

THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEW SOUTH WALES



Australian School of Business
School of Economics

ECON2206 / ECON3290
Introductory Econometrics

Course Outline
Semester 1, 2010

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1 STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

Lecturer-in-charge: Associate Professor Garry Barrett
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Email: G.Barrett@unsw.edu.au
Consultation Hours: Tues 1.00-4.00pm (or by appointment)

Tutors:

Jonathan Borowsky, (Email j.borowsky@gmail.com)
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1.1 Communications with staff

The lecturer-in-charge is responsible for the course content as well as the overall administration of the course. You should feel free to approach him about any academic matter related to the course.

A tutor-in-charge will be appointed for the course. The tutor-in-charge has responsibility for the administration of the tutorial program. You should first contact your tutor or the tutor-in-charge if you have a problem concerning the tutorial program.

Email correspondence on administrative matters (e.g. advising inability to attend tutorial) will be responded to within 48 hours, but not over weekends. Discussion of course subject material will not be entered into via lengthy emails. Please note that the lecturer-in-charge has no advance notice of the date and time of the exam [the subject of many emails].

1.2 Pitstop

Pitstop provides an opportunity for consultation with tutors. It will start in Week 3 and continue until Week 15 during the exam study period). The schedule of Pitstop times for this course will be announced on the Course Website.

2 COURSE DETAILS

2.1 Teaching Times and Locations

There is one 2-hour lecture and one 1-hour tutorial class per week. The lecture is scheduled for Tuesday 9 a.m.-11 a.m., Law Theatre G04.

Lectures will run from Week 1 to Week 12 inclusively.

Each student is required to enroll in a tutorial group which meets for one hour each week. Students enroll via the myUNSW site. Once enrolled, moving from one tutorial group to another will not be permitted unless you have compelling reasons.

If, due to illness or other exceptional circumstances, you are unable to attend your usual tutorial, you may try to attend another tutorial in the same week. However, students are expected to attend their usual tutorial class for at least nine tutorials during the session. A full list of tutorials, times and tutors will be posted on the Course Website.

Tutorials will run from week 2 to week 13 inclusively.

2.2 Units of Credit

The course is worth 6 units of credit.

2.3 Summary of Course

The course is based on regression methods will cover topics from simple to multiple regression methods, focusing on issues of estimation and inference. There will be an emphasis throughout the course on how to apply the methods in practice. By the end of session you will be able to understand most analyses performed by econometricians, critically appraise empirical studies and conduct your own empirical research.

2.4 Aims and Relationship to Other Courses

The aim of the course is to help you develop a working knowledge of econometrics. ECON2206/3290 provides an introduction to econometrics - which is the application of statistical methods in the analysis of economic data. ECON1203 QMB, or an equivalent course, is a prerequisite for ECON2206/3290. The material covered in ECON1203 is treated as assumed knowledge. In turn, ECON2206/3290 is a prerequisite for ECON2207 Econometric Methods and other higher level econometrics courses which build on the foundations provided by ECON2206/3290.

2.5 Student Learning Outcomes

On completion of the course, students should be able to:

1.	list and explain the assumptions underlying the simple and multiple regression models
2.	interpret the estimates from the application of regression models
3.	conduct hypothesis testing using the regression model
4.	describe and explain the limitations of the regression model
5.	identify and apply extensions to the regression model which address special features of different data structures
6.	apply the regression model to economic data using specialised econometric software

Graduate Attributes

Learning Outcomes	ASB Graduate Attributes	Attribute No.
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.	Critical thinking and problem solving	1
2, 3, 6.	Communication	2
6.	Teamwork and leadership	3
2, 4.	Social, ethical and global perspectives	4
2, 4, 5, 6.	In-depth engagement with relevant disciplinary knowledge	5
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.	Professional skills	6

3 LEARNING AND TEACHING ACTIVITIES

3.1 Approach to Learning and Teaching in the Course

The philosophy underpinning this course and its Teaching and Learning Strategies are based on “Guidelines on Learning that Inform Teaching at UNSW. These guidelines may be viewed at: www.guidelinesonlearning.unsw.edu.au. Specifically, the lectures, tutorials and assessment have been designed to appropriately challenge students and support the achievement of the desired learning outcomes. A climate of inquiry and dialogue is encouraged between students and teachers and among students (in and out of class). The lecturers and tutors aim to provide meaningful and timely feedback to students to improve learning outcome.

