

Kia ora and welcome to the School of Biological Sciences Post Graduate Programme,

For your research proposal paper BIOSCI 761, and before you start your research under one of the following programmes, you need to find a supervisor and research topic to work on.

- Bachelor of Science (Honours)
- Master of Science
- Master of Biotechnology
- Master of Ecology

To best match you up with a supervisor we run a ranking system. You list the top three supervisors you want to work, along with email communication showing they are also keen to take you on, on our Expression of Interest (EOI) form, and at the end of June we pair you up. **The deadline for the EOI submission is 6th June 2023.** We will run a another EOI round in January 2024 if you want to delay your supervision choice but note that some projects may be taken by this stage, so it is good to start communicating with academics early if you are interested in their area of research.

You should NOTE:

- If you have not had a response from one or all the three potential supervisors you contact, then, after three attempts, attach a copy of your emails instead of the supervisor agreement.
- We will contact you in July to let you know of your approved topic and supervisor.

The Academic staff typically have something in mind that they would like to achieve. So, your goal is to find a supervisor who is working in an area you would like to do research in. Please follow the approach below:

1. A list of academic staff and available projects will be published below in May.
2. In the meantime, you can still find out about the research in the School of Biological Sciences (SBS). There is a wide range of areas, we are a big School. You can explore using [this link](#). We also have several Joint Graduate Schools, where you can have supervisors from industry. You can access these from the same link.
3. You can find out more about any researcher name listed on the site, via the [Discovery Profiles](#). You can learn more about what they do, what other students in their group do, and recent publications. Contact details are within the profile. You are not limited to the lecturers in your classes, you can approach anyone.
4. Select a few researchers/areas that interest you. Think about how your background might make you a useful student. Have you taken relevant BIOSCI papers? Have you had any relevant work experience?
5. Email those that interest you. Ensure each email is specific to that researcher.
6. Aim for your email to be concise and informative, ~ two paragraphs is a good goal. Things to cover:
  - i. Who you are and that you are interested in their research.
  - ii. Tell them your background, papers, experience, research interests. You might want to attach a transcript and CV, especially if you have good grades in the most relevant papers. If they are interested, they will likely ask for this.
  - iii. Tell them what postgrad degree you are wanting to do, and in which semester you intend to take BIOSCI 761 and commence Thesis/Dissertation research.

- iv. Ask if you could arrange a time to meet/phone/zoom etc - indicate your availability.
7. Wait a week or so and follow up. If people don't respond quickly, it's almost certainly due to them being busy.

Remember, if you are a bit nervous about contacting staff, don't be! They are used to the students getting in touch. What they will be looking for is someone who will be a good "fit" for their lab, in both academic background and in personality. So be yourself and let them know why you are interested in working with them. Please remember that in some cases there may be limits on the availability of space and/or equipment and on the number of students that a particular staff member can effectively supervise, so there is no guarantee your first choice will be accommodated.

When you submit the Expression of Interest, your admission/enrolment will be approved on Student Services Online.

You can find useful information at the following links.

[How to Enrol](#)

[Enrolment Dates](#)

[Deadlines for changes to enrolment](#)

[School of Biological Sciences](#)

[Science Regulations](#)

[General Postgraduate Regulations](#)

Thank you/Kia ora rawa atu

Kind Regards/Ngā mihi nui

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