

Unit Outline

ENST3000 Environmental Impact Assessment Semester 1, 2024

Unit study package code:	ENST3000
Mode of study:	Internal
Tuition pattern summary:	Note: For any specific variations to this tuition pattern and for precise information refer to the Learning Activities section. Lecture: 1 x 2 Hours Weekly Tutorial: 1 x 2 Hours Weekly This unit does not have a fieldwork component.
Credit Value:	25.0
Pre-requisite units:	Nil
Co-requisite units:	Nil
Anti-requisite units:	Nil
Result type:	Grade/Mark
Approved incidental fees:	Information about approved incidental fees can be obtained from our website. Visit https://www.curtin.edu.au/students/essentials/fees/understanding-your-fees/ for details.
Unit coordinator:	Title: Associate Professor Name: Paul Nevill Phone: 08 9266 4216 Email: Paul.Nevill@curtin.edu.au Location: Building: 311 - Room: 147 Consultation times: Immediately after class
Teaching Staff:	Name: Paul Nevill Phone: 08 9266 4216 Email: Paul.Nevill@curtin.edu.au Location: Building: 311 - Room: 147 Name: Mieke van der Heyde Email: mieke.vanderheyde@curtin.edu.au Name: Kingsley Dixon Email: kingsley.dixon@curtin.edu.au Name: Andrew Knight Email: andrew.knight@curtin.edu.au
Administrative contact:	Name: Curtin Connect Phone: 1300 222 888 (Australia) or +61 8 9266 5888 (outside Australia) Email: https://students.connect.curtin.edu.au/app/ask Location: Building: Building: 102 (Curtin Connect)

Learning Management System: [Blackboard](https://lms.curtin.edu.au) (lms.curtin.edu.au)

Acknowledgement of Country

We respectfully acknowledge the Indigenous Elders, custodians, their descendants and kin of this land past and present. The [Centre for Aboriginal Studies](#) aspires to contribute to positive social change for Indigenous Australians through higher education and research.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Curtin University is committed to supporting all our students and staff whether they are on campus, working remotely or overseas. Your health, safety and wellbeing are our priority and the continuing COVID-19 pandemic may require changes to the unit schedule, learning activities, delivery modes and assessment to provide flexible and safe options to our community. Curtin will endeavour to keep changes and disruptions to a minimum at all times. For current advice and further information visit <https://www.curtin.edu.au/novel-coronavirus/>.

Syllabus

Historical background to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Practical understanding of the project, and strategic EIA (including sustainability assessment) procedures in Western Australia and across Australia. Federal and State legislation controlling EIA in Australia. Structure and functions of the WA Environmental Protection Authority. Review of EIA documents. Practical preparation of an EIA document.

Introduction











Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is an area where science intersects with society and politics - and idealism intersects with reality. EIA is the formal process of identifying and evaluating the likely environmental outcomes of project proposals, schemes and strategic plans for changing land use and development - and recommending whether the projects can go ahead. It sounds pretty dry on the surface, but as we dig into the process, case studies, and implications during semester, you'll discover that this is a crucial area of environmental science (as well as a major employment area!) that governs how we as resource consuming humans live with our natural environment, and to what extent we are able to protect critical ecosystems.

During the unit you'll learn the framework for EIA in Western Australia, the Commonwealth and overseas, but much more than that you'll discover a world of difficult decisions; prioritising competing needs; wicked problems; and compromises - and you'll be pushed to develop skills to deal with those as future scientists working in government, industry or the environmental sector. In the assignments you will work individually (assignment 1) and in a group (assignment 2) to evaluate hypothetical and real world examples, and produce assessments and recommendations that integrate science with social and economic impacts







Unit Learning Outcomes

All graduates of Curtin University achieve a set of six Graduate Capabilities during their course of study. These inform an employer that, through your studies, you have acquired discipline knowledge and a range of other skills and capabilities which employers would value in a professional setting. Each unit in your course addresses the Graduate Capabilities through a clearly identified set of learning outcomes. They form a vital part in the process referred to as assurance of learning. The learning outcomes notify you of what you are expected to know, understand or be able to do in order to be successful in this unit. Each assessment for this unit is carefully designed to test your knowledge of one or more of the unit learning outcomes. On successfully completing all of the assessments you will have achieved all of these learning outcomes.

