

Master of Applied Science

Waeture ā-Hōtaka | Programme Regulations

To be read in conjunction with Unitec's Academic Statute and associated Policies and Procedures.

These programme regulations apply to the *Master of Applied Science (Level 9, 180 credits)*, and *Master of Applied Science (Level 9, 180 credits)* with a major in *Biodiversity Management*.

These regulations come into effect from Semester 2, 2023.

1. Ngā Ture Hei Whakaurunga | Admission Requirements

Admission Requirements comply with Unitec's Admission Requirements Guidelines.

To be eligible for admission to this programme, all applicants must meet three admission requirements:

- a. Requirements for either general admission, special admission, or discretionary admission
- b. Any additional Programme specific requirements
- c. English language requirements

1.1 Whakaurunga Whānui | General Admission

To be admitted to this programme all applicants must meet the following requirements:

- a. A recognised bachelor's degree (or higher) in a relevant discipline with merit achievement deemed to be a grade average of B- or higher; or
- b. A professional qualification in a relevant discipline, recognised as being equivalent to merit achievement in a bachelor's degree or equivalent; or

1.2 Whakaurunga Motuhake | Special Admission

Applicants must have:

- a. attained the age of 20 years on or before the first day of the semester in which study for the programme is to commence; and
- b. provided sufficient evidence of aptitude or appropriate work or other life experience that would indicate a successful outcome in the qualification.

1.3 Whakaurunga Tautui | Programme Specific Requirements

There are no programme specific requirements.

1.4 Whakaurunga Reo Pākehā | English Language Admission Requirements

Domestic applicants must have achieved a minimum standard of English as demonstrated by a minimum of 8 credits at NCEA Level 2 in English (4 in Reading, 4 in Writing) or equivalent. International applicants must also meet the English Language Entry Requirements stated in Unitec's Admission Requirements Policy.

2. Paearu Kōwhiri Tukanga | Selection Criteria & Process

Selection Criteria and Processes

2.1 Paearu Kōwhiri | Selection Criteria

The following selection criteria will be applied to all applicants:

- a. exceeding the minimum entry requirements;
- b. relevant work experience;
- c. assurance of commitment to all aspects of the programme and to meeting learning outcomes.

<p><i>comply with Unitec's Admission Requirements Guidelines.</i></p>	<p>These criteria are not ranked in any order. Applicants who meet the maximum number of listed criteria will be the preferred candidates.</p> <p>2.2 Tukanga Kōwhiri Selection Process</p> <p>Selection will be made by the relevant academic authority with the delegated authority to offer places to applicants. Students will be selected on the basis of written information supplied on the enrolment form. A face-to-face or electronic interview may be required.</p>
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<p>3. Ngā Ture Hei Whakawhiwhi Tohu Mātauranga Requirements for the Award of the Programme</p> <p><i>Requirements comply with Unitec's Programme Completion and Awards Policy and associated procedure.</i></p>	<p>3.1 Whakaemi Tūtukitanga Credit Accumulation</p> <p>To be awarded the Master of Applied Science with a major in Biodiversity Management, a student must successfully complete 180 credits (including a Level 9 Thesis of 120 credits), accumulated in the pattern set out in Table 1 from the courses set out in Table 2. <i>Applied Research Methods</i> (level 5, 15 credits) and Thesis (level 9, 120 credits) are core compulsory courses for this degree. <i>Partnership and Stakeholder Engagement</i> (level 8, 15 credits) is compulsory for the Biodiversity Management major.</p> <p>Table 1: Credit Requirements for Master of Applied Science</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Level</th> <th>Core Compulsory Credits</th> <th>Major Compulsory Credits</th> <th>Elective Credits</th> <th>Total Credits</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>15</td> <td>15</td> <td>30</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>120</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>120</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>3.1.2 Additional requirements for Master of Applied Science none</p>	Level	Core Compulsory Credits	Major Compulsory Credits	Elective Credits	Total Credits	8	15	15	30	60	9	120			120
Level	Core Compulsory Credits	Major Compulsory Credits	Elective Credits	Total Credits												
8	15	15	30	60												
9	120			120												

Table 2: Course Details – Master of Applied Science and Master of Applied Science (Biodiversity Management)

Compulsory courses for the Master of Applied Science are shown in **bold**, for the Master of Applied Science (Biodiversity Management) in **bold italics** and Elective courses in *italics*.

