



MBIO19013 Environmental Microbiology

Term 2 - 2022

Profile information current as at 14/12/2025 03:41 pm

All details in this unit profile for MBIO19013 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 builds upon the basic microbiological concepts learned in first year and applies them to an environmental context. In this unit you will learn about the various microbial groups and develop a sound understanding of their relevance and importance in both natural and industrial environments. This unit has a very applied and practical focus, covering both field and laboratory microbiological methods. You will learn and apply practical skills which also include employability skills in the area of microbiology.

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

Pre-requisite: BIOL11102 Life Science 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 - 2022

- 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. **Presentation and Written Assessment**

Weighting: 20%

2. **Practical and Written Assessment**

Weighting: 30%

3. **Online Test**

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 Have your say button

Feedback

Students preferred having the online test spread into three throughout the term.

Recommendation

The online tests will remain separate and spread out.

Feedback from Have your say button

Feedback

Students loved the practical aspects of the unit.

Recommendation

The residential school will remain an important part of the unit, and will mostly stay as is.

Feedback from Have your say button

Feedback

Some students stated there were too many assessment pieces.

Recommendation

The assessment pieces will be evaluated to see if reducing the number of parts is possible.

Unit Learning Outcomes

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

1. Describe the relationships between form and function, genetics, and growth dynamics in the major microbial groups
2. Explain the fundamental principles of environmental microbiology
3. Discuss the role of microbial interactions with the environment and other organisms, including industrial applications
4. Discuss sampling, processing and analysis methods with respect to environmental microorganisms
5. Practice and demonstrate selected microbiological procedures in the laboratory in a safe and efficient manner
6. Interpret the results of laboratory experiments both individually and in groups.

Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes



Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
1 - Presentation and Written Assessment - 20%		•	•			
2 - Practical and Written Assessment - 30%					•	•
3 - Online Test - 50%	•	•	•	•		

Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Learning Outcomes

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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 - Presentation and Written Assessment - 20%	•		•	•						
2 - Practical and Written Assessment - 30%	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		
3 - Online Test - 50%	•	•								

Textbooks and Resources

Textbooks

MBIO19013

Prescribed

Environmental Microbiology

Edition: 3rd (2014)

Authors: Pepper, Gerba and Gentry

Elsevier

Burlington , MA , USA

ISBN: 978-0-12-394626-3

Binding: Hardcover

[View textbooks at the CQUniversity Bookshop](#)

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

Sandrine Makiela Unit Coordinator

s.makiela@cqu.edu.au

Schedule

Week 1 - 11 Jul 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Microbial form and function	1, 2	

Week 2 - 18 Jul 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Microbial form and function	1, 2	

Week 3 - 25 Jul 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Microbial growth and control of growth	3	

Week 4 - 01 Aug 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Microorganisms in nature	4, 5, 6, 7	

Week 5 - 08 Aug 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Microbial interactions with the environment	15, 16, 19	Online test 1 due Friday. Test will open at 9am AEST and close in 24h.

Vacation Week - 15 Aug 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Week 6 - 22 Aug 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Mechanisms of disease	Readings will be provided on Moodle.	

Week 7 - 29 Aug 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Waste water microbiology	23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 (sections will be specified on Moodle)	Essay and presentation on Controversial Issue Due: Week 7 Friday (2 Sept 2022) 11:55 pm AEST

Week 8 - 05 Sep 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Sampling, processing and culture of microbes	8, 10	Online test 2 due Friday. Test will open at 9am AEST and close in 24h.

Week 9 - 12 Sep 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Detection, enumeration and bioinformatics	11, 12, 13, 21	Residential School 15-18th September (Thursday to Sunday).

Week 10 - 19 Sep 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Biodegradation, bioremediation and bioleaching	17, 18	

Week 11 - 26 Sep 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Industrial microbiology and biofuels	Readings will be provided on Moodle.	

Week 12 - 03 Oct 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Revision.		Online test 3 due Friday. Test will open at 9am AEST and close in 24h. Practical skills, Project Report and Peer Assessment Due: Week 12 Tuesday (4 Oct 2022) 11:55 pm AEST

Review/Exam Week - 10 Oct 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
		Online test 3 due. Date and time TBA in Moodle closer to the date.

Exam Week - 17 Oct 2022

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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Assessment Tasks**1 Essay and presentation on Controversial Issue****Assessment Type**

Presentation and Written Assessment

Task Description**Task Description**

You will be assessed on two tasks (for a total weighting of 20%):

15% - essay

5% - presentation

Essay (Critical debate)

On the unit Moodle site, you will have a choice of 5 topics, each of which is a controversial issue in microbiology. Please note that the number of students in each topic will be restricted. You will need to write a critical debate on your chosen topic. There is no right or wrong answer, but you will need to critically review all sides of the issue and defend your opinion with references.

Word length: 1000-1400 words.

