of Australian Fauna (50%) Due: Week 12 Friday (4 Oct 2024) 11:55 pm AEST

Assessment Tasks

1 ASSESSMENT 1 - ONLINE QUIZ(ZES) (50%)

Assessment Type

Online Quiz(zes)

Task Description

Online Quiz(zes) / Short Answer Questions will test knowledge across three key areas, these are:

Quiz 1 - Fish and Amphibians.

Quiz 2 - Reptiles and Birds.

Quiz 3 - Mammals: Monotremes, Marsupials, True Mammals.

Number of Quizzes

3

Frequency of Quizzes

Other

Assessment Due Date

Quiz 1 due 11:55pm Wednesday of Week 3; Quiz 2 due 11:55pm Wednesday of Week 5; Quiz 3 due 11:55pm Wednesday of Week 8.

Return Date to Students**Weighting**

50%

Minimum mark or grade

50%

Assessment Criteria

Students will have one attempt per quiz. Questions can be a mix of true/false, multiple choice, mix-and-match, short answers, and other formats. Answers will be assessed on completeness and/or correctness.

Do not share your questions or answers with other students as this may disadvantage other students, and such behaviour will be considered a breach of academic integrity and may result in academic misconduct.

Referencing Style

- [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)

Submission

Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Describe the evolution, diversity and distribution of major vertebrate fauna in Australia
- Explain the significance of behavioural, reproductive, physiological, and nutritional adaptations in Australian vertebrates
- Apply knowledge about the biology of a species to their applied conservation and management to explain why invasive species pose a threat to Australian vertebrate fauna

2 Assessment 2 - Residential School (P/F)

Assessment Type

Laboratory/Practical

Task Description

Students will undertake and complete a range of sampling activities in the field. These activities will be undertaken in a collaborative and constructive team environment and address non-invasive techniques used in the surveying and monitoring of Australian vertebrate fauna, and related peripheral skills (e.g. GPS, survey design, data collection, and sample identification). At the conclusion of each sampling activity individuals will present and outline their work and findings to the unit coordinator for summative assessment and feedback.

Assessment Due Date

Week 9 Thursday (12 Sept 2024) 3:00 pm AEST

Present face-to-face during residential school

Return Date to Students

Week 9 Thursday (12 Sept 2024)

Face-to-face feedback following presentation

Weighting

Pass/Fail

Minimum mark or grade

Pass

Assessment Criteria

Students are assessed on

1. Completeness of details on survey and sampling design.
2. Capacity to setup and operate sampling equipment in the field in a competent manner.
3. Ability to contribute, collaborate and cooperate in a team setting.
4. Capacity to explain preliminary results and conclusions stemming from sampling activities.

Referencing Style

- [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)

Submission

Offline

Submission Instructions

Face-to-face submission during the residential school.

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Apply knowledge about the biology of a species to their applied conservation and management to explain why invasive species pose a threat to Australian vertebrate fauna
- Practice industry and ethical standards and techniques in monitoring, surveying Australian vertebrate fauna
- Communicate knowledge and study findings in verbal and written scientific reports.

3 Assessment 3 - Practical Report: Surveying and Monitoring of Australian Fauna (50%)

Assessment Type

Written Assessment

Task Description

During your ZOOL19002 Residential School you will undertake wildlife surveying and monitoring activities that require the application of scientific and industry standard monitoring, assessment and surveying methodologies and technologies. These activities will primarily involve the assessment of microbat communities, and diurnally/nocturnally active ground and arboreal fauna.

Following the Residential School you will use the data collected during each activity to write up and present the results and conclusions in the format of a scientific/industry standard report. To assist you with the task of writing up the report, general assistance with the interpretation and analysis of data will be provided at the conclusion of each activity during the Residential School.

Assessment Due Date

Week 12 Friday (4 Oct 2024) 11:55 pm AEST

Submit online through Moodle as a Word document.

Return Date to Students

Exam Week Friday (18 Oct 2024)

Returned to students through Moodle.

Weighting

50%

Minimum mark or grade

50%

Assessment Criteria

Practical Report will be assessed on

1. Completeness (relevant observations, methods and results relating to surveying and monitoring techniques and methodologies used).
2. Discussion of the results in context with current and relevant surveying and monitoring methods for mammalian fauna.
3. Appropriate application and discussion of wildlife assessment(s) and applications/limitations in conservation management.
4. Clarity, grammar, punctuation and organisation.
5. Presentation of figures, tables and diagrams (to publication standard).
6. Correct inline referencing of figures/tables/diagrams.
7. Appropriate and correctly-cited references with appropriate author-date citation (Harvard referencing).
8. Word limit of 2000 words.

Further details of the assessment criteria and rubric will be available on unit Moodle and discussed with students at the conclusion of the Residential School.

Referencing Style

- [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)

Submission

Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Describe the evolution, diversity and distribution of major vertebrate fauna in Australia
- Explain the significance of behavioural, reproductive, physiological, and nutritional adaptations in Australian

- vertebrates
- Communicate knowledge and study findings in verbal and written scientific reports.

Academic Integrity Statement

As a CQUniversity student you are expected to act honestly in all aspects of your academic work.

Any assessable work undertaken or submitted for review or assessment must be your own work. Assessable work is any type of work you do to meet the assessment requirements in the unit, including draft work submitted for review and feedback and final work to be assessed.

When you use the ideas, words or data of others in your assessment, you must thoroughly and clearly acknowledge the source of this information by using the correct referencing style for your unit. Using others' work without proper acknowledgement may be considered a form of intellectual dishonesty.

Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in your university study ensures the CQUniversity qualification you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

As a student, you are responsible for reading and following CQUniversity's policies, including the [Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure](#). This policy sets out CQUniversity's expectations of you to act with integrity, examples of academic integrity breaches to avoid, the processes used to address alleged breaches of academic integrity, and potential penalties.

What is a breach of academic integrity?

A breach of academic integrity includes but is not limited to plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion, cheating, contract cheating, and academic misconduct. The Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure defines what these terms mean and gives examples.

Why is academic integrity important?

A breach of academic integrity may result in one or more penalties, including suspension or even expulsion from the University. It can also have negative implications for student visas and future enrolment at CQUniversity or elsewhere. Students who engage in contract cheating also risk being blackmailed by contract cheating services.

Where can I get assistance?

For academic advice and guidance, the [Academic Learning Centre \(ALC\)](#) can support you in becoming confident in completing assessments with integrity and of high standard.

What can you do to act with integrity?



Be Honest

If your assessment task is done by someone else, it would be dishonest of you to claim it as your own



Seek Help

If you are not sure about how to cite or reference in essays, reports etc, then seek help from your lecturer, the library or the Academic Learning Centre (ALC)



Produce Original Work

Originality comes from your ability to read widely, think critically, and apply your gained knowledge to address a question or problem