3.2 Learning Activities and Teaching Strategies

The examinable content of the course is defined by the references given in the Lecture Schedule, the content of Lectures, and the content of the Tutorial Program.

Lectures

The lectures provide an introduction to each topic, develop the key concepts and methods, and present practical illustrations drawn from published research. The lectures will detail how the methods can be applied using the software package SHAZAM. Each lecture will begin by providing a guide to how the current topic relates to the material from previous weeks, and will conclude by outlining how the current topic is extended and developed in future weeks. The main role of the lecture is to motivate the topics and develop the conceptual framework for understanding the main issues and results.

Tutorials

The weekly tutorials require you to complete a number of exercises which relate to the previous week’s topic. You need to prepare for each tutorial and the tutorials require your participation. The questions covered in each tutorial will be posted on the course website. The role of the tutorial is to help build your understanding of the topics through problem solving exercises and conducting your own analysis of economic data. The weekly tutorial exercise will involve a variety of questions which may relate to the assumption of the regression model, drawing out implications of the results or interpreting the findings of an applied study. Each weekly exercise will entail a computer exercise which requires you to download a data set from the course website, conduct your own analysis using SHAZAM and to briefly report findings from that analysis. Your written answers to two tutorial assignments will be collected and marked during the session, as discussed below. The tutorial exercises give a good indication of the kind of questions that can be expected in the final examination.

The tutorials also give you the opportunity to discuss your work with the tutor and your peers, and to raise questions about difficult topics or problems encountered in studying the course. From your participation in the tutorials you can gain an appreciation of your own progress in the course.

Out-of-Class Study

While students may have preferred individual learning strategies, it is important to note that most learning will be achieved outside of class time. Lectures can only provide a structure to assist your study, and tutorial time is limited.

An “ideal” strategy (on which the provision of the course materials is based) might include:

- Reading of the relevant chapter(s) of the text and accessing the lecture notes from the course website before the lecture. This will give you a general idea of the topic area.
- Attendance at lectures. Here the context of the topic in the course and the important elements of the topic are identified. The relevance of the topic will be explained.
- Attempting the tutorial questions and checking their solutions. This will identify the things you need to do to demonstrate your understanding of a topic, and guide your re-reading of specific parts of the text. This also provides a self-test of your understanding, identifying those parts of the topic with which you have problems.
- Attending Tutorials. Go to the tutorial with your own solutions neatly prepared (these will be collected and marked in specific weeks of the session).
- Attempt additional problems from the end-chapter questions in the textbook. The tutorial and examination questions have a similar structure to the textbook questions. By attempting additional questions, you are able to test your own knowledge and, through practice and experience, improve your understanding of the material.

4 ASSESSMENT

4.1 Formal Requirements

In order to pass this course, you must:

- achieve a composite mark of at least 50 out of 100; and
- achieve at least 50% (pass) on the final examination, and
- make a satisfactory attempt at ALL assessment tasks (see below).

4.2 Assessment Details

Assessment Task	Weighting	Learning Outcomes assessed	ASB Graduate Attributes assessed	Length	Due Date
Tutorial Assignment 1	10%	1-6	1-6	See below	Week 5 29 th March – 1 st April
Tutorial Assignment 2	10%	1-6	1-6	See below	Week 10 10 th -14 th May
Project	20%	1-6	1-6	See below	5p.m. 23/04/10
Final Exam	60%	1-5	1,2,4-6	2 hours	University Exam Period
	100%	1-6	1-6		

4.3 Tutorial Attendance

No marks are awarded for tutorial attendance. However, a record of attendance at tutorials will be kept. **Students should note that** 80% attendance is required by UNSW and ASB rules. In certain circumstances, such as where a request for special consideration is made in relation to assessment items, tutorial attendance will be taken into account in determining your final assessment or whether special consideration is granted.

Attendance at 9 of 12 tutorials is deemed as meeting the requirement. Students must sign on by 10 minutes from the start of tutorial to qualify as 'in attendance'. Signing on for another student will be treated as misconduct. If, owing to illness or other exceptional circumstances, you are unable to attend your usual tutorial, you may try to attend another tutorial in the same week. However, you are required to attend your usual tutorial class at least 9 times during the session. This allows for occasional absence due to minor illness and other reasons, hence special consideration applications will not reduce this requirement.

4.4 Tutorial Assessment

Tutorials start in Week 2.

Tutorial Program questions will be posted on the course web site. Each week a series of problems based on the lecture material of the previous week will be set. You should attempt all questions. Answers to two tutorial assignments will be collected and marked over the course of the session. Specifically, the assignments set for discussion in Week 5 (29th March – 1st April) and Week 10 (10th -14th May) will be collected and marked. The two tutorial assignments (10 % weight on each) combined account for 20% of your total mark for the course.

The weekly tutorial exercises are designed to assess your understanding of regression models, your ability to interpret regression results and appraise the quality of a model. The tutorial exercises are based on replicating and evaluating published empirical studies. The criteria used for marking the assignments are correctness and clarity of the answers presented. The tutorial assignments and the course project are designed to assess progress toward learning objectives 1-6; the tutorial assignments and course project are the main form of assessment for objective 6 (performing regression analysis using specialised econometric software).

In weeks when the assignments will not be collected you should attend with prepared answers to the tutorial questions.

4.4.1 Submission Procedure for Tutorial Assignments

You are required to hand-in a typed or written copy of your answers to your tutor at the beginning of the tutorial class in which you are enrolled, otherwise a mark of 0 will be given. Submission via email or fax will not be accepted.

If you are unable to make it to your tutorial group during the week when an assignment is to be collected, you can submit your solutions by depositing them in the School's collection boxes (ground floor of the ASB Building, western wing), by 5pm on Friday 26th March and Friday 7th May, for Tutorial Assignments 1 and 2, respectively.

You should keep a copy of all work submitted for assessment and keep returned marked answers.

4.4.2 Late Submission of Tutorial Assignments

Late submission will be considered only in extreme circumstances. Any student, who for reasons of serious illness cannot submit at the required tutorial, will need full and convincing documentation of that illness which must cover the period of 4 days prior to the submission deadline. Special Consideration applications must be made within 3 working days of the submission date through Student Central (NewSouthQ) and NOT through the lecturer-in-charge or tutor (though you should advise the lecturer-in-charge that you have made an application).

In cases where students have applied for special consideration, the tutorial discussion question must still be submitted, with requirement that it be submitted to the lecturer-in-charge (**not** the tutor, in this case) within three working days of the submission date or they will not be marked.

Employment obligations or holiday plans of any kind are not acceptable reasons for late submission of a tutorial discussion question.

4.5 Course Project

The assessment tasks include a 'Course Project' involving an in-depth econometric analysis of an applied economic problem. The project will require the analysis of a data set using regression methods. The project will be similar in structure to the weekly tutorial assignments; however the project will draw on material covered in all of weeks 1-6 of lectures. Students need to provide detailed written answers to the project questions **and** include a print-out of their SHAZAM output. The project questions and data set will be available from the course website in Week 1 of session.

The Project topic, format, data and marking criteria will be set out in a separate documents provided on the course webpage. .

4.5.1 Submission Procedure for the Course Project

Course Project answers are due in by 5p.m. on Friday 23/04/10 (Week 7 of session). Ensure that the front page of your answer booklet is a School coversheet (available from the course web page). Answers booklets (do not submit loose-leaf sheets of paper) should be stapled, and placed in the Economics box on the ground floor of the ASB Building (western wing). The box will be cleared at 5 p.m. on 23/04/10. Projects received after 5p.m. 23/04/10 will incur a penalty of 20% per day (or part) late.

4.5.2 Late Submission of Project

Late submission will be considered only in extreme circumstances. Any student, who for reasons of serious illness cannot submit at the required tutorial, will need full and convincing documentation of that illness which must cover the period of 4 days prior to the submission deadline. Special Consideration applications must be made within 3 working days of the submission date through Student Central (NewSouthQ) and NOT through the lecturer-in-charge (though you should advise the lecturer-in-charge that you have made an application). Without Special Consideration being granted, 20% of the value of the Project will be deducted for each day (24 hours) or part thereof past the deadline. Project answers submitted more than five days late will not be marked.

4.6 Final Exam Format

A sample exam in the same format as the final exam will be posted on Course website by week 4. Past exam papers can be useful for students preparation. As outlined in 3.2 above all material covered in the lectures and tutorial program is examinable.

5 ACADEMIC HONESTY AND PLAGIARISM

The University regards plagiarism as a form of academic misconduct, and has very strict rules regarding plagiarism. For UNSW's policies, penalties, and information to help you avoid plagiarism see: <http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism/index.html> as well as the guidelines in the online ELISE tutorial for all new UNSW students:

<http://info.library.unsw.edu.au/skills/tutorials/InfoSkills/index.htm>.

To see if you understand plagiarism, do this short quiz:

<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism/plagquiz.html>

For information on how to acknowledge your sources and reference correctly, see:

<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/onlib/ref.html>

For the ASB Harvard Referencing Guide, see:

http://www.docs.fce.unsw.edu.au/fce/EDU/harvard_ref_guide.pdf

In the School of Economics all cases of substantial plagiarism are reported to the Associate Head of School. The following penalties will apply:

- Reduction in marks for the assessment item, including zero;
- Failure in the course [00FL] in extreme cases;
- Other additional penalties in accordance with the UNSW Procedures for Dealing with Student Plagiarism, may be considered in extreme cases;
- All cases will be recorded on the UNSW Plagiarism Central Register

6 COURSE EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the School and continual improvements are made based on this feedback. UNSW's Course and Teaching Evaluation and Improvement (CATEI) Process is one of the ways in which student evaluative feedback is gathered. You are strongly encouraged to take part in the feedback process.

7 STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONDUCT

Students are expected to be familiar with and adhere to university policies in relation to class attendance and general conduct and behaviour, including maintaining a safe, respectful environment; and to understand their obligations in relation to workload, assessment and keeping informed.

Information and policies on these topics can be found in the 'A-Z Student Guide': <https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/atoz/ABC.html>. See, especially, information on 'Attendance and Absence', 'Academic Misconduct', 'Assessment Information', 'Examinations', 'Special Consideration', 'Student Responsibilities', 'Workload' and policies such as 'Occupational Health and Safety'.

7.1 Workload

It is expected that you will spend at least **ten hours** per week studying this course. This time should be made up of reading, research, working on exercises and problems, and attending classes. In periods where you need to complete assignments or prepare for examinations, the workload may be greater.

Over-commitment has been a cause of failure for many students. You should take the required workload into account when planning how to balance study with employment and other activities.

7.2 Attendance

Your regular and punctual attendance at lectures and seminars is expected in this course. University regulations indicate that if students attend less than 80% of scheduled classes they may be refused final assessment.

7.3 Keeping Informed

You should take note of all announcements made in lectures, tutorials or on the course web site. From time to time, the University will send important announcements to your university e-mail address without providing you with a paper copy. You will be deemed to have received this information. It is also your responsibility to keep the University informed of all changes to your contact details.

7.4 SPECIAL CONSIDERATION AND SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATIONS

You must submit all assignments and attend all examinations scheduled for your course. You should seek assistance early if you suffer illness or misadventure which affects your course progress. For advice on UNSW policies and procedures for granting special consideration and supplementary exams, see:

‘UNSW Policy and Process for Special Consideration’:
<https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/atoz/SpecialConsideration.html>

Policy and Process for Special Consideration

1. Applications for special consideration (including supplementary examinations) must go through UNSW Central administration within 3 working days of the assessment to which it refers – applications will **not** be accepted by teaching staff;
2. Applying for special consideration **does not** automatically mean that you will be granted a supplementary exam.
3. Special consideration requests **do not allow** lecturers-in charge to award students additional marks;
4. If you are making an application for special consideration (through UNSW Central Administration) please notify your Lecturer in Charge

Policy re requests for Special Consideration

The policy of the School of Economics is that the Lecturer-in-charge will need to be satisfied on each of the following before agreeing to or supporting a request for special consideration:

1. For a medical certificate to be accepted, the degree of illness must be stated by the medical practitioner (severe, moderate, mild). A certificate without this will not be valid;
2. Has the student performed satisfactorily in the other assessment items? Satisfactory performance would require at least 40% in each assessment item specified in the Course Outline and meeting the obligation to have attended 80% of tutorials;
3. History of previous applications for special consideration. Previous applications may preclude a student from being granted special consideration;

Special Consideration and Assessments other the Final Exam

For the application of special consideration to assessment items other than the final exam, refer to the specific policies outlined. The School of Economics does not provide supplementary assessment items other than for the final exam.

Requests for special consideration in relation to the final exam are determined by an ASB Faculty panel to which Lecturers-in-charge provide their recommendations for each request. If the Faculty panel grants a special consideration request, this may entitle the student to sit a supplementary examination. In such cases the following procedures will apply:

1. Supplementary exams will be scheduled centrally and will be held approximately two weeks after the formal examination period. Actual date will be advised by mid-semester;
2. Where a student is granted a supplementary examination as a result of a request for special consideration, the student's original exam (if completed) will not be marked and only the mark achieved in the supplementary examination will count towards the final grade. To be clear, failure to attend the supplementary exam will not entitle the student to have the original exam paper marked and will result in a zero mark for the final exam.

The 'ASB Policy and Process for Special Consideration and Supplementary Exams in Undergraduate Courses' is available at:

<http://www.docs.fce.unsw.edu.au/fce/current/StudentSuppExamProcedure.pdf> .

8 STUDENT RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

The University and the ASB provide a wide range of support services for students, including:

ASB Education Development Unit (EDU) (www.business.unsw.edu.au/edu)

Academic writing, study skills and maths support specifically for ASB students. Services include workshops, online and printed resources, and individual consultations. EDU Office: Room GO7, Ground Floor, ASB Building (opposite Student Centre); Ph: 9385 5584; Email: edu@unsw.edu.au

UNSW Learning Centre (www.lc.unsw.edu.au)

Academic skills support services, including workshops and resources, for all UNSW students. See website for details.

Library training and search support services: <http://info.library.unsw.edu.au>

UNSW IT Service Desk: Technical support for problems logging in to websites, downloading documents etc. Library, Level 2; Ph: 9385 1333.

Website: www.its.unsw.edu.au/support/support_home.html

UNSW Counselling Service (<http://www.counselling.unsw.edu.au>)

Free, confidential service for problems of a personal or academic nature; and workshops on study issues such as 'Coping with Stress' and 'Procrastination'.

Office: Level 2, Quadrangle East Wing; Ph: 9385 5418

Student Equity & Disabilities Unit <http://www.studentequity.unsw.edu.au>)

Advice regarding equity and diversity issues, and support for