



GEOG11023 *Physical Geography of Australia*

Term 1 - 2023

Profile information current as at 26/04/2024 06:50 am

All details in this unit profile for GEOG11023 have been officially approved by CQUniversity 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

This unit surveys the major patterns of Australian landscapes and the processes which have produced them. Topics include the geology, climates, landforms, soils and ecology of Australia.

Details

Career Level: *Undergraduate*

Unit Level: *Level 1*

Credit Points: 6

Student Contribution Band: 8

Fraction of Full-Time Student Load: 0.125

Pre-requisites or Co-requisites

There are no requisites for this unit.

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 1 - 2023

- Online
- 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. **Practical and Written Assessment**

Weighting: 30%

2. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 40%

3. **Online Quiz(zes)**

Weighting: 30%

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 Student feedback (Q5)

Feedback

Volume of readings

Recommendation

Reduce the required reading of some weekly topics, where relevant and practicable.

Feedback from Student feedback (Q5) and self assessment

Feedback

Online quiz

Recommendation

Refresh and update the online quiz questions to assess students' knowledge of the required readings.

Unit Learning Outcomes

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

1. explain fundamental processes responsible for the development of Australian climates, landforms, soils and biogeography
2. describe major patterns of climates, landforms, soils and biogeography in Australia.

Important skills objectives include the development of abilities to:

- find particular information when required that is contained in your online material, textbook or other study resources
- demonstrate information literacy skills concerning the use of the CQU Library online catalogue and the development of search strategies for research paper topics
- research and analyse information relating to the physical geography of Australia
- write annotated bibliographies and research papers.

In a broader educational context, it is worth noting that the design of this unit is intended to assist students to develop independent life-long learning skills, and in particular the ability to successfully cope with online learning environments, such as is presented in this unit.

Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes



Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes	
	1	2
1 - Practical and Written Assessment - 30%		•
2 - Written Assessment - 40%	•	
3 - Online Quiz(zes) - 30%	•	•

Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Learning Outcomes

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes	
	1	2
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		

Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Graduate Attributes

Assessment Tasks	Graduate Attributes									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1 - Practical and Written Assessment - 30%	•	•		•		•	•	•		
2 - Written Assessment - 40%	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		
3 - Online Quiz(zes) - 30%		•	•	•		•		•		

Textbooks and Resources

Textbooks

GEOG11023

Supplementary

The Australian Physical Environment

Edition: 1st (2008)

Authors: Bridgman, H., Dragovitch, D., Dodson, J.

Oxford University Press Australia

South Melbourne , VIC , Australia

ISBN: 13-978-0-19-554109-0

Binding: Other

Additional Textbook Information

Textbooks can be accessed online at the CQUniversity Library website. Access may be limited. If you would prefer your own copy, purchase either paper or eBook versions at the CQUni Bookshop here:

<http://bookshop.cqu.edu.au> (search on the Unit code)

[View textbooks at the CQUniversity Bookshop](#)

IT Resources

You will need access to the following IT resources:

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

Referencing Style

All submissions for this unit must use the referencing style: [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)

For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

Teaching Contacts

Jiaping Wu Unit Coordinator

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Schedule

Week 1 - 06 Mar 2023

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Structure of the Earth and Plate Tectonics	Ch.1: Australia in the Physical World (Bridgman et al., 2008) Ch.2: The Earth in Space and Time (Bridgman et al., 2008) Ch.8: The Development of the Landscape (only pp. 163-171) (Bridgman et al., 2008)	Note: There are 5 online quizzes. All the quizzes are available from the first day of the term; but each quiz will be due in different weeks during the term. Please mark the due dates in your calendar.

Week 2 - 13 Mar 2023

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Geological Evolution of Australia
 Ch.2: Tectonic Setting of Australia (Saygin, 2007)
 Ch.12: Earth's Internal Structure, Rock Cycle, and Geologic Time (Arbogast, 2017)

Week 3 - 20 Mar 2023

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Global Climatic Processes	Ch.3: The Global Energy System (Bridgman et al., 2008) Ch.4: Atmospheric Circulation (Bridgman et al., 2008)	

Week 4 - 27 Mar 2023

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Australian Climates	Ch.5: Hydrologic Systems and Atmospheric Processes (Bridgman et al., 2008) Ch.6: Ocean Atmosphere Interactions (Bridgman et al., 2008) Ch.7: Climatic Environments (Bridgman et al., 2008)	

Week 5 - 03 Apr 2023

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Geomorphology: Principles & Patterns	Ch.8: The Development of the Landscape (pp. 171-187) (Bridgman et al., 2008) Ch.9: Landscapes, Sediments and Soil Development (pp. 188-197) (Bridgman et al., 2008) Ch.10: Water in the Landscape (pp.215-241) (Bridgman et al., 2008)	

Vacation Week - 10 Apr 2023

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Week 6 - 17 Apr 2023

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Geomorphology: Regional Patterns	Ch.11: Aeolian Landforms (Bridgman et al., 2008) Ch.12: Coastal Landforms (Bridgman et al., 2008)	Quiz 1 due

Week 7 - 24 Apr 2023

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Soil Forming Processes	Ch.9: 'Soils' section (pp. 198-214) (Bridgman et al., 2008) Ch.12: The evolution of Australian soil (McKenzie et al., 2004)	Written Assessment: Term proposal Due: Week 7 Friday (28 Apr 2023) 11:45 pm AEST

Week 8 - 01 May 2023

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Soil Classification & Regional Patterns	Ch.7: Groundwater—lifeblood of the continent (Brodie et al., 2016)	quiz 2 due

Week 9 - 08 May 2023

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Ecosystems	Ch.13: Historical Biogeography (Bridgman et al., 2008)	quiz 3 due

