

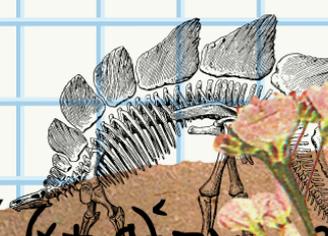
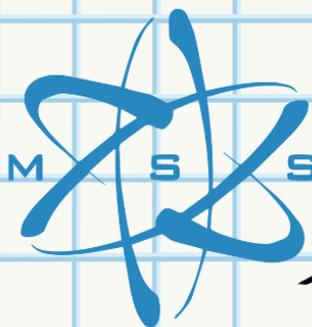


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FIRST YEARS GUIDE 22'

Monash Science Society



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WELCOME TO MONASH SCIENCE SOCIETY

Welcome to the 2022 Monash Science Society First Years guide!

Monash Science Society has created this guide in hopes of providing first years with all the knowledge, useful tips and tricks and extra bits of information needed to successfully navigate the first year of a science degree ! Assorted below are the things we wished we knew before starting our first year studying science - hopefully you find some of these points helpful !

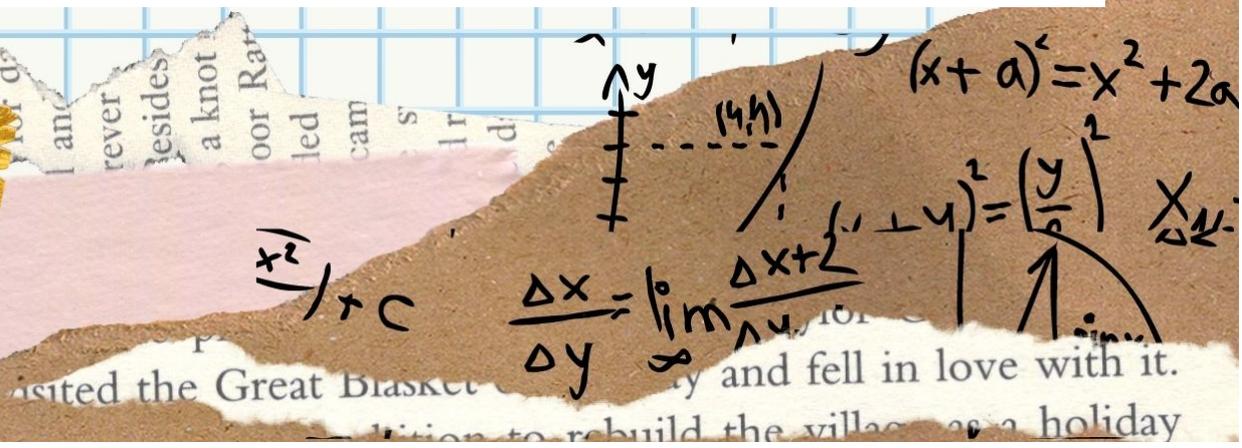
Monash Science Society is a Clayton based social and academic society run entirely by students. We run amazing and hugely anticipated events like our annual O-week party, first year's camp, cocktail night and our best selling annual Science Ball ! We also run really valuable academic events such as our networking night and our collaboration with the Faculty of Science's industry week when we release our annual Careers Guide !

The guide contains a plethora of information ranging from how first year science works, to how you can easily transfer credits and move to a different degree, to the location of the best coffee on campus, the First Year's Guide has any information you could possibly need to get the best start possible at Monash University!

Don't forget to introduce yourself to our friendly MSS committee both during O-Week and on campus in our office at G5 19 Rainforest Walk. We are always happy to help with questions or if you just want a chat ! Don't be afraid to pop by our office !

So if you're feeling lost and unsure on what you're meant to be doing at university, or just want some extra tips and tricks that past first years wish they knew, read ahead and enjoy the MSS First Years Guide!

Best of Luck,
MSS





HOW THE SCIENCE DEGREE WORKS

The science degree is broken up into three parts.

Part A consists of a science specified study.