Your course has been designed so that on graduating you will have achieved all of Curtin's Graduate Capabilities through the assurance of learning processes in each unit.

On successful completion of this unit students can:		Graduate Capabilities addressed
1	Critically evaluate the environmental issues faced locally, nationally and globally and the value of environmental impact assessment (EIA) as a tool to address these	 
2	Explain in detail the legislative framework surrounding " Environmental Impact" in Western Australia and the Commonwealth	 
3	Critique the principles of Strategic EIA as a planning and management tool	 
4	Work collaboratively and professionally to design and produce an Environmental Review Document	 
5	Communicate scientific and legal concepts and language to a non-technical audience	 

Curtin's Graduate Capabilities

	Apply discipline knowledge, principles and concepts		Innovative, creative and entrepreneurial		Effective communicators with digital competency
	Globally engaged and responsive		Culturally competent to engage respectfully with local First Peoples and other diverse cultures		Industry connected and career capable

Find out more about Curtin's Graduate Capabilities at the Learning Innovation and Teaching Excellence Centre (LITEC) website: litec.curtin.edu.au

Learning Activities

We have two x 2 hr blocks of classes each week (except where public holidays get in the way). Although these are officially labelled as "lectures" and "tutorials", in reality there will be some flexibility in how we use this time, with both sessions including taught material and active learning.

Lecture / tutorial sessions

Each week has a broad theme which we will explore across the classes.

Guest speakers

In many sessions, we will have a guest speaker coming in to give you a real world perspective on working with EIA in government, industry, the environmental sector and communities. These will be great opportunities to ask questions and network outside of the university sector, so they will be very much worth attending.

Reading and case studies

We will have an extensive unit reading list available via blackboard which you should use as a spingboard to do your own research. You are expected to read round the topic each week (using both provided material and resources you find yourself) and use this knowledge in your assessments.

Groupwork

Assignment 2 is a group research and presentation activity. Being able to work effectively as part of a team (and not necessarily one you'd choose) is a critical life-long employment skill, and is a fundamental part of scientific research and development.

Learning Resources

Library Reading List

The Reading List for this unit can be accessed through Blackboard.

Online resources

- The Environmental Protection Authority manages the EIA process in WA. Their website is the number one resource for this unit, and contains an enormous amount of information about policies, procedures and case studies.

(EPA website - <https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/>)

Assessment

Assessment policy exemptions

- There are no exemptions to the assessment policy

Assessment schedule

	Task	Value %	Date Due	Unit Learning Outcome(s) Assessed	Late Assessments Accepted?*	Assessment Extensions Considered?*
1	Individual Report	40%	Week: 6 Day: 7/4/2024 Time: 23.59	1,4,5	No	Yes
2	Group Presentation	20%	Week: 12 and 13 Day: 14/5/2024 - 22/5/2024 Time: TBA	3,4,5	No	Yes
3	Final Examination	40%	Week: Examination period Day: 3/6-5/6 Time: Released 9am on the 3/6 and due 23.59 on the 5/6	1,2,3	No	Yes

*Please refer to the Late Assessment and the Assessment Extension sections below for specific details and conditions.

Detailed information on assessment tasks

- The first assignment is an individual written report, which will be introduced in the tutorial in week 2 (turn up to this!). You will choose a hypothetical project scenario and be asked to produce a scoping report identifying the key environmental factors that should be assessed. Each hypothetical scenario will have a real world analogue to help you develop your report, although you will be expected to identify and research this yourselves.

A detailed instruction sheet and mark scheme will be provided on blackboard to help you complete the assignment.

- Assignment 2 is a group assignment. You will choose a real world environmental case study and asked to research and produce a presentation, evaluating the EIA process, decisions and outcomes that occurred. The assignment will be introduced in week 9, and you will deliver the presentations during the classes in weeks 12 and 13.
- The final exam is designed to test your broad knowledge and understanding across the unit. It will include material drawn from the lectures and tutorials, and the best marks will go to answers that show evidence of further reading and research that goes beyond what is taught in class.

Questions from last year's exam paper will be discussed in class so you can see what to expect. The exam will be released on day one of the exam period, and you will have three days to complete the paper.