Week 10 - 15 May 2023

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Biomes	Ch.14: Ecological Biogeography (Bridgman et al., 2008)	quiz 4 due
Week 11 - 22 May 2023		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Australian Flora	Ch.15: Communities and Ecosystems (Bridgman et al., 2008) Ch.9: Vegetation' (Carnahan, 1977)	
Week 12 - 29 May 2023		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Australian Fauna	Ch.4: The Ecosystems (Heathcote, 1994) Ch.2: Biogeography of Australian Flora and Fauna (Smith, 1986)	quiz 5 due Written Assessment 2 Term paper Due: Week 12 Friday (2 June 2023) 11:45 pm AEST
Review/Exam Week - 05 Jun 2023		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Exam Week - 12 Jun 2023		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Assessment Tasks

1 Written Assessment: Term proposal

Assessment Type

Practical and Written Assessment

Task Description

For this assessment, you need to write a research proposal and an annotated bibliography.

In the research proposal, you need to:

- Choose a region in Australia to study
- Provide a brief review of the literatures about the physical geography of the chosen region
- Present a research plan for completing the term paper

The research proposal should be 800-1000 words in length, excluding references.

In the annotated bibliography, you need to:

- Identify and evaluate 10 information sources (books, book chapters, journal articles, etc.)
- Provide bibliographical information (citation) of each source following the Harvard Referencing Style
- Write explanatory paragraphs (annotations) for each source, which should be around 100 words in length. It should include:
 - A summary of the main arguments or ideas
 - An evaluation of the relevancy and usefulness of the information
 - A reflection on how you will use the source in writing your term paper

It is important to accurately cite your sources and provide a clear and concise summary and evaluation of the information they contain in relation to your research. The detailed requirements for the annotated bibliography will be provided in the Moodle site of the unit.

Please note: You will study the chosen region for both written assessments. So, you should read both assessment tasks before you commence this assignment.

Assessment Due Date

Week 7 Friday (28 Apr 2023) 11:45 pm AEST

Online submission

Return Date to Students

Week 9 Friday (12 May 2023)

Assessments will be marked and returned in two weeks after the due date or as soon as practicable

Weighting

30%

Assessment Criteria

Your work will be evaluated based on:

- The quality of your research proposal, including the definition of the region you have chosen to study, the review of the literature about the physical geography of the region, and your research plan.
- The quality of your references, annotations and literature evaluations, including the accuracy and clarity of your citations, the summary of the main arguments and ideas, the evaluation of relevancy and usefulness, and the reflection on how you will use the source in your term paper.
- The quality of your written communication, including grammar, spelling, and coherence of your writing.

The detailed marking criteria for this assessment will be provided in the Moodle site of the unit, so be sure to review it carefully before submitting your work.

Referencing Style

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

Submission

Online

Submission Instructions

There will be a submission link placed on the Moodle website

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- describe major patterns of climates, landforms, soils and biogeography in Australia.

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Information Literacy
- Information Technology Competence
- Cross Cultural Competence
- Ethical practice

2 Written Assessment 2 Term paper

Assessment Type

Written Assessment

Task Description

In this assessment task, you are asked to complete a term research paper based on the research proposal submitted in assessment 1. In the term paper, you should describe patterns and interpret the processes of the 5 elements of the physical geography of the chosen region, which are:

- a) geology
- b) climate
- c) landforms
- d) soils
- e) biogeography

You should use the information sources (books, book chapters, journal articles, etc.) that you have identified in the annotated bibliography of the assessment 1 to support your analysis and interpretations.

Your paper should be 2,500--3,000 words in length. *(The word count is considered from the first word of the introduction to the last word of the conclusion. It excludes the cover page, abstract, contents page, reference page and appendices. It includes in-text references and direct quotations).*

It is important to follow the guidelines and requirements for writing and referencing as provided in the Moodle site of the unit.

Assessment Due Date

Week 12 Friday (2 June 2023) 11:45 pm AEST

Online submission

Return Date to Students

Exam Week Friday (16 June 2023)

The assessment will be marked and returned in two weeks through the Moodle site.

Weighting

40%

Assessment Criteria

This assessment will be marked based on the overall quality and quantity of your research, analysis, interpretation, written communication, and use of information sources. Detailed marking criteria is provided in the unit's Moodle site.

Referencing Style

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

Submission

Online

Submission Instructions

There will be a submission link placed on the Moodle website

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- explain fundamental processes responsible for the development of Australian climates, landforms, soils and biogeography

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Team Work
- Information Technology Competence
- Cross Cultural Competence
- Ethical practice

3 Online Quizzes

Assessment Type

Online Quiz(zes)

Task Description

This assessment contains 5 online quizzes. Each quiz consists of 10 multiple-choice questions. Students will select the most appropriate answer for each question from the given options to complete the quiz.

More details about the quizzes and how to complete them are provided in the unit's Moodle site.

Number of Quizzes

5

Frequency of Quizzes

Other

Assessment Due Date

By 11.45pm on Sunday of the due week.

Return Date to Students

The online quizzes will be marked automatically after submission

Weighting

30%

Assessment Criteria

The question will be marked 'correct' if the right answer is chosen. Scores are based on the number of correct answer only. There are no penalties for incorrect answers. It is important to read the questions carefully and to choose the answer that you believe is most accurate based on your understanding of the material.

Referencing Style

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

Submission

Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- explain fundamental processes responsible for the development of Australian climates, landforms, soils and biogeography
- describe major patterns of climates, landforms, soils and biogeography in Australia.

Graduate Attributes

- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Information Technology Competence
- Ethical practice

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