Part B is your science listed Major & Part C is your free elective study.

You will need to complete units that will fall under each part of your degree during your time at university in order to successfully graduate.

Each unit is worth 6 points and are labelled as different “levels”. Level 1 usually refers to units at first year level, level 2 at second year and so on.

You will need 96 unit points in order to graduate and finish your degree.

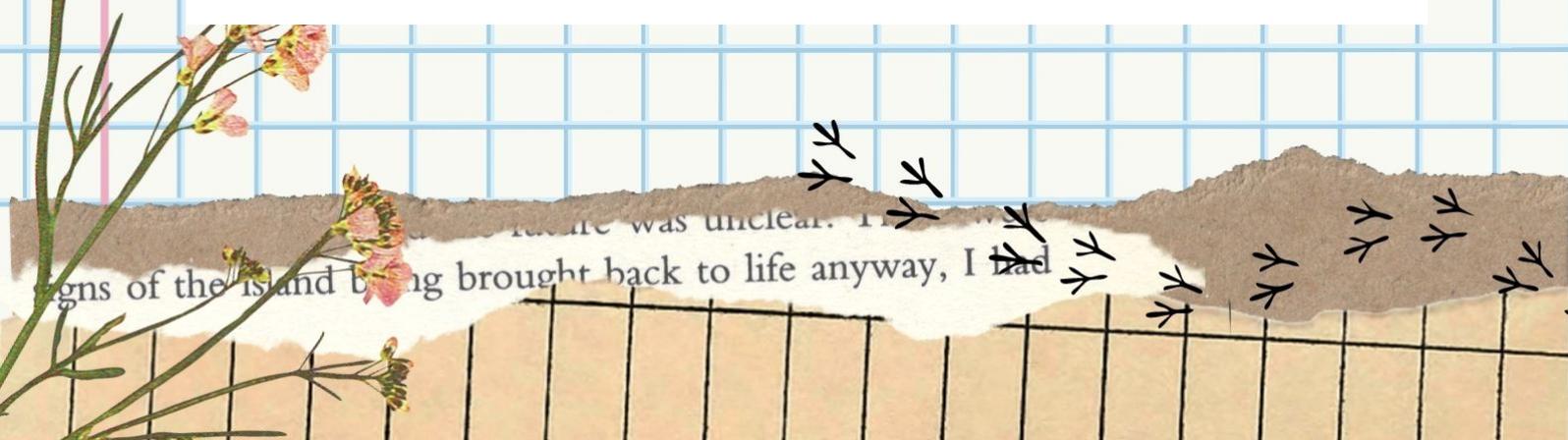
You must complete 36 listed science units at Level 1 and 60 listed science units across level 2 and level 3, however a minimum of 24 points must be at level 3.

You can only do a maximum of 60 points (10 units) at level 1. Now that we have got all the rules and restrictions out of the way, let's focus on how first year works !!

In first year you must complete two science sequences. A sequence refers to two units that are related to each other that connect over two semesters.

For example, if you wanted to do the biology sequence in first year, you would do BIO1011 in semester 1 and BIO1022 in semester 2 to complete the sequence.

You can choose any sequence that you would like to do but it is recommended that you choose sequences that are related to your major of choice. These units normally fall under the Part A section of your degree.





Speaking of majors, you don't have to choose your major straight away but we recommend that you choose your major before starting second year as it will dictate your second and third year units. Majors and minors fall under the Part B section of the degree but we will get back to that later !

