



**UNSW SCIENCE**  
**School of Maths and Statistics**

**Course outline**

**MATH5826**  
**Statistical Methods in Epidemiology**

**Term 1, 2021**

## Staff

Position	Name	Email	Room
Lecturer-in-charge	Jake Olivier	<a href="mailto:j.olivier@unsw.edu.au">j.olivier@unsw.edu.au</a>	RC-2051

Please refer to your Timetable on MyUNSW for your Lecture Tut, Lab enrolment days and times.

## Administrative Contacts

Please visit the School of Mathematics and Statistics website for a range of information on School Policies, Forms and Help for Students.

For information on Courses, please go to “Current Students” and either Undergraduate and/or Postgraduate”, Course Homepage” for information on all course offerings,

The “Student Notice Board” can be located by going to the “Current Students” page; Notices are posted regularly for your information here. Please familiarise yourself with the information found in these locations. The School web page is: <https://www.maths.unsw.edu.au>

If you cannot find the answer to your queries on the web you are welcome to contact the Student Services Office directly by phone.

By email      Postgraduate      [pg.mathsstats@unsw.edu.au](mailto:pg.mathsstats@unsw.edu.au)

By phone:      9385 7053

Should we need to contact you, we will use your official UNSW email address of in the first instance. **It is your responsibility to regularly check your university email account. Please state your student number in all emails.**

## Course Aims

The aim of this course is to introduce the main statistical concepts, methods and models used in the design and analysis of epidemiological studies.

## Course Description

Epidemiology is the study of factors that impact on the occurrence and outcome of diseases in human populations. The course introduces the main statistical concepts, methods and models used in the design and analysis of epidemiological studies. Extensive use of statistical computing and analysis of real datasets is an essential part of this course.

## Assessment and Deadlines

Assessment	Week	Weighting %	Due date if applicable
Assignment 1	Week 3	10	1 March 2021
Assignment 2	Week 7	15	29 March 2021
Mid-session test	Week 10	15	19 April 2021
Final Exam	Exam period	60	

## Course Schedule

The course will include material taken from some of the following topics. This is should only serve as a guide as it is not an extensive list of the material to be covered and the timings are approximate. The course content is ultimately defined by the material covered in lectures.

Weeks	Topic	Reading (if applicable)
1	Background and History	Lecture Notes
2	Measures of Disease Occurrence	Lecture Notes
3	Measures of Disease-Exposure Association	Lecture Notes
4	Linear Models for Epidemiology	Lecture Notes
5	Generalised Linear Models for Epidemiology	Lecture Notes
7	Logistic Regression	Lecture Notes
8	Poisson Regression	Lecture Notes
9	Systematic Reviews and Meta-analysis	Lecture Notes
10	Interrupted Time Series	Lecture Notes

## Textbooks

Greenberg R. (2001) Medical Epidemiology, 3rd edition. Appleton & Lange.

Woodward M. (2014) Epidemiology: study design and data analysis, 3rd edition. CRC Press.

## Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

- Explain the key features of epidemiological studies and what distinguishes them from other types of studies
- List the different types of epidemiological studies, explain their key features and the distinctions between them, and the advantages and disadvantages of each type of study
- Explain how the design features of the different types of studies dictate the methods of analysis appropriate to each
- Explain the different measures of disease occurrence and calculate these measures

- Explain the different measures of disease-exposure association, the differences between the measures and under what circumstances each is appropriate, and calculate these measures
- Assess the statistical significance of disease-exposure association by applying hypothesis tests and calculating confidence intervals for measures of disease-exposure association
- Explain the concepts of causality, confounding, and interaction
- Examine whether interaction and/or confounding is present in an epidemiological study
- Implement techniques to deal with interaction and/or confounding in an epidemiological study
- Explain the different types of regression models used in epidemiological studies
- Explain generalized linear models (GLMs), and indicate how logistic regression models fit into the GLM framework
- Use the theory of maximum likelihood estimation to derive estimators and standard errors for parameters in a logistic regression model
- Interpret the coefficients of a logistic regression model for different types of studies
- Check the validity of a logistic regression model using residuals and influence measures
- Explain the idea of matching in epidemiological studies and the reasons why it is used
- Derive and use statistical techniques appropriate for matched studies
- Solve theoretical problems related to epidemiological studies
- Use the computer language R to analyze data from epidemiological studies, and interpret R output.

## **Moodle**

Log in to Moodle to find announcements, general information, notes, lecture slide, classroom tutorial and assessments etc.

<https://moodle.telt.unsw.edu.au>

## **Computing lab**

The main computing laboratory is Room G012 of the Red Centre. You can get to this lab by entering the building through the main entrance to the School of Mathematics (on the Mezzanine Level) and then going down the stairs to the Ground Level. A second smaller lab is Room M020, on the mezzanine level of the Red Centre.

For more information, including opening hours, see the computing facilities webpage:

<https://www.maths.unsw.edu.au/currentstudents/computing-facilities>

Remember that there will always be unscheduled periods when the computers are not working because of equipment problems and that this is not a valid excuse for not completing tests on time.