Submission will be online via turnitin.

Pass requirements

To pass this unit you must:

Achieve an overall weighted mark of at least 50%, AND

Submit ALL assignments

Assessment Moderation

Fair assessment through moderation

Moderation describes a quality assurance process to ensure that assessments are appropriate to the learning outcomes, and that students work is evaluated consistently by assessors. Minimum standards for the moderation of assessments are described in the Assessment and Student Progression Manual, available from policies.curtin.edu.au/findapolicy/

Pre-marking moderation

Staff responsible for assessing student work will, as a minimum, be provided with an assessment rubric (or marking guide) in advance of the marking task. Assessment task details and marking criteria will be made available to students when the assessment task is assigned or in the unit outline. Other pre-marking moderation activities may be employed as appropriate to each assessment task.

Intra-marking / Post-marking moderation

Intra-marking strategies may be implemented as deemed necessary following submission of assessment artefacts.

Postmarking

moderation will include (but is not limited to) at least one of the following methods:

An analysis of the variances between markers and location

Student marking or check second marking of a random sample of student work

Second marking or check second marking of a sample of student work deemed to be at significant thresholds

Second marking or check second marking of a sample of outliers (High or low scoring assessment)

Panel of academics discuss and collectively reach a consensus

Late assessment

Where the submission of a late assessment is permitted, late penalties will be consistently applied in this unit.

Where a late assessment **is** permitted for an assessment item or the entirety of the unit (refer to the Assessment Schedule table in this Unit Outline) and the student does not have an approved assessment extension:

1. For assessment items submitted within the first 24 hours after the due date/time, students will be penalised by a deduction of 5% of the total marks allocated for the assessment task;
2. For each additional 24 hour period commenced an additional penalty of 10% of the total marks allocated for the assessment item will be deducted; and
3. Assessment items submitted more than 168 hours late (7 calendar days) will receive a mark of zero.

Where late assessment **is NOT** permitted for an assessment item or the entirety of the unit (refer to the Assessment Schedule table in this Unit Outline) and the student does not have an approved assessment extension:

1. All assessment items submitted after the due date/time will receive a mark of zero.

Assessment extension

Where an application for an assessment extension **is** permitted for an assessment item(s) within this unit (refer to the Assessment Schedule table in this Unit Outline):

1. A student who is unable to complete an assessment item by/on the due date/time as a result of exceptional circumstances beyond the student's control, may apply for an assessment extension on the Assessment Extension Application Form as prescribed by the Academic Registrar. The form is available on the Forms page at <https://students.curtin.edu.au/essentials/forms-documents/forms/> and also within the student's OASIS (My Studies tab – Quick Forms) account.
2. The student will be expected to submit their application for an Assessment Extension with supporting documentation [via the online form](#).
3. Timely submission of this information supports the assessment process. For applications that are declined, delayed submission may have significant ramifications on the possible marks awarded.
4. An application may be accepted up to five working days after the due date/time of the assessment item where the student is able to provide a verifiable explanation as to why they were not able to submit the application prior to the assessment due date/time

Where an application for an assessment extension **is NOT** permitted for an assessment item(s) within this unit (refer to the Assessment Schedule table in this Unit Outline):

1. All assessment items submitted after the due date/time will be subject to late penalties or receive a mark of zero depending on the unit permitting late assessment submissions.

Deferred assessments

If your results show that you have been granted a deferred assessment you should immediately check OASIS for details.

Deferred examinations/tests will be held from 12/07/2023 to 21/07/2023 . Notification to students will be made after the Board of Examiners' meeting via the Official Communications Channel (OCC) in OASIS.

Further assessment

Further assessments, if granted by the Board of Examiners, will be held between 12/07/2024 and 21/07/2024 . Notification to students will be made after the Board of Examiners meeting via the Official Communications Channel in OASIS.

It is the responsibility of the student to be available to complete the requirements of a further assessment. If your results show that you have been granted a further assessment you should immediately check OASIS for details.

Reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities/health circumstances likely to impact on studies

A [Curtin Access Plan](#) (CAP) is a document that outlines the type and level of support required by a student with a disability or health condition to have equitable access to their studies at Curtin. Carers for people with disability may also be eligible for support. This support can include alternative exam or test arrangements, study materials in accessible formats, access to Curtin's facilities and services or other support as discussed with an advisor from [AccessAbility Services](#).