Presentation

You will need to prepare a one page graphical argument analysis on your essay topic. This is a summary of your essay arguments, main points, and conclusions, in the form of a flowchart. Instructions and exemplars will be provided on the Moodle site.

Assessment Due Date

Week 7 Friday (2 Sept 2022) 11:55 pm AEST

Return Date to Students

Week 9 Friday (16 Sept 2022)

Weighting

20%

Minimum mark or grade

50%

Assessment Criteria

For the essay, a full assessment rubrics will be available on the unit Moodle site, using the following criteria:

- Content and range of knowledge (20%)
- Application of critical analysis (40%)
- Defense of argument (10%)
- Presentation (10%)
- Clarity of expression (10%)
- Referencing (10%)

For the presentation, detailed marking criteria will be available on the unit Moodle site, and will be based on the following:

- Gives an accurate representation of the essay (60%)
- Straightforward and easy to follow (20%)
- Presentation (20%)

Referencing Style

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

Submission

Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Explain the fundamental principles of environmental microbiology
- Discuss the role of microbial interactions with the environment and other organisms, including industrial applications

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy

2 Practical skills, Project Report and Peer Assessment

Assessment Type

Practical and Written Assessment

Task Description

For this assessment, you will be assessed on three tasks (for a total weighting of 30%):

10% - Practical skills

15% - Written report
5% - Peer assessment

Practical Skills

During the residential school you will be marked on basic microbiological techniques, on both your performance of the task and the results. The marking will occur during the normal course of the residential school (it is not under exam conditions). Detailed descriptions and requirements for this task will be available on the Moodle site.

Written Report

During the residential school you will do set practicals both individually and in groups. In addition to this you will undertake a small group project. At the start of term, you will be given a choice of two or three potential projects. Based on each student's preference of project, you will be assigned to a group by the unit coordinator. In your group, during the residential school, you will design an experiment on your project topic (with guidance). You will carry out the project experiment, and then individually write a scientific report on the project results.

The written report will be in the style of an article for a journal submission. As such, you will need to follow the "Guidelines for Authors" document for the journal when preparing your submission. This document, the conventions to follow and the passing standards will be available on Moodle, and will be clearly outlined in the residential school.

Word limit: 1500 words max.

Peer Assessment

You will be asked to grade yourself and each of your team members on how well they performed as a team member. This will be done after the practical block session. Each student's final mark will be an average of the summative peer assessments. These will be done via the Self and Peer Assessment program, which will be available in Moodle.

Assessment Due Date

Week 12 Tuesday (4 Oct 2022) 11:55 pm AEST

This is both the written report and the peer assessment.

Return Date to Students

Exam Week Tuesday (18 Oct 2022)

Weighting

30%

Minimum mark or grade

50%

Assessment Criteria

The practical skills will be marked on how well you perform each skill and the result (final product). A detailed marks sheet will be available on the Moodle site.

For the report, a full assessment rubrics will be available on the unit Moodle site, using the following criteria:

- Scientific writing (10%)
- Data presentation and analysis (20%)
- The extent to which the results are considered and discussed (40%)
- Report presentation (10%)
- Clarity of expression (10%)
- Referencing (10%)

The peer assessment questionnaire will be available on the unit Moodle site from the time of the residential school, and the criteria will be discussed at that time.

Referencing Style

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

Submission

Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Practice and demonstrate selected microbiological procedures in the laboratory in a safe and efficient manner
- Interpret the results of laboratory experiments both individually and in groups.

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Team Work

- Cross Cultural Competence
- Ethical practice

3 Online Tests

Assessment Type

Online Test

Task Description

Your knowledge of the content and concepts will be examined by three online tests held at regular intervals throughout the term. All test topics will be covered in lectures and tutorials.

The first online test will be on the Friday of week 5, and will cover the content of weeks 1-4. The second will be on the Friday of week 8, and cover the content of weeks 5-7. The third will be on the Friday of week 12, and cover the content of weeks 8-11.

These online tests will be done as quizzes in Moodle. Exact dates and times will be found on the unit Moodle page.

The quizzes consist of both multiple choice (MCQ) and short answer questions.

Assessment Due Date

Online test 1 on the Friday of week 5, online test 2 on the Monday of week 10, online test 3 during the exam period.

Return Date to Students

Test marks will be returned 10 working days after the test closing date.

Weighting

50%

Minimum mark or grade

50%

Assessment Criteria

Each MCQ in each online test will be marked automatically by Moodle, and will be based on correctness. Short answer questions will be marked manually, and will be based on completeness and correctness of your answer. Your total mark for this assessment will be the sum of all three online test marks.

Referencing Style

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

Submission

Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Describe the relationships between form and function, genetics, and growth dynamics in the major microbial groups
- Explain the fundamental principles of environmental microbiology
- Discuss the role of microbial interactions with the environment and other organisms, including industrial applications
- Discuss sampling, processing and analysis methods with respect to environmental microorganisms

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Problem Solving

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