Interested in Synthetic Biology? The Department of Molecular Sciences is now recruiting 200/300 level undergraduate students from ALL disciplines to join our 10th Macquarie University iGEM team!

Applications Due 10th May 2019 @10pm

This amazing fun-filled and challenging opportunity offers you the ability engage in research at an international level with a goal to solve real-world problems! And, you can get course credit for doing so via the Faculty of Science and Engineering PACE unit: FOSC300.

What is iGEM? The International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) Competition is a worldwide synthetic biology competition for undergraduate students. Synthetic biology is the combination of molecular biology and engineering that builds things to solve important problems using biology. Each year, student teams from around the globe are given a kit of biological parts called ‘BioBricks’ and work over the course of a year to build a novel single-celled organism or 'biological machine'. The competition culminates in the opportunity to present at the iGEM Giant Jamboree held in Boston, Massachusetts (October 31st – November 4th, 2019) where iGEM teams from around the world come together to present their synthetic biology projects.
**What are we looking for?** We are seeking highly competent undergraduate students (at 200 or 300 level) with a passion and energy to work hard! Wet-lab research is not the only thing we do in iGEM but it does help to have some biochemistry and molecular biology background. We also really need people to help design websites, perform mathematical modelling, “hustle” for funds, run outreach activities, manage the team, and more. **Law, finance, economic, marketing, media, teaching, maths/computing, psych students and so on are all encouraged to apply.** Select members of the team may be chosen to present the team’s results at the Giant Jamboree event in Boston!

![](image)

**Winter boot-camp:** Due to the time-frame and deadlines associated with the iGEM competition, it is essential that team members are available to participate in the ‘iGEM boot-camp’ training over the winter break. The winter-bootcamp will run for ~3 days each week over the winter break (between 1-26th July). The exact days it will be run will be decided after team selection as will depend on the availability of all team members.

**What is possible?** Team Macquarie Australia have had outstanding success with past iGEM competitions, bringing home several gold medals over the past nine years, including the Best Energy Project Prize in 2017! To see what previous teams have achieved, check out the following Gold Medal wiki’s:

[http://2017.igem.org/Team:Macquarie_Australia](http://2017.igem.org/Team:Macquarie_Australia)
[http://2016.igem.org/Team:Macquarie_Australia](http://2016.igem.org/Team:Macquarie_Australia)
[http://2015.igem.org/Team:Macquarie_Australia](http://2015.igem.org/Team:Macquarie_Australia)
[http://2014.igem.org/Team:Macquarie_Australia](http://2014.igem.org/Team:Macquarie_Australia)
**How does doing iGEM work into FOSC300?**  FOSC300 is a PACE unit that provides students of any undergraduate degree program the opportunity to combine classroom learning, with a PACE activity that matches their interests and skills. iGEM participants will be working towards a solution for real world problems – offering students the chance to put their theoretical knowledge to the test. Additionally, these solutions will be distributed to the public – particularly those who could benefit from them. This sharing of knowledge and experience enables mutually beneficial outcomes for students and the wider community. See the MQ handbook for more information about this unit [http://handbook.mq.edu.au/2019/Units/UGUnit/FOSC300](http://handbook.mq.edu.au/2019/Units/UGUnit/FOSC300).

While we would like our iGEM team members to get course credit for their participation in iGEM, we understand that, for some of you, taking another unit is not possible. If this is you, but you would still love to experience the excitement of iGEM, you can still apply to join the iGEM team.

**How to apply?**  Complete the online application form via the link: [https://forms.gle/8yYipotk8zr5uQH77](https://forms.gle/8yYipotk8zr5uQH77)

**How to enrol in FOSC300?**  Enrolment in FOSC300 is by special approval. The names of students who have indicated an interest to
enrol in FOSC300 in their iGEM application will be shared with the FSE PACE Team. Applications close at 10:00 PM on Friday 10th May 2019. Interviews may be held to finalise team selection between 20-31 May. Successful iGEM team members will be notified by Monday 3rd June 2019. The FSE PACE team will contact students directly as soon as possible after this date to advise of enrolment procedures.

**Further questions?** Contact Dr Louise Brown by email at [Louise.Brown@mq.edu.au](mailto:Louise.Brown@mq.edu.au) or the FSE PACE team at [pace.science@mq.edu.au](mailto:pace.science@mq.edu.au)

Applications close at **10:00 PM on Friday 10th May 2019**. Successful team members will be notified by Monday 3rd June 2019.

“There is a great opportunity to change the world in some big way, and that’s where you should start—biological molecules”

Bill Gates