Possible sequences include:

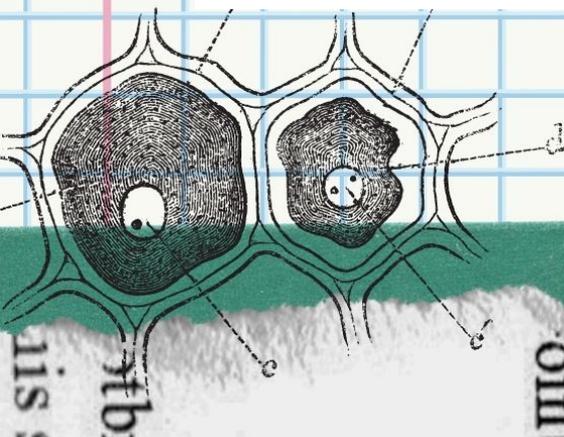
- Biological sciences
- Chemistry
- Computational science
- Earth, atmosphere and environment
- Geographical science
- Mathematics & statistics
- Physics
- Psychology

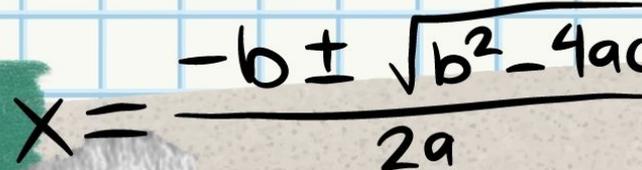
Each sequence is made up of 2 units and equals to 12 unit points each. If you are studying just the single science degree it's also recommended that you pick up an extra level 1 sequence in order to widen the range of majors and minors you can choose from, leading to three level 1 sequences.

You will also need to complete one maths and statistics unit within first year. There are a range of maths and statistics units to choose from which will best suit your mathematical ability and comfort level.

There are some recommendations when picking your maths unit based on your maths ability and scores from your maths VCE scores, so it's best that you take your time to read through the unit description before picking your unit.

There are a wide range of majors and minors you can choose from in your degree. If you are doing a single degree you can choose from doing a double major or a major and a minor or an extended major.




$$X = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$



A major requires eight units with no more than two units at level 1 (12 credit points) and at least three units (18 credit points) at level 3. You may replace the major with an extended major by using the elective units available in Part A or Part C.

It is recommended that you consider completing level 2 units in more than one area of science to maximise your choice of major at level 3.

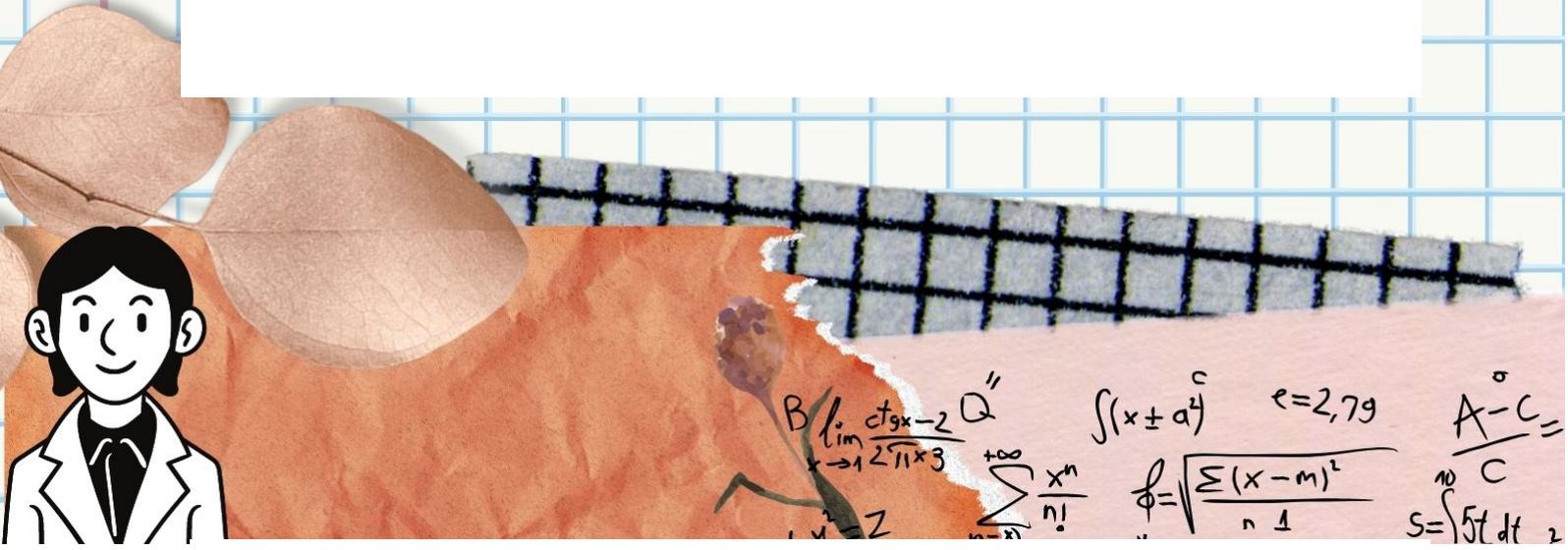
Each major and minor is unique but often if you choose very similar majors, some lower level units would be valid towards contributing towards multiple majors. It is your job to ensure that you have chosen the right units to fulfil your points required for your major.