Documentation is required from your treating Health Professional to confirm your health circumstances or carer responsibilities.

If you think you may be eligible for a CAP, please contact AccessAbility Services. If you already have a CAP please provide it to the Unit Coordinator in week 1 of each study period.

Referencing style

The referencing style for this unit is APA 7th Ed.

More information can be found on this style from the Library web site:

<https://libguides.library.curtin.edu.au/uniskills/referencing/apa7>.

Privacy

As part of a learning or assessment activity, or class participation, your image or voice may be recorded or transmitted by equipment and systems operated by Curtin University. Transmission may be to other venues on campus or to others both in Australia and overseas.

Your image or voice may also be recorded by students on personal equipment for individual or group study or assessment purposes. Such recordings may not be reproduced or uploaded to a publicly accessible web environment. If you wish to make such recordings for study purposes as a courtesy you should always seek the permission of those who are impacted by the recording.

Recording of classes or course materials may not be exchanged or distributed for commercial purposes, for compensation, or for any other purpose other than personal study for the enrolled students in the unit. Breach of this may subject a student to disciplinary action under Statute No 10 – Student Disciplinary Statute.

If you wish to discuss this please talk to your Unit Coordinator.

Copyright

The course material for this unit is provided to you for your own research and study only. It is subject to copyright. It is a copyright infringement to make this material available on third party websites without the express written consent of Curtin University.

Academic Integrity (including plagiarism and cheating)

Academic Integrity

Curtin's [Student Charter](#), [Academic Integrity Program \(AIP\)](#), and core [Values](#) guide expectations regarding student behaviour and responsibilities. Information on these topics can be found on the [Academic Integrity Website](#).

Academic Integrity Warnings

An [Academic Integrity Warning](#) may be issued to a student in limited circumstances and only where misconduct is not involved.

Academic Misconduct

Staff members are required to report [poor academic practice](#) and suspected misconduct. [Academic Misconduct](#) means conduct by a student that is dishonest or unfair in connection with any academic work. This includes all types of plagiarism, cheating, collusion, falsification or fabrication of content, and behaviours like falsifying medical certificates for extension. [Contract cheating](#), the use of file sharing, translation services/apps, paraphrasing tools (text-spinners), article generators, and assignment help websites also may be considered academic misconduct.

Check your assessment instructions carefully before using any generative artificial intelligence (Gen-AI) software (e.g. Chat GPT, Midjourney, GitHub Copilot, etc.). You are not permitted to use Gen-AI software in any assessment task unless written permission is explicitly granted by the Unit Coordinator (e.g. within Blackboard or the assignment specifications). If the use of Gen-AI software has been approved, you must document its use, apply appropriate acknowledgement and attribution rules, and include a statement as to the nature and extent of the use when submitting the assessment. Unapproved, inappropriate, or undisclosed use may be dishonest or unfair behaviour, and thus considered misconduct. For further information on the use of Gen-AI software see the [Academic Integrity Website](#).

The longer term personal, social, and financial consequences of misconduct can be severe, so please ask your tutors or unit coordinator if you need clarification or are unsure what to do. If your work is the subject of an inquiry, you will be given an opportunity to respond and appropriate support will be provided. Academic work under inquiry will not be graded until the process has concluded. Penalties for misconduct may include a warning, a reduced or nil grade, a requirement to repeat the assessment, an annulled grade (ANN) or termination from the course. For more information refer to [Statute No.10 Student Discipline and Academic Misconduct Rules](#).

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Expectations

Curtin students are expected to have reliable internet access in order to connect to OASIS email and learning systems such as Blackboard and Library Services.

You may also require a computer or mobile device for preparing and submitting your work.

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You may also require a computer or mobile device for preparing and submitting your work.

For general ICT assistance, in the first instance please contact OASIS Student Support:

oasisapps.curtin.edu.au/help/general/support.cfm

For specific assistance with any of the items listed below, please contact The Learning Centre:

life.curtin.edu.au/learning-support/learning_centre.htm

Using Blackboard, the I Drive and Back-Up files

Introduction to PowerPoint, Word and Excel

For general ICT assistance, in the first instance please contact OASIS Student Support:

oasisapps.curtin.edu.au/help/general/support.cfm

For specific assistance with any of the items listed below, please visit [UniSkills](#) and the [IT tools and guides](#) webpage.