Course No	Course Name	Credits	Pre-requisites	Co-requisites	Restrictions
Level 8					
NSCI8001TP	<i>Partnership and Stakeholder Engagement</i>	15			
NSCI8002TP	Applied Research Methods	15			
<i>NSCI8003TP</i>	<i>Biosecurity: strategy and implementation</i>	<i>15</i>			
<i>NSCI8004TP</i>	<i>Contemporary Issues</i>	<i>15</i>			
<i>NSCI8005TP</i>	<i>Ecological Consultancy</i>	<i>15</i>			
<i>NSCI8006TP</i>	<i>Ecological Restoration</i>	<i>15</i>			
<i>NSCI8007TP</i>	<i>Environmental Monitoring</i>	<i>15</i>			
<i>NSCI8008TP</i>	<i>Freshwater Ecosystems and Management</i>	<i>15</i>			
<i>NSCI8009TP</i>	<i>Applied Ecological Genetics</i>	<i>15</i>			
<i>NSCI8010TP</i>	<i>Human Impacts: managing waste, energy and resources</i>	<i>15</i>			
<i>NSCI8011TP</i>	<i>Marine Ecosystems and Management</i>	<i>15</i>			
<i>NSCI8012TP</i>	<i>Mātauranga Māori Project</i>	<i>15</i>			
<i>NSCI8013TP</i>	<i>Remote Sensing and GIS</i>	<i>15</i>			

NSCI8014TP	<i>Sustainable Food Systems</i>	15			
NSCI8015TP	<i>Taxonomic Methods</i>	15			
NSCI8016TP	<i>The Human Dimension of Change</i>	15			
Level 9					
NSCI9001TP	Thesis	120	NSCI8001TP, NSCI8002TP		

3.1.3 with Honours

To be awarded the Master of Applied Science with Honours, a student must successfully complete a minimum of 180 credits which includes the completion of a research project of at least 120 credits at level 9 with the following conditions:

- a. The Master's degree shall be awarded with first-class honours if the following criteria are satisfied, within the time limits as defined in section 3.4 of these regulations: achieved a cumulative Grade Point Average of 7.0 or better in all necessary courses, with no less than a B+ in any one course, and with no less than an A- for the research project and completion of the requirements within the time limits.
- b. The Master's degree shall be awarded with second-class honours if the following criteria are satisfied, within the time limits as defined in section 3.4 of these regulations: achieved a cumulative Grade Point Average of 5.0 or better in all necessary courses, with no less than a B- in any one course and with no less than a B in the research project and completion of the requirements within the time limits.
- c. In calculating the GPA for the award of honours, grades for all courses that contribute to the completion of the Masters programme will be considered, including the grades of courses awarded via credit recognition.
- d. A student may repeat a course they have successfully completed in order to achieve a higher grade to be used in the calculation of honours.
- e. A student who has failed any course shall not be eligible.

3.2 Mahi Waehanga Pāhekoheko | Integrated and Work-based components

The 120 credit Thesis may be completed in the workplace with academic supervision provided by Te Pūkenga staff. In such instances, the research project will be governed by a tripartite agreement between the student, Te Pūkenga and the external organisation. This agreement will specify the arrangements for academic supervision by Te Pūkenga staff, and pastoral care and professional supervision by the workplace organisation. The agreement will also include expectations for student compliance with relevant policies of Te Pūkenga and the external organisation.

3.3 Mahi Akoranga | A Wāhanga | Course Load per Semester

The normal full-time course load is 60 credits per semester, or 75 credits with the approval of the relevant academic authority.