Unfortunately Monash won't check and remind you of your units, however you can use programs like Montrack to plan out your degree. You can then send in this plan to have it checked and approved by faculty members within the Faculty of Science.

Part C consists of your elective units. You may use these units however you like ! You could enrol in other science units if you are interested in a different discipline, let it contribute towards your major or a minor or towards a unit in another faculty all together.

If you choose to enrol in a unit outside of the science faculty be aware that there may be unit requirements or you may need permission from the faculty to enrol.





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$$\phi = \sqrt{\frac{\sum (x - m)^2}{n - 1}}$$
$$A - C = \frac{0}{C}$$
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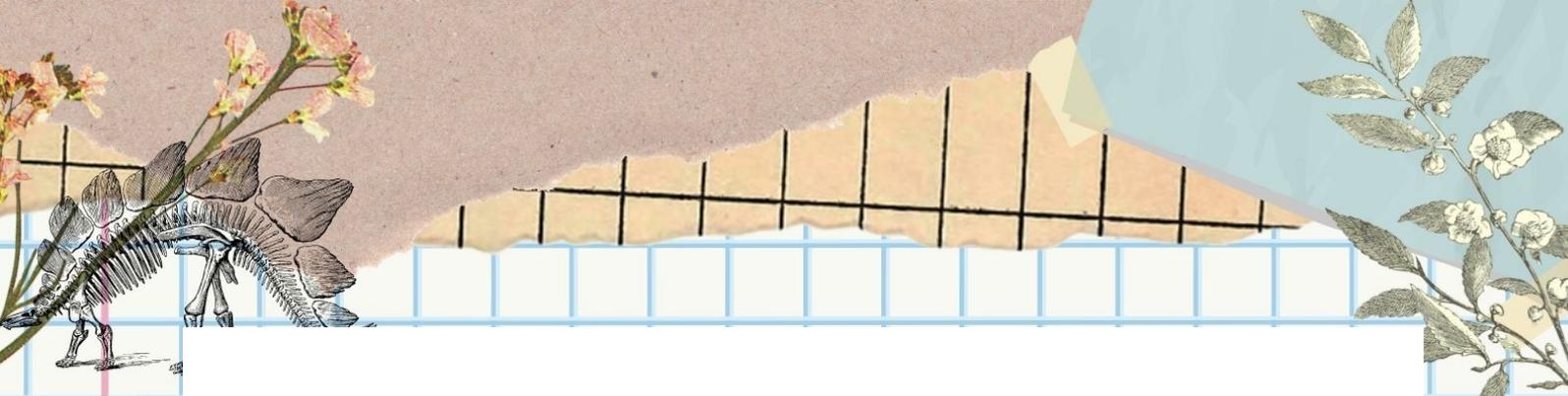
TIPS & TRICKS

We asked our committee what advice they wished they had known before starting first year!

Attached below are some handy tips and tricks in regards to the academic side of university life.

