

# BL4200 Literature based Research Project

(BL4200 online module handbook version 47)

**Credits:** 30

**Semester:** 3

**Module Organiser**

Dr Verena Dietrich-Bischoff  
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01334 464812

**Pre-requisite Modules:**

Permission of Biology  
Honours Adviser required

**Anti-requisite Modules:**

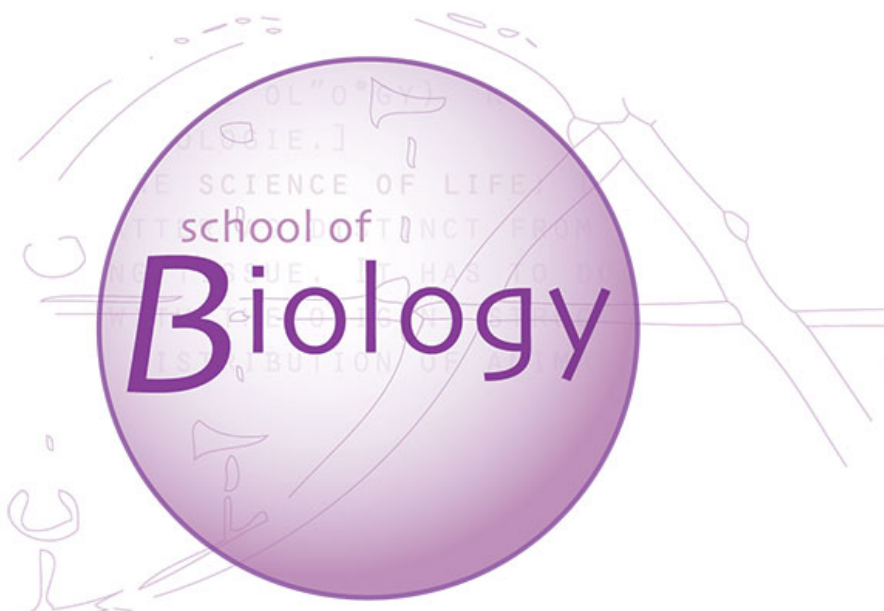
You cannot take this module  
if you take BL4201 or take  
PN4299

**Post-requisite Modules:**

**Additional Module**

**Information:**

[Please check MMS regularly  
for additional module  
information](#)



This project will involve an extensive literature review to investigate a defined hypothesis or problem within the field of biology, appropriate to the degree programme being studied by each student. The project will involve diligence, initiative and independence in pursuing the literature, and the production of a high-quality dissertation that demonstrates a deep understanding of the chosen area of research. Students will be allocated to a member of staff who will guide and advise them in research activities throughout the academic year. The project will be written up in the form of a research dissertation.

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[BL4200View content for BL4200 \(2023/4\) in the Module Management System \(MMS\)](#)

[View the current Biology Online Module Catalogue for BL4200](#)

[BL4200View BL4200 \(2023/4\) in the University of St Andrews Module Catalogue](#)

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# BL4200: Timetable

**Legend** (not all modules have every event type):

lecture	tutorial	workshop	practical	other
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## Semester 1: Week 1

DATE & TIME	VENUE	STAFF	EVENT
Wednesday 13-09-2023 15:00 to 16:00	Biomedical Sciences Building Teaching Lab (Room 205)	<a href="#">Dr Verena Dietrich-Bischoff</a> -	Lecture L1: <b>Introduction to BL4200</b> <small>2023-4_BL4200_L1</small>

## Semester 1: Week 8

DATE & TIME	VENUE	STAFF	EVENT
Friday 03-11-2023 12:00 to 13:45	Medical and Biological Sciences Building Biology Teaching Lab	<a href="#">Dr V Anne Smith</a> -	Workshop W1: <b>Self-editing workshop</b> <small>2023-4_BL4200_W1</small>

# BL4200: Reading List

[BL4200Click for BL4200 reading list](#)

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## BL4200: Assessment

Coursework = 100% (10% - Thesis outline and resource list 1,000 words 70% - Written thesis 15,000 words 20% - Viva (20 minutes))

[BL4200View coursework assessment details for BL4200 \(2023/4\) in MMS](#)

The following related information applies to all Biology modules:

School of Biology Marking Criteria:	See <a href="#">JH booklet info (st-andrews.ac.uk)</a>
Late submission of continuous assessment work:	All late submissions of coursework that do not require electronic submission should be made via the Biology Teaching Office, Level 2, BMS Building, North Haugh.
Exam details:	See School of Biology UG Handbook <a href="#">JH booklet info (st-andrews.ac.uk)</a> : All Biology exams will be conducted online for 2022-23.
Exam timetable:	See <a href="#">Timetables - Exams - University of St Andrews (st-andrews.ac.uk)</a>
Expected attendance:	See <a href="#">JH booklet info (st-andrews.ac.uk)</a> for detailed attendance requirements.
Good Academic Practice & Avoiding Academic Misconduct:	See <a href="#">JH booklet info (st-andrews.ac.uk)</a>
University Student Handbook:	<a href="#">University Student Handbook</a>
School and University regulations in the School and University Undergraduate Handbook relating to absence reporting, penalties and rules for late submission of work, extensions for coursework, return of coursework, S-coding, good academic practice and Academic Alerts.:	<a href="#">JH booklet info (st-andrews.ac.uk)</a> <a href="#">University Student Handbook</a>

# Who to ask

(Information in this section applies to all Biology Modules)

**Before contacting staff**, students should check the content of the Biology Undergraduate Handbook, the module handbook and specific task instructions.

## Questions about

General teaching matters  
Rescheduled or cancelled events  
Lecture or practical content  
Completing assessed practical assignments

Completing assessments

Marking on continuous assessment

Marking on exams

Rearranging practical days

Absence and/or extensions

Difficulties with academic progress which impact more than one module:

Overall performance, progress or future directions:

Disability:

For advice and support on any issue e.g. academic, financial, international, personal or health matters, or if you are unsure of who to go to for help:

**University assistance with urgent matters out of office hours:**

## Contact

Biology Teaching Office ( [bioteach@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:bioteach@st-andrews.ac.uk) )

Check your University email

The lecturer who presented the material

The lecturer who set the assignment

Module Organiser ( [Dr Verena Dietrich-Bischoff vdb@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:Dr%20Verena%20Dietrich-Bischoff%20vdb@st-andrews.ac.uk) )

The Demonstrator or Module Organiser ( [Dr Verena Dietrich-Bischoff vdb@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:Dr%20Verena%20Dietrich-Bischoff%20vdb@st-andrews.ac.uk) )

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Module Organiser ( [Dr Verena Dietrich-Bischoff vdb@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:Dr%20Verena%20Dietrich-Bischoff%20vdb@st-andrews.ac.uk) )

**and** the Biology Teaching Office ( [bioteach@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:bioteach@st-andrews.ac.uk) )

Year Coordinator

See School of Biology UG Handbook for list:  
[JH booklet info \(st-andrews.ac.uk\)](#)

Advisor of Studies

Disability Coordinator ( [biodisabilities@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:biodisabilities@st-andrews.ac.uk) )

Advice & Support Centre

Address: 79 North Street, St Andrews

Email: [theasc@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:theasc@st-andrews.ac.uk)

Web: <https://www.standrews.ac.uk/ask-a-question/>

Tel: 01334 462020

Tel: 01334 476161

Web:

<https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/students/advice/counselling/incrisis/>

## Biology Teaching Office:

We are happy to hear from you about teaching matters. The School of Biology Teaching Office is open Monday to Friday 09.00 - 13.00 and 14.00 - 17.00. School of Biology staff will respond to your emails during these hours. Our team will provide a response to you within three working days.

Biology Teaching Office (Level 2), University of St Andrews, Biomolecular Sciences Building, North Haugh, St Andrews, Fife KY16 9ST

Email: [bioteach@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:bioteach@st-andrews.ac.uk)

Tel: 01334 46 3602 or 3566

## BL4200: Contributing Staff

**[Dr Verena Dietrich-Bischoff](#)**  
**(Module Organiser)**

Lecturer (Education-Focused)

[vdb@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:vdb@st-andrews.ac.uk)

[Dr Verena Dietrich-Bischoff](#)  
(Module Organiser)

Lecturer (Education-Focused)

[vdb@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:vdb@st-andrews.ac.uk)

[Prof Graeme Ruxton](#)

Professor

[gr41@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:gr41@st-andrews.ac.uk)

[Dr V Anne Smith](#)

Senior Lecturer

[vas1@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:vas1@st-andrews.ac.uk)

## **BL4200: Learning Outcomes**

Students completing module BL4200 successfully should be able to:

- Research a defined field of biology using primary sources and clearly define a key research hypothesis
- Write a critical and analytical evaluation of the current literature in a chosen field
- Write in a defined style appropriate to a lay audience or an expert in the field
- Acquire an in-depth and detailed understanding of a chosen field in biology
- Perform literature-based research to a high standard, keeping accurate and detailed records
- Report on a research investigation, critically evaluating and analysing the results in the context of current knowledge
- Communicate verbally scientific information accurately and succinctly

# **BL4200: Acquired Skills**

## **Practical Skills**

### **Transferable Skills**

- Short informal presentation (using PowerPoint or not)
- VIVA Examination
- Long essay (>2000 words)
- Research proposal
- Summary
- Critically evaluating sources/information
- Finding information on the web
- Finding literature
- Referencing
- Searching databases
- Sourcing figures/tables
- Produce graphs/figures
- Produce tables
- Lab or field notebook



# Policies

(Information in this section applies to all Biology Modules)

- The procedures and regulations followed by the School of Biology are outlined in the [University Handbook](#) and in the School of Biology UG handbook [JH booklet info \(st-andrews.ac.uk\)](#)
- All coursework associated with the module must be completed and submitted by its due date.
- Specific School regulations relating to absence reporting, penalties and rules for late submission of work, extensions for coursework, return of coursework, S-coding, Good Academic Practice and Academic Alert are stated in the School of Biology UG handbook [JH booklet info \(st-andrews.ac.uk\)](#) and students are required to carefully read these regulations.
- Students are also referred to the University Handbook, available at: <http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/studenthandbook/>