3.4 Whakaurunga Takiwā | Enrolment Periods

- a. The normal enrolment period is 18 months (full-time study) or 36 months (part-time study)
- b. The maximum period to complete this qualification, with the approval of the relevant Academic Authority is 48 months.
- c. Students who are prevented by ill health, or other cause, from completing the programme requirements within the maximum period of enrolment, the relevant Academic Authority may approve suspension of enrolment for up to a maximum of 12 months.

	<p>d. Enrolment will normally be continuous. The relevant Academic Authority may, on the receipt of an application from a candidate, approve a suspension of enrolment for up to a maximum of 6 months. In such cases, the period of suspension will not count towards the registration period of the degree.</p> <p>e. The maximum period of registration for a Master’s degree will normally be 48 months from the date of the commencement of study.</p> <p>f. Where a candidate is enrolled full-time throughout the period of his/her registration, the maximum period of registration for the award of the degree with honours is 30 months.</p> <p>g. Where a candidate is undertaking the degree by part-time study, the maximum period of registration for the award of the degree with honours is 48 months, this period being reduced to account for periods of full-time study.</p> <p>h. The maximum period of registration to be eligible for the award of the degree with honours, as outlined in 3.1 above, shall be reduced in proportion to the number of cross-credits gained.</p> <p>3.5 Whakawhiwhi Tāpiripiri Additional Awards There are no additional awards available for this programme.</p> <p>3.6 Exit or Milestone Awards There are no formal exit or milestone awards for this programme. A student enrolled in the Master of Applied Science may choose to exit the programme before completion and seek to cross credit completed courses to another programme under the conditions described in the Programme Regulations of that programme.</p>
<p>4. Tūtukitanga Whakamihi Credit Recognition</p> <p><i>Credit Recognition complies with Unitec’s Assessment, Moderation and Grades Policy and associated procedure.</i></p>	<p>4.1 Whakawhiti Tūtukitanga Cross Credit Credits will not be awarded for successful study that took place more than 5 years prior to the date of first enrolment in the programme.</p> <p>a. A student may be awarded credits or exemptions in recognition of successful equivalent study, at the same or a higher level in the context of another programme. The credit recognition may be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. specified, where there is direct equivalence of the learning outcomes of a completed course and a course in the programme; or ii. unspecified, where the previous study has taken place in a programme with a similar philosophy but there is no exact match in the programme’s courses. <p>Cross credits will not be given for a Research Project in this programme.</p> <p>4.2 Aromatawai Tōmua Assessment of Prior Learning (APL) Assessment of Prior Learning is available for all courses in this programme with the exception of the thesis or dissertation. APL decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis under the Unitec Assessment of Prior Learning Procedure.</p> <p>4.3 Ngā whakawhitinga Credit Transfer Arrangements</p> <p>1.3.1 Transfer from the Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Science</p> <p>a. Graduates of the Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Science or Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Science may apply for a transfer of relevant credits towards the Master of Applied Science, provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The period between completing the award of the postgraduate certificate or postgraduate diploma and applying for admission to the master’s programme does

- not normally exceed three years; in exceptional circumstances, the relevant Academic Authority may approve the waiver of this requirement.
- ii. In order to calculate the registration period required in the assessment of eligibility for the award of honours, the student’s registration in the Master’s degree will be deemed to have commenced at the time of first enrolment in the Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate.
- b. Students who have not completed AS8002 *Applied Research Methods* as part of the Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate (or equivalent programme) shall be required to complete this course (or equivalent or APL), in addition to the Thesis, to be awarded the Master of Applied Science.
- c. Students who have not completed AS8001 *Partnership and Stakeholder Engagement* as part of the Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate (or equivalent programme) shall be required to complete this course (or equivalent or APL), in addition to the Thesis, to be awarded the Master of Applied Science with a major in Biodiversity Management.
- d. Students who are in the progress of completing the *Dissertation* course, may, at the discretion of the relevant academic authority apply to convert this to a *Thesis*.

5. Waeture Aromatawai | Assessment Regulations

Assessment Regulations comply with Unitec’s Assessment, Moderation and Grades Policy and associated procedure.

Assessment regulations comply with Unitec’s Assessment and Grading Procedures and Regulations. Students will be notified of the due dates for all summative assessment work at the start of each course.

5.1 Paparahi Aromatawai | Assessment Basis

Assessment in all courses in this programme is achievement-based, using an 11-point grading scale. Students must obtain at least 50 per cent overall in any course in order to pass that course.
Assessment elements in each course are generally compulsory unless noted otherwise.

5.2 Ākoranga Taumata | Course grades

Course grades will be determined by the mathematical aggregation of weighted assessment marks and reported according to the following scales. Participants must obtain at least 50% overall score in order to pass achievement-based assessment.

Table 3: Achievement based 11-point assessment system

Grade	Meaning	Result	Percentage
A+	Distinction	Credits Earned	90 – 100
A	Distinction	Credits Earned	85 – 89
A-	Distinction	Credits Earned	80 – 84
B+	Merit	Credits Earned	75 – 79
B	Merit	Credits Earned	70 – 74
B-	Merit	Credits Earned	65 – 69
C+	Pass	Credits Earned	60 – 64
C	Pass	Credits Earned	55 – 59
C-	Pass	Credits Earned	50 – 54
D	Fail	No Credits Earned	40 – 49
E	Fail	No Credits Earned	0 – 39

5.3 Paearu Taumata | Grade Criteria

Students may be awarded one of the following grades for a course:

Table 4: Grade Criteria

Grade	Meaning	Criteria
CR	Credit Recognition	The student has applied for and been awarded a credit recognition from another qualification
CTG	Continuing	The Course runs for more than one semester and the final Summative Assessment has not yet occurred. No Credits earned
DEF	Deferred	The student has approval to complete a Course Assessment beyond the schedule date. Unless an exception has been approved, any Deferred Grade remaining on a student's record beyond a duration equal to that of the original course will be changed to the grade to which the Student would otherwise be
DNC	Did not Complete	The grade DNC (Did Not Complete) is recorded if a student has either withdrawn after 75% of the scheduled Course duration; or not attempted a compulsory item of Assessment within a Course. No
ES	Student Exchange	The Student has completed an approved inter-institutional exchange and it is not appropriate for another grade to be awarded. No Credits earned.
NGA	No Grade Associated	Course assessment and reporting of results are not required for this course or are carried out by an external agency. No Credits earned
R	Restricted Pass	The student has been awarded a restricted pass subject to Relevant clause in this schedule. Credits earned
W	Withdrawn	The student withdraws from a Course after 10% of the scheduled Course duration and up to, or at, the date at which 75% of the scheduled Course has passed. No credits earned
#	Estimated Grade	If any portion of Summative Assessment has been estimated, the final grade will be an estimated grade, and annotated "#" on the Student's Academic Record.

6. Aromatawai Mahinga | Assessment Procedures

Assessment Procedures comply with Unitec's Assessment Moderation and Grades Policy and associated procedure.

6.1 Ākoranga Aromatawai | Course Assessment

Courses employ both formative and summative assessment activities. Formative assessments do not contribute to the final grade for a given course. All summative assessment elements are compulsory unless otherwise approved and noted in course information.

Students must attempt all compulsory assessment activities in order to pass and receive credit for any course. Students who do not attempt a compulsory item of assessment may be awarded a 'Did Not Complete' (DNC) for the whole course and may not earn any credits.

6.2 Aromatawai I Roto I Te Reo | Assessment in Te Reo

All students have the right to submit any summative assessment task in Te reo Māori. The process for submission of summative assessment work in Te reo Māori is governed by the Unitec Assessment in Te Reo Māori procedure and detailed in course material.

6.3 Tāpaetanga Tōmuri | Submission and late submission of work

- a. The due dates for all summative assessment work will be notified at the commencement of each course.

- b. Any assessment that is submitted late (and does not have a prior approved extension) will be penalised by a deduction of 10% per day of the participants assignment mark, up to five (5) days, inclusive of weekends.
- c. Applications for extensions must be made by according to procedure noted in Student Handbooks and course documentation.
- d. Any extension will be carried out within a specified time period as agreed with the relevant academic authority and no further extensions will be granted.
- e. No assessment will be accepted five (5) days (inclusive of weekends) after the due date. If the assessment is not compulsory, the participants will receive a 'zero' grade for that assessment. If the assessment is compulsory, then the participants will receive a Did Not Complete (DNC) grade for the entire course.

6.4 Whakamātautau Anō | Resubmission or Reassessment

A student may apply to undertake a re-submission for a failed assessment within five calendar days of receiving their marked assessment, subject to the following:

- a. Students are entitled to one re-submission per course.
- b. All re-submissions will be carried out within a specified time period as agreed with the relevant Academic Authority.
- c. For all cases of re-submission, the original marked assessment will accompany re-submitted assessment. If re-submitted work is not accompanied by the original marked assessment, the re-submitted work will not be marked and the original grade will stand.
- d. The maximum grade for any re-submission of an assessment is the lowest pass grade, i.e. C-.
- e. Assessments that are handed in late are not eligible for re-submission.

6.5 Āhuatanga Aromatawai Motuhake | Affected Performance Consideration

A student may apply for Affected Performance Consideration (APC) if:

- a. The student is unable to attend an examination, compulsory assessment or fixed time and place assessment activity due to illness, injury, bereavement or other critical circumstances
- b. The student's preparation for, or performance in an examination or any summative assessment has been seriously impaired due to circumstances beyond their control

Applications for APC are made by a student within 5 working days of the affected assessment event. Decisions to approve an APC and to apply any remedy are made according to the Assessment and Grading Procedures and Regulations.

6.6 Pāhi Rāhui | Restricted Pass

There are no restricted passes in this programme.

6.7 Tuaruatanga | Repeating Courses

Students enrolled in courses in this programme do not have an automatic right to re-enrol. These students must apply for permission to re-enrol to the Academic Programme Manager.

6.8 Whakakorenga | Exclusions

Exclusion from courses is governed by the Unitec Admission and Enrolment Procedures. If a Student fails to achieve at least 50 per cent of the credits that they are enrolled in in any 12-month period then the Student cannot automatically re-enrol in any further courses. The decision whether students can re-enrol in further courses will be based on a student's likelihood of succeeding in further study and will be made by the Head of School. When

	<p>calculating the 12-month period, Unitec reserves the right to include any relevant time spent by the Student studying at another tertiary institution.</p> <p>6.9 Examination Regulations All examinations in this programme are governed by the Unitec Examinations Regulations Policy.</p> <p>Thesis and Dissertation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The 120 credit <i>Thesis</i> will be assessed by persons who have not acted as a candidate’s supervisor or advisor and must be moderated by a person other than the assessor, or the candidate’s supervisor or advisor. When a thesis has been submitted by a candidate who is also a Unitec staff member, the assessor normally would be external to Unitec. An assessor of the thesis shall have substantial experience of examining postgraduate degree candidates. <p>6.10 Tono Pira Appeals Students may appeal the decisions made under these regulations in accordance with the Student Appeal Procedure.</p>
<p>7. Whakaritenga Whānui General Provisions</p>	<p>7.1 Whakamāramatanga ā-kaupapa Definition of Terms In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires, the following definitions shall apply:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ‘Relevant academic authority’ refers to an individual or role holder, or in some cases a committee, who have been delegated the authority to make a decision within a specific circumstance. A schedule of the various relevant academic authority delegations is maintained by the Programme Academic Quality Committee responsible for the Programme.
<p>8. Kupu Āpiti Schedules or Appendices</p>	
<p><i>Schedule 1: Transfer Arrangements from the NMIT Postgraduate Diploma in Sustainable Aquaculture</i></p> <p><i>Students from the NMIT Postgraduate Diploma in Sustainable Aquaculture are eligible to enrol directly in the 120 credit thesis course, and on completion of this, graduate with a Master of Applied Science in Biodiversity Management. This recognises the 60 credits of level 8 courses and 60 credits of the level 8 dissertation course in the Postgraduate Diploma in Sustainable Aquaculture as being an appropriate entry into the level 9 thesis.</i></p>	

