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University

# **UNSW SCIENCE**

## **School of Maths and Statistics**

### **Course outline**

## **MATH5935**

### **Statistical Consulting**

**Term 1, 2020**

## Staff

	Name	Email	Room
Lecturer-in-charge	Prof. David Warton	david.warton@unsw.edu.au	RC-2052

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

**Consultation times will be announced on Moodle**

## 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 email	Undergraduate	<a href="mailto:ug.mathsstats@unsw.edu.au">ug.mathsstats@unsw.edu.au</a>
	Postgraduate	<a href="mailto:pg.mathsstats@unsw.edu.au">pg.mathsstats@unsw.edu.au</a>

- ❖ By phone: 9385 7011 or 9385 7053
- ❖ Or in person to the Red Centre building, level 3, rooms 3072 or 3088

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 Description/Aims

This is a practical course which introduces students to the general framework of statistical consulting and gives students experience in solving statistical problems arising in practice.

Most postgraduate statistics courses focus on the theory and application of statistical techniques, often motivated by applied problems. This course is in contrast is very applied in its focus, and explores issues surrounding the application of statistical techniques – the process of identifying the core research question a client wishes to answer, diagnosing study design and analysis plans for common issues, effectively reporting statistical aspects of project outcomes in different contexts. i.e. The focus will be on communication of statistics as well as on the application of statistical methodology.

## Assessment and Deadlines

Assessment	Week Due	Weighting
Literature study	March 11th 3pm	15
Consultation session	April 24th 6pm	40
Written critique	April 8th 3pm	15
Case study report	May 15th 5pm	30
Total		100

## Course Schedule

This course has less face-to-face time than most because there is an expectation of a lot of out-of-class work. Specifically, the major form of assessment in the course is performance in a consulting session, and its subsequent write-up, as assessed by an experienced consultant and the client. To prepare for this and to gain experience you are encouraged to go to a university consulting session every week or two throughout the course – see sign-up sheet on Moodle. There will also be some self-help tutorials made available to you to go through in your own time, on core skills for the applied statistician, which may be useful in your assessed consultation, and elsewhere.

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	Introduction to statistical consultancy	Cabrera & McDougall, Chapter 1
2	Expectations - the ideal consultant and the satisfied client	Derr, Chapter 2
3	Meetings and communication techniques	Derr, Chapters 3-4
4	Asking good questions	Derr, Chapter 5

5	Common methodological issues	Cabrera & McDougall, Chapter 3, Derr Chapter 5
6	Self study	
7	Communicating about statistics	Derr, Chapter 7
8	Case studies	
9	Negotiating and dealing with difficult situations	Derr, Chapters 6, 8
10	Revision/case studies	

## Textbooks

- J. Derr (2000) Statistical consulting - a guide to effective communication, Duxbury. Available in the UNSW Library
- J. Cabrera & A. McDougall (2002) Statistical Consulting, Springer. Available as an e-book.

## Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

- Explain the role of a consultant, how it varies across different contexts and projects, common difficulties and how to handle them professionally.
- Explain the importance of communication in statistical consulting and demonstrate strategies for effective communication
- Communicate statistical results effectively and appropriately in different contexts
- Recognise common designs and analyses and when they are appropriate and identify common errors in their application.

## 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.