

# Bachelor of Science

## Course Structure for Bachelor of Science

Each standard subject is worth **12.5 credit points**. A standard **full-time study load** is four subjects (50 points) per half-year period. The **Bachelor of Science** requires the successful completion of **24 subjects (300 points)**.

Year 1	First half	Science Elective (Level 1) (Subject Set 1)	Science Elective (Level 1) (Subject Set 2)	Science Elective (Level 1)	Breadth
	Second half	Science Elective (Level 1) (Subject Set 1)	Science Elective (Level 1) (Subject Set 2)	Science Elective (Level 1/2)	Breadth
Year 2	First half	Science Elective (Level 2)	Science Elective (Level 2)	Science Elective (Level 2)	Breadth
	Second half	Science Elective (Level 2)	Science Elective (Level 2)	Science Elective (Level 1/2/3)	Breadth
Year 3	First half	Major Subject (Level 3)	Major Subject (Level 3)	Science Elective (Level 3)	Breadth OR Science Elective
	Second half	Major Subject (Level 3)	Major Subject (Level 3)	Science Elective (Level 3)	Breadth OR Science Elective

### Major Subjects

A major consists of four subjects (50 points). You can explore at least two different study areas before deciding on a major in your final year but it is important to understand where your subjects lead to.

**Specialisations** - A number of science majors include specialisations. Descriptions of the specialisations are located within the majors.

For a list of all majors within the Bachelor of Science:  
[go.unimelb.edu.au/uax6](https://go.unimelb.edu.au/uax6)

### Breadth Subjects

Breadth subjects are subjects taken from outside the science disciplines. You must complete a minimum of four breadth subjects, including at least one from level 2 or 3.

### Subject Sets

Subject sets are related first-year subjects that build a foundation in a particular area of study. Most majors have at least one subject set as a prerequisite. You are encouraged to choose at least two subject sets to keep your major options open through second year.

For more information, see the Bachelor of Science Course Planning and Advice Guide.

### Science Elective Subjects

Science elective subjects are subjects from the science disciplines that can lead to a major, can complement a major pathway or allow you to pursue areas of interest other than your major.

## NOTES ABOUT THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

### A flexible structure

All courses have specific requirements students need to meet, however there is flexibility to help you make the most of your degree.

Some examples include:

- Finalising your major at the end of second year
- Developing depth of knowledge in a particular discipline of science while gaining plenty of background in complementary areas

### Course requirements

#### Level 1

- Minimum five science subjects (62.5 points)
- Up to three subjects (37.5 points) from a single area of study (subject sets)
  - These are - Biology, Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Engineering Systems, Geography and Environments, Computer Science, Mathematics and Statistics, Physics and Psychology
- Maximum three subjects (37.5 points) of breadth at level 1

#### Level 2

- Minimum five science subjects (62.5 points)

#### Level 3

- Minimum six science subjects, including four major subjects (75 points)

#### Total

- No more than a total of 125 points taken at level 1
- Minimum of 18 subjects (225 points) and maximum 20 subjects (250 points) of science subjects
- Minimum four subjects (50 points) of breadth and maximum six subjects (75 points), at least one subject (12.5 points) at level 2 or 3
- Completion of an overall total of 24 subjects (300 points)
- Course progression rule:** Completion of at least four subjects (50 points) at each year level before being able to progress to the next year level

### For more information:

Plan your Bachelor of Science – [science.unimelb.edu.au/students/plan-your-bsc-getting-started](https://science.unimelb.edu.au/students/plan-your-bsc-getting-started)

Refer to the University Handbook - [handbook.unimelb.edu.au](https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au)

Look at the Bachelor of Science website – [bsc.unimelb.edu.au](https://bsc.unimelb.edu.au)

## PLAN YOUR COURSE

### STEP 1: BUILD

Add the core subjects to your Course Map first.

**Core subjects** are compulsory subjects that must be completed in order to meet the requirements of your course.

These subjects are usually prerequisites for later subjects, which means you need to successfully pass these to be able to progress to the next subject.