- The academic side of university is definitely going to be a new transition from high school but there will be people to support you through it no matter how hard it gets.
- Don't be afraid to ask for help because your tutors want you to do well and are there to give a helping hand.
- Make sure to not skip a week of content because it can have a snowball effect and you can become overwhelmed and easily run behind.
- Get on to assignments well ahead of their due dates.
- "I prioritised getting through my lectures over giving myself enough time to complete assignments in first year, and I ended up being too stressed about getting my assignments done to properly absorb the information from my lectures anyway."
- Consider underloading !! Underloading is when you reduce your content down to either 3 or 2 units per semester instead of 4 units ! It can reduce workload and stress for the long term, leading to better results and reduced stress throughout the semester. Many committee members underload and highly recommend underloading.
- Don't be too hard on yourself - your first year is all about making mistakes and enjoying the university experience !!

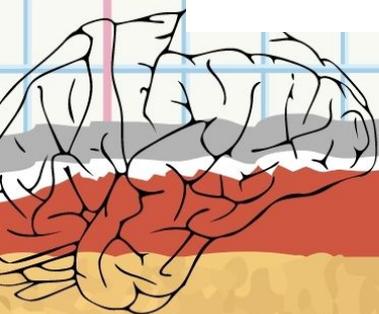


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- First year units do not weigh as much as your second and third year units, so focus on your studies, but don't overwhelm yourself with unnecessary pressure.
 - If you do feel stressed and overwhelmed more than usual, feel free to reach out to any one of your unit coordinators and TA's, or Monash's mental health department who are always willing to lend a helping hand

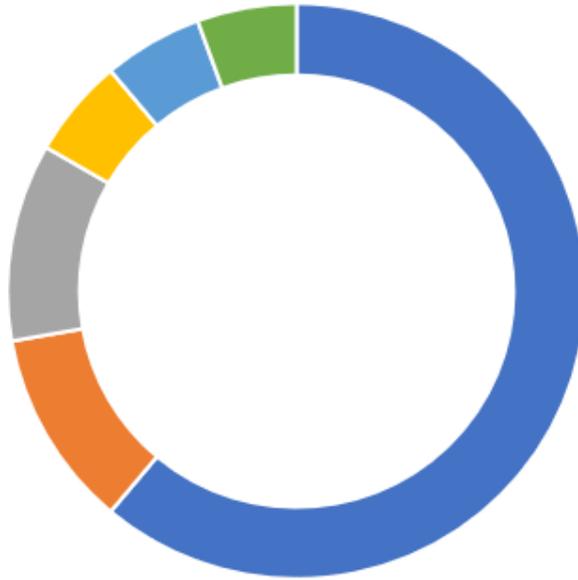
Speaking of enjoying your first year, we also asked the committee what social advice they would give themselves:

- Believe it or not, your university days will be the easiest way to make friends (lifelong ones too!) so definitely go out and say hello to everyone!
- Side note- you're probably scared to make the first move, the secret is everyone is as well, but once you do it, people will love you for it and hey you might end up knowing them for life!
- Get yourselves involved with the university social life, go to as many events as you can
- Join any clubs that you are interested in and get involved ! Getting involved in committees and societies are the easiest way to make new friends and create amazing memories !

Need ideas for the best coffee and food on campus ?
Look no further ! Here are our committee's top tips!

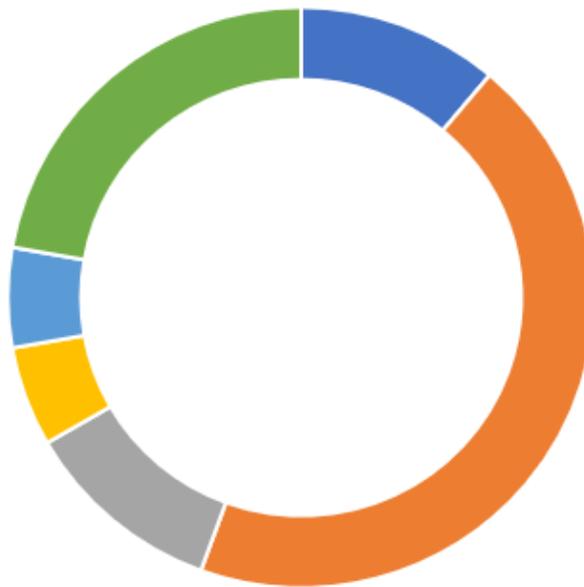


BEST FOOD ON CAMPUS



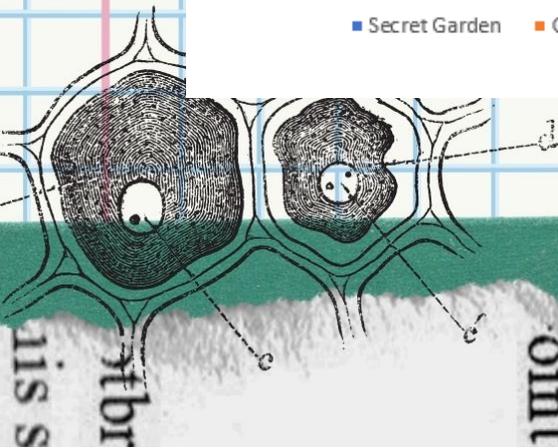
- Guzman y Gomez
- Noodle Noodle
- Schnitz
- Ma Long Dumplings
- Neptunes
- Rolld

BEST COFFEE ON CAMPUS



- Secret Garden
- Grafalis
- Guzman y Gomez
- Circular
- Church
- Doesn't drink coffee

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$





HOW TO CHANGE UNITS

If you want to change your units, it needs to be done before the 11th of March 2022.

You can change your units if you would like to enrol into a different unit which is more to your liking, or to a unit which better fits with your course progression in regards to your elected major and / or minor.

You can also withdraw from units due to academic progression issues, however feel free to talk to Monash Connect, a course advisor or the Science Faculty for further advice and information.

In order to withdraw units without incurring any financial penalties, unit changes need to be done before the census date of March 31st 2022. The census date of semester 2 is the 31st of August.

Changing units can be easily done through the Web Enrolment System (WES) which can be accessed through my.Monash. It can be accessed through the enrolment / re-enrolment tab.

USEFUL LINKS

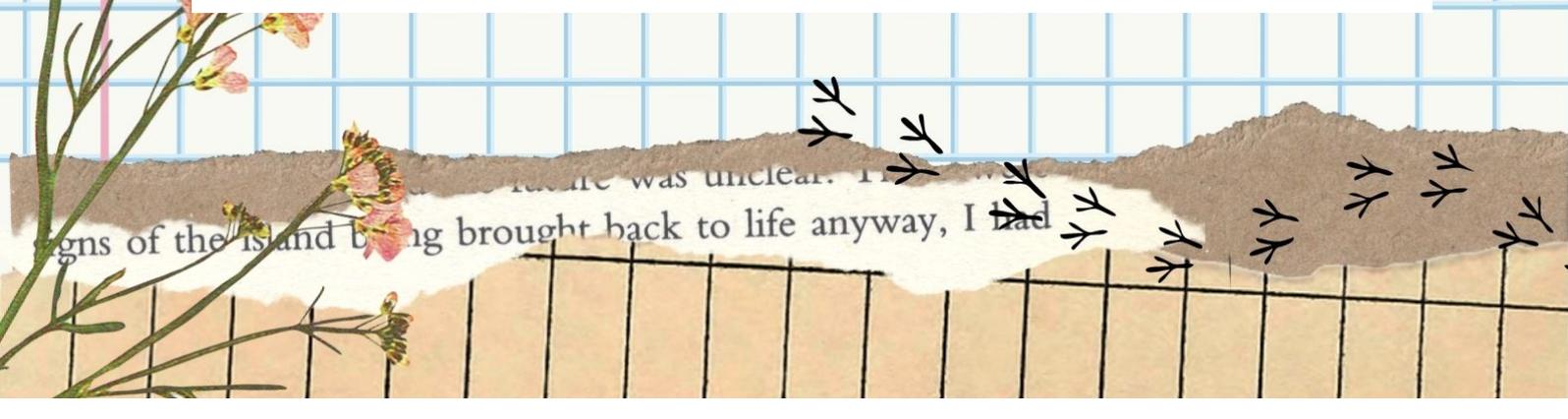
MSS website - <https://www.monashsciencesociety.org>

S2000 handbook - <https://handbook.monash.edu/2021/courses/S2000>

Monash connect - <https://www.monash.edu/students/support/connect>

Monash Faculty of Science - <https://www.monash.edu/science>

Monash WES - <https://my.monash.edu.au/wes/>



DOUBLE DEGREES

A double degree allows you to study for two degrees at the same time, saving both time and money whilst also allowing for greater career flexibility and options further down the line.

A double degree functions quite similarly, rules wise, to the single degree, with some slight changes and caveats:

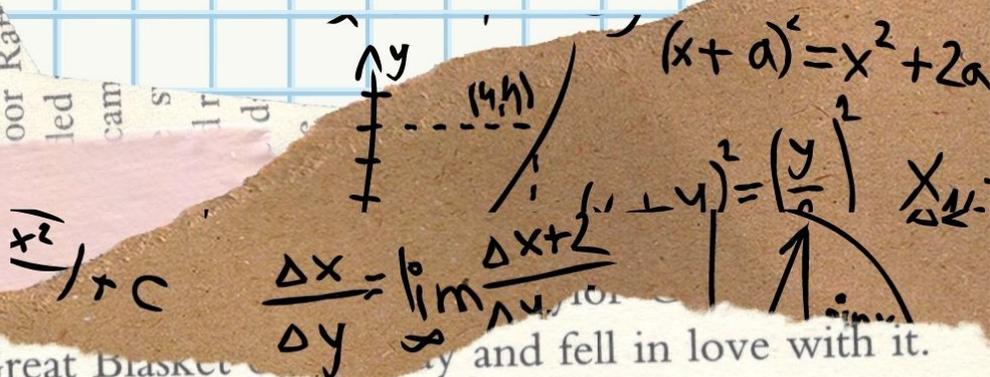
The requirements for a bachelor of science degree are the exact same regardless of whether it is received within a double degree or not, but there are certainly some differences between the double and single degrees.

Rather than being split into 3 parts, a double degree is split into 4. Your listed major and specified study for science, and your listed major and specified study for the domain of the other half of your degree.

You must still complete your 2 science sequences as you do in the regular degree, but in lieu of receiving your free electives, these subject slots will instead be utilised for the other section of your degree.

A MUST for any double degree student is to CHECK THE COURSE MAP. This is available on the monash website and page for your double degree.

The course map will slightly differ depending on what degree you are doing alongside science, but it offers a clear pathway that you can consistently check if you are ever confused. Having the course map page bookmarked just in case can save you a lot of stress in the future!

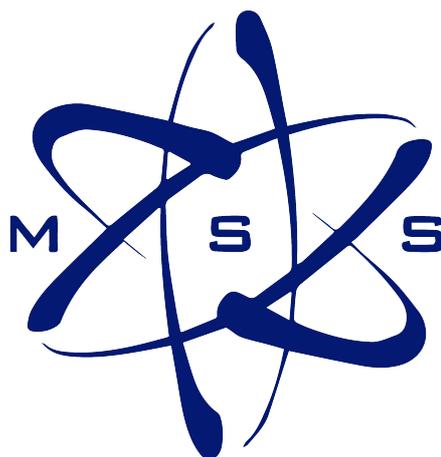


SPECIAL THANKS

We hope that this guide has been helpful and provided you with the information needed for you to enter your first year confidently !

Don't forget that MSS is always available to support science students and are more than happy to answer any questions, big or small.

Best of luck for 2022 !!



Special thanks to:

Tea' Tsagarakis
Aaryan Kaul
Matthew Marquez
Chayli McCann