

Honours Project Ecology & Environment/Marine Biology

ENVS305

Honours project: ecology & environment/marine biology is a third-year module led by Matthew Spencer, running over both semesters.

For many students, this module is the highlight of their degree programme. Each student designs and carries out an individual research project, with the help of a member of academic staff. The project may involve field work, lab work, or data analysis, and draws on all the skills and knowledge acquired during the rest of the degree.

Project topics are different every year, but recent examples include:

Improving the welfare of crabs used in museum exhibits

Reconstructing past marine climates from growth rings in shells of long-lived bivalves

Developing mathematical models for coral reef dynamics

The effects of invasive ant species on community structure

Comparing the effectiveness of bracken control techniques

Carrying out a long research project helps students develop skills in study design, time management, practical work, data analysis, oral presentation, and report writing.

The module is assessed entirely by coursework. The largest component is a final report. Other elements of assessment include a preliminary report (written in the first semester, after designing the programme) and a presentation near the end of the module.

