

# Reimagined pathways to study and work in science

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students have more flexible pathways to explore their curiosity for science, thanks to a redesigned degree with a focus on student choice, employment and wrap-around support at the University of Melbourne.

Course Coordinator, Dr Lisa Godinho, says degrees like the 3.5-year Bachelor of Science (Extended), with more work-based learning and a new, early-exit Diploma option, are uncommon.

"We're passionate about students learning in contexts relevant to future employment, with opportunities to apply their knowledge and reinforce their connection to place, culture and community," Dr Godinho said.

"Students already love our extended science degree for its small cohort and specialised teaching staff, but we've redesigned our course structure to offer even greater choice and flexibility in 2025.

"The University's Murrup Barak team give current and prospective First Nations students a familiar place on campus to study, grab food, meet peers, and access practical assistance with all aspects of their experience." In first year, students can navigate their scientific interests with a dedicated mentor, and study new foundational mathematics subjects.

"Maths is key to science, but not all students have had positive experiences, or the opportunity to study maths to a high level," Dr Godinho said. "We teach foundational subjects in small groups to build students' confidence and understanding of a maths curriculum customised for university-level success."

After first year, students have three options: continue in the degree to earn a Bachelor of Science, transfer to another

University of Melbourne degree, or graduate with a Diploma in Science.

"Available in 2025, the Diploma is an early exit award – the first of its kind for undergraduate degrees at the University," Dr Godinho said. "It's a qualification for many entry-level science jobs in land management, information technology, and food safety.

"For students continuing with the Bachelor degree, graduates have entered environmental consulting roles, the mining industry, and government agencies like CSIRO and Melbourne Water. One of our graduates recently represented Australia at the G20 Youth Summit in Rio De Janeiro!"

Charlie Miller, a Kanolu man from Northeast Queensland living on Wurundjeri Country, majored in Zoology for his Bachelor of Science (Extended) and is now pursuing his interests in freshwater ecology through a Master of Science (BioSciences).

"I am very grateful for the pathways into the University of Melbourne," Mr Miller said. "There are other ways to study at the University that go beyond just what your ATAR is.

"I will be specialising in short-finned eels, looking at differences in age and size, and how these eels meet thresholds to migrate into saltwater environments."

Mr Miller is a mentor for the Residential Indigenous Science Experience that invites Year 9 and 10 Indigenous students around Australia to visit the University and talk to inspirational First Nations scientists and students.

"Before large sandstone universities existed, this Country and the land we stand on was our university," he said. "We were our top academics and knowledge holders, so letting our young mob know they have a place within academic

institutions – particularly those that focus on learning and science – is critical.

"It's really important for me to pay back to my community and my mob, in the ways I have been provided opportunities in the past."



Charlie Miller is a recent graduate of the Bachelor of Science (Extended) and now pursuing his Master of Science (BioSciences).



## Flexibility and support to explore the right science for you

Our re-designed Bachelor of Science (Extended) is your first step towards a dream career in science.

Enjoy a supported transition into tertiary study with a dedicated discipline mentor, and study alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Choose a science discipline, access tailored support, and experience university life at our vibrant Parkville campus on Wurundjeri Country.



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