### STEP 2: EXPLORE

Select elective subjects which can complement a major pathway or allow you to pursue other areas of interest.

These may or may not be prerequisites for majors or other options down the track.

**Elective subjects** (also referred to as optional subjects) are discipline subjects from your Faculty.

Courses that require completion of electives or optional subjects allow you to choose from a list which is available in the University Handbook.

### STEP 3: EXPAND

You will usually need to complete at least four breadth subjects as part of your course.

You can build coherent breadth tracks (approved sets of three or more subjects) or select single subjects of interest.

**Breadth subjects** are from disciplines outside your degree. Breadth subjects allow you to gain knowledge and understanding across a broader range of disciplines, enabling you to develop interests and opportunities in areas distinct from your core studies.

### STEP 4: SPECIALISE

You might not need to decide on a major right away but many Year 2 and 3 subjects leading to a major or specialisation have prerequisites that you should review.

A **major or specialisation** refers to a concentration of subjects that equips you with specialised knowledge in your chosen field of study.

Each course has **different requirements** for a major, minor or specialisation. For example, while some offer a selection of subjects to choose from, others have a fixed set of subjects.

### UNDECIDED?

If you are undecided about your major, you can start with the subjects that you are interested in and work forwards; what later level subjects and majors do these subjects lead to?

For most majors, you don't need to decide in Year 1, but understanding where your subjects can lead is important as you proceed through your course.

## PLAN YOUR COURSE (continued)

Use the blank course structure below as a guide to plan your course. It is easiest to plan your course while referring to your course-specific requirements and the University Handbook.

You do not have to plan your whole degree at this point but the subjects that you choose in Year 1 can impact on your choices in Year 2 and 3.

Remember to consult the University Handbook to find out more about course requirements and subject availability, as well as breadth and elective options: [handbook.unimelb.edu.au](http://handbook.unimelb.edu.au)

Year 1	First half				
	Second half				
Year 2	First half				
	Second half				
Year 3	First half				
	Second half				

### WHAT DO I DO NEXT? ENROL IN YOUR SUBJECTS (STUDY PLAN)

Once you have mapped your subjects you can add them to your Study Plan via [my.unimelb](http://my.unimelb) for the current year only.

For information about enrolling in subjects visit: [students.unimelb.edu.au/subject-enrolment](http://students.unimelb.edu.au/subject-enrolment)

*Please note: You normally have until the end of the second week of classes to change your subject selection for the semester.*

## HOW CAN STOP 1 HELP?

Stop 1 can connect you with the full range of student services to support your success while studying at the University including:

- administration
- course planning and enrolment
- health and wellbeing
- housing and financial aid
- equity and disability support
- careers and employability development
- academic skills and learning support
- overseas study

*Remember, our support services are not just for when things go wrong but also to extend and develop your skills and experience.*

Access these services and more:  
[services.unimelb.edu.au/finder](https://services.unimelb.edu.au/finder)

Find out the best way to manage your admin, study effectively, maximise your wellbeing and prepare for your future: [students.unimelb.edu.au](https://students.unimelb.edu.au)

**International student visa holders:** please note you must be enrolled in 50 credit points in each half-year period unless you have approval to reduce your study load.

## ENRICH YOUR STUDIES

### Overseas study

Participate in an overseas study program and gain experience as well as credit towards your course.

### Concurrent diploma

Complete an additional qualification in computing, music, mathematical sciences or languages alongside your bachelors degree.

### Enhance employability skills

Check your faculty's website for internships, work placements, research or volunteering options to put your knowledge and skills into practice.

There are other opportunities such as industry events, public lectures and professional skills workshops. You can also volunteer in your community, meet with an alumni mentor or join a student club.

## ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

### Academic and communication skills

Find resources and programs to help you develop the reading, writing and listening skills needed to succeed in your studies.

Take the Diagnostic English Language Test (DELA) to get personalised results and recommendations to develop your ability to communicate ideas clearly and fluently using academic English language.

### Notes: