

OEP research project subject information session

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Why do a research project?

- Develop research skills
- Demonstrate independent judgement and capacity to complete a project
- Extend and demonstrate your specialisation
- Pathway to PhD (University of Melbourne requires a minimum of 25 points of research – rules will differ across universities and supervisors may also have expectations of a larger project)
- Meet the capstone requirement of the degree

When should I take it in my degree

- In second half of degree because:
 - You need to have appropriate knowledge base for developing a proposal
 - You need to have appropriate skills base to design a project
 - You need time to prepare for project and securing supervision
 - As a capstone it is a 'stepping stone' to the next phase of career development

What subject options are available and how do I decide the right one for me?

Subject	Study Period Commencement:	Credit Points:
ENST90008 Environmental Research Review (12.5)	Semester 1, Semester 2	12.50
ENST90007 Environmental Research Project (25)	Semester 1, Semester 2	25
ENST90024 Environmental Research Project - 25 Long	Semester 1, Semester 2	12.50
ENST90016 Environmental Research Project (50)	Semester 1, Semester 2	50
ENST90001 Environmental Research Proj (50 Long)	Semester 1, Semester 2	25
ENST90025 Environmental Industry Research (25)	Semester 1, Semester 2	25
ENST90026 Environmental Industry Research - 25 Long	Semester 1, Semester 2	12.50
ENST90020 Environmental Industry Research (50)	Semester 1, Semester 2	50
ENST90029 Environmental Industry Research- 50 Long	Semester 1, Semester 2	25

Key decisions on subject selection:

- Size of project: 12.5, 25 or 50 points?
- Duration of project: one semester or two?
- Nature of project: Industry or academic?

What preparation is required?

- Proposal submission dates:
 - For projects commencing Sem 2, 2016 - **Monday 9 May 2016 5pm**
 - For projects commencing Sem 1, 2017 - **Monday 10 October 2016 5pm**

What preparation is required?

- Ideally two semesters out:
 - Consider general area of research for specialisation
 - Select subjects that allow you to:
 - Explore background knowledge relevant to that field, and understand what is and is not known
 - Begin informal conversations with academics working in this area – to identify what they see as key knowledge gaps
 - Develop appropriate research skills

What preparation is required?

- One semester out:
 - Narrow down area of interest
 - Systematically identify academics working in relevant areas
 - Search for advertised projects
 - Develop a preliminary draft proposal and use that as a basis for conversation with potential supervisors
 - Work with a supervisor to refine a proposal
 - Complete paperwork required

What resources are available to help?

- The OEP website provides extensive materials to help
http://environment.unimelb.edu.au/courses/research_subjects

Consult this before you begin the process and before you ask questions.

- If you still have questions: email OEP-research@unimelb.edu.au

How do I find a supervisor?

- Supervisors seek students for potential projects here:
 - http://environment.unimelb.edu.au/courses/research_subjects/projects
- Searchable data base of academics and their expertise here:
<http://www.findanexpert.unimelb.edu.au/>
- If you get stuck, make an appointment with subject coordinator (via Student Advising System)

How do I find an industry host (if planning an Industry Project)

- Many projects based on work or personal contacts
- Organisations seek students for projects here:
 - <http://www.capstoneportal.com/>
- Use resources available Careers
[http://careers.unimelb.edu.au/? ga=1.19195643.2104263967.1393813771](http://careers.unimelb.edu.au/?ga=1.19195643.2104263967.1393813771)
- If you get stuck, seek advice from Fiona Simpson: Careers and Industry Consultant, Faculty of Science science-academicprograms@unimelb.edu.au

How do I prepare a research proposal?

- Detailed guidance is provided here:
http://environment.unimelb.edu.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0003/1227495/2015-OEP-model-proposal.pdf
 - Define the topic
 - Identify key research questions/hypotheses
 - Outline scope and nature of project
 - Detail methodology and specific research approaches
 - Acknowledge ethics and risk assessment requirements
 - Identify initial expected outcomes
- Approximately 500 words
 - May be supported by development of a detailed proposal within a research methods subject