## School and UNSW Policies

The School of Mathematics and Statistics has adopted a number of policies relating to enrolment, attendance, assessment, plagiarism, cheating, special consideration etc. These are in addition to the Policies of The University of New South Wales. Individual courses may also adopt other policies in addition to or replacing some of the School ones. These will be clearly notified in the Course Initial Handout and on the Course Home Pages on the Maths Stats web site.

Students in courses run by the School of Mathematics and Statistics should be aware of the School and Course policies by reading the appropriate pages on the Maths Stats web site starting at:

<https://www.maths.unsw.edu.au/currentstudents/assessment-policies>

The School of Mathematics and Statistics will assume that all its students have read and understood the School policies on the above pages and any individual course policies on the Course Initial Handout and Course Home Page. Lack of knowledge about a policy will not be an excuse for failing to follow the procedure in it.

## Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

UNSW has an ongoing commitment to fostering a culture of learning informed by academic integrity. All UNSW staff and students have a responsibility to adhere to this principle of academic integrity. Plagiarism undermines academic integrity and is not tolerated at UNSW. *Plagiarism at UNSW is defined as using the words or ideas of others and passing them off as your own.*

The **UNSW Student Code** provides a framework for the standard of conduct expected of UNSW students with respect to their academic integrity and behaviour. It outlines the primary obligations of students and directs staff and students to the Code and related procedures.

In addition, it is important that students understand that it is not permissible to buy essay/writing services from third parties as the use of such services constitutes plagiarism because it involves using the words or ideas of others and passing them off as your own. Nor is it permissible to sell copies of lecture or tutorial notes as students do not own the rights to this intellectual property.

If a student breaches the Student Code with respect to academic integrity, the University may take disciplinary action under the **Student Misconduct Procedure**.

The UNSW Student Code and the Student Misconduct Procedure can be found at:

<https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism>

An online Module “[Working with Academic Integrity](https://student.unsw.edu.au/aim)” (<https://student.unsw.edu.au/aim>) is a six-lesson interactive self-paced Moodle module exploring and explaining all of these terms and placing them into your learning context. It will be the best one-hour investment you’ve ever made.

## Plagiarism

Plagiarism is presenting another person's work or ideas as your own. Plagiarism is a serious breach of ethics at UNSW and is not taken lightly. So how do you avoid it? A one-minute video for an overview of how you can avoid plagiarism can be found <https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism>.

## Additional Support

### ELISE (Enabling Library and Information Skills for Everyone)

ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time
- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.

The *ELISE* training webpages:

<https://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise>

## Equitable Learning Services (ELS)

If you suffer from a chronic or ongoing illness that has, or is likely to, put you at a serious disadvantage, then you should contact the Equitable Learning Services (previously known as SEADU) who provide confidential support and advice.

They assist students:

- living with disabilities
- with long- or short-term health concerns and/or mental health issues
- who are primary carers
- from low SES backgrounds

- of diverse genders, sexes and sexualities
- from refugee and refugee-like backgrounds
- from rural and remote backgrounds
- who are the first in their family to undertake a bachelor-level degree.

Their web site is: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/els/services>

Equitable Learning Services (ELS) may determine that your condition requires special arrangements for assessment tasks. Once the School has been notified of these, we will make every effort to meet the arrangements specified by ELS.

Additionally, if you have suffered significant misadventure that affects your ability to complete the course, please contact your Lecturer-in-charge in the first instance.

## **Academic Skills Support and the Learning Centre**

The Learning Centre offers academic support programs to all students at UNSW Australia. We assist students to develop approaches to learning that will enable them to succeed in their academic study. For further information on these programs please go to:

<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/services-programs>

## **Applications for Special Consideration for Missed Assessment**

Please adhere to the Special Consideration Policy and Procedures provided on the web page below when applying for special consideration.

<https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>

Please note that the application is not considered by the Course Authority, it is considered by a centralised team of staff at the Nucleus Student Hub.

The School will contact you (via student email account) after special consideration has been granted to reschedule your missed assessment, for a *lab test or paper-based test* only.

For applications for special consideration for *assignment extensions*, please note that the new submission date and/or outcome will be communicated through the special consideration web site only, no communication will be received from the School.

For Dates on Final Term Exams and Supplementary Exams please check the “Key Dates for Exams” ahead of time to avoid booking holidays or work obligations.

<https://student.unsw.edu.au/exam-dates>

If you believe your application for Special Consideration has not been processed, you should email [specialconsideration@unsw.edu.au](mailto:specialconsideration@unsw.edu.au) immediately for advice.

## **Course Evaluation and Development (MyExperience)**

Student feedback is very important to continual course improvement. This is demonstrated within the School of Mathematics and Statistics by the implementation of the UNSW online student survey *myExperience*, which allows students to evaluate their learning experiences in an anonymous way. *myExperience* survey reports are produced for each survey. They are released to staff after all student assessment results are finalised and released to students. Course convenor will use the feedback to make ongoing improvements to the course.