- Using Blackboard, the I Drive and Back-Up files
- Introduction to PowerPoint, Word and Excel

Additional information

It is your responsibility to ensure that your enrolment is correct - you can check your enrolment through the eStudent option on OASIS, where you can also print an Enrolment Advice.

Enrolment

It is your responsibility to ensure that your enrolment is correct - you can check your enrolment through the eStudent option on OASIS, where you can also print an Enrolment Advice.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of every student to be aware of all relevant legislation, policies and procedures relating to their rights and responsibilities as a student. These include:

- the Student Charter
- Values and Signature Behaviours
- the University's policy and statements on plagiarism and academic integrity
- copyright principles and responsibilities
- the University's policies on appropriate use of software and computer facilities

Information on all of the above is available through the University's "Student Rights and Responsibilities" website at: students.curtin.edu.au/rights.

Note: In Australia and other jurisdictions, students are required to complete a screening check prior to undertaking any activities that include children (e.g. surveying children at a school as part of a project). If this applies to you, start by contacting your unit coordinator for advice.

Student Equity

There are a number of factors that might disadvantage some students from participating in their studies or assessments to the best of their ability, under standard conditions. These factors may include a disability or medical condition (e.g. mental illness, chronic illness, physical or sensory disability, learning disability), significant caring responsibilities, pregnancy, religious practices, living in a remote location, or another reason. If you believe you may be unfairly disadvantaged on these or other grounds please contact the appropriate service below. It is important to note that the staff of the University may not be able to meet your needs if they are not informed of your individual circumstances, so please get in touch with the appropriate service if you require assistance.

To discuss your needs in relation to:

- Disability or medical conditions, contact AccessAbility Services: <https://students.curtin.edu.au/personal-support/disability/>
- Elite athletes, contact Elite Athlete Coordinator: <https://stadium.curtin.edu.au/sport/academy/elite-athlete-program/>
- All other grounds, contact the Student Wellbeing Advisory Service: <https://students.curtin.edu.au/personal-support/counselling-guidance/wellbeing/>

Recent Unit Changes & Response to Student Feedback

Students are encouraged to provide feedback through student surveys (such as [Insight](#) (Curtin's new unit and teaching survey developed in collaboration with students and staff) and the annual [Student Experience Survey](#)) and interactions with teaching staff.

Listed below are some recent changes to the unit as a result of student feedback.

No major changes have been made in 2024, as student feedback for 2023 was extremely positive.

Program calendar

Week starting	Class 1 (Tuesday 10am-12pm 300.217)	Class 2 (Thursday 10am-12pm 300.217)
(1) 26 th February	-Introduction to EIA – what are we doing here? -Green tape? Commonwealth and state environmental protection	-Attitudes to the environment -Western Australia’s biodiversity and local hot topics in EIA
(2) 4 th March	-When do we do an EIA? Screening and making the decision to assess	-Scoping the EIA -Introduction to assignment 1
(3) 11 th March	-Public Environmental Review (PER) -Decision making	-Condition setting -Offsets -Compliance and monitoring
(4) 18 th March	-Miners perspective - Guest Speaker	-Miners perspective - Guest Speaker
(5) 25 th March	-People power – Guest Speaker	-People power – Guest Speaker
(6) 1st April	Easter break	Easter break (Assignment 1 due 7/4)
(7) 8 th April	-Governments role – Guest Speaker	-Governments role – Guest Speaker
(8) 15 th April	-Indigenous perspective – Guest Speaker	-Indigenous perspective – Guest Speaker
(9) 22 nd April	-Marine issues – Guest Speaker	-Marine issues – Guest Speaker
(10) 29 th April	-EIA OS	-Monitoring case study
(11) 6 th May	-Mine closure and rehab- Guest Speaker	-Wicked problems -EIA and how to handle changing climates
(12) 13 th May	-Assignment 2 presentations	-Assignment 2 presentations
(13) 20 th May	-Assignment 2 presentations	Revision

