



## COURSE DETAILS

Units of Credit	4 + 4 + 4
Contact hours	as agreed with supervisor
Course Coordinators	Dr Daniel O Shea email: d.oshea@unsw.edu.au office:CE213 in Civil and Environmental Engineering Building (120)

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE COURSE

THIS COURSE PROFILE SHOULD ONLY BE REFERRED TO BY STUDENTS WHO HAVE ALREADY SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED CVEN9451 MASTERS THESIS A IN 2019 (OR PRIOR), AND IN TERM 1 2020 ARE ENROLLED IN CVEN 9452 AND/OR CVEN9453

PLEASE NOTE: STUDENTS ENROLLED IN CVEN 9451 MASTERS THESIS A IN TERM 1 2020 SHOULD REFER TO THE ALTERNATIVE COURSE PROFILE THAT IS AVAILBLE ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE AND IN MOODLE.

## HANDBOOK DESCRIPTION

The thesis may describe directed laboratory, investigatory, design, field or research work on an approved subject and will be completed under the guidance and supervision of a member of the School's academic staff.

Online Handbook description is available at UNSW:

[www.handbook.unsw.edu.au/postgraduate/courses/2020/CVEN9451.html](http://www.handbook.unsw.edu.au/postgraduate/courses/2020/CVEN9451.html)  
[www.handbook.unsw.edu.au/postgraduate/courses/2020/CVEN9452.html](http://www.handbook.unsw.edu.au/postgraduate/courses/2020/CVEN9452.html)  
[www.handbook.unsw.edu.au/postgraduate/courses/2020/CVEN9453.html](http://www.handbook.unsw.edu.au/postgraduate/courses/2020/CVEN9453.html)

## OBJECTIVES

The Masters Coursework Thesis Project is an individual project in which each student works under the guidance of a nominated member of the academic staff (supervisor). A supervisor may also be nominated depending on the set up of the project (e.g. an employer could be supervisor in an external thesis project). The work may involve laboratory experiments, field or industry investigations, design applications or theoretical research.

The Masters Coursework Thesis aims to provide students with the opportunity to:

- Undertake and execute an academic research project;
- Produce a self-contained research thesis, which may be understood and used by others with technical background knowledge in the same discipline area as the thesis topic, and may potent

- Present the research in a seminar.

### **WHO IS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE A THESIS?**

Program 8621: All students in program 8621 must complete the thesis project in their final year of study.

Program 8338 Students who have not completed a recognised Thesis in their undergraduate studies or further postgraduate studies are required to complete a Thesis in their Masters Coursework program. If you are unsure if you have completed one, or if the school is not aware that you have completed one, please contact the Student Centre so an assessment can be made.

### **WHAT IS A MASTERS COURSEWORK THESIS?**

That depends quite a bit on your field of study. However, they all have at least two things in common:

- They are based on students' original research.
- They take the form of a written report, which presents findings of that research.

### **WHY WRITE A MASTERS COURSEWORK THESIS?**

- **Satisfy your intellectual curiosity**

This is the most compelling reason to write a research thesis. You have studied courses during your degree that perhaps really piqued your interest. Now's your chance to follow your passions, explore further, and contribute some original ideas and research in your field.

- **Develop transferable research skills**

Whether you choose to pursue further research (e.g. complete a PhD) or not, the process of developing and crafting a feasible research project will polish skills that will serve you well in almost any future job. After most jobs require some form of problem solving and oral and written communication. Writing a thesis requires that you:

- ask smart questions
- acquire the investigative instincts needed to find answers
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course coordinator before progressMastersThesis B or Thesis C is allowed. Failure to receive the progress assessment by the due date will result in the student results being withheld and/or failure.

### MASTERS THESIS A SUBMISSIONS

- Component A1 submission should include: Statement of the Problem and Literature Review.
- Component A2 submission should include: More detailed, revised and improved Introduction (Statement of the problem), Literature Review.

NOTE: If students are seeking to apply for permission to enrol concurrently in Masters Thesis B + C in the following Trimester, then the additional requirement is that the A2 submission must also include a Thesis Outline (Chapters and indicative sub-headings) plus a description of Research Methodology.

- Lunchtime Workshops: Course Orientation (week 1), Literature Review Workshop (week 2)

1. Component A1 is due: WEEK 7
2. Component A2 is due: WEEK 10

**Submissions A1 & A2 must be provided to the supervisor by 4.00pm Friday of the submission week.**

### MASTERS THESIS B SUBMISSIONS

- Component B1 submission: Progress Report this will take the form of an improved and extended A2 submission, including a detailed Thesis Outline (chapter and headings), Research Methodology and preliminary Results and Analyses.
- Lunchtime Workshop: Thesis Writing Workshop (Week 3)

1. Component B1 is due: WEEK 3 for students enrolled in Masters Thesis B+C concurrently  
WEEK 8 for students enrolled in Masters Thesis B only

**Submission B1 must be provided to the supervisor by 4.00pm on Friday of the submission week.**

### MASTERS THESIS C SUBMISSIONS

Submission for students located in the Sydney Basin:

1.	Seminar Abstract	Week 7	5 % of Final Mark
2.	Research Seminar	Week 10	10 % of Final Mark
3.	Thesis Submission	Week 11	85 % of Final Mark (incl. 10 % Supervisor)

**Further details of the requirements for the Thesis Abstract and Seminar format and scheduling will be advised by the Course Coordinator during the semester.**

Submission for students located outside Sydney Basin can choose the following option (to avoid students having to fly in for the presentation only):

1.	Poster submission	Week 9	15 % of Final Mark
2.	Thesis Submission	Week 11	85 % of Final Mark (incl. 10% Supervisor)



- Topic material as directed by your supervisor.
- Materials provided by course coordinator.

## HEALTH & SAFETY

UNSW is committed to the health and safety of all people who work, study, visit UNSW campuses. Health and safety are intrinsic to the way UNSW does business and UNSW's overall aim is Harm to Zero, with the expectation that no person shall come to any harm while working, studying or visiting UNSW.

UNSW will comply with the NSW Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017.

Details about UNSW Health and Safety commitment are available online:

<https://safety.unsw.edu.au/unsw-health-and-safety-policy-statement>

and comprehensive information about UNSW Health and Safety can be found on:

<http://safety.unsw.edu.au/>

### Student requirements, training and responsibilities

As a student undertaking a Master's coursework thesis you are often undertaking experimental works in laboratories, attending data collection in the field or participating in community consultations. Independent of your thesis topic





***MASTERS RESEARCH THESIS B***

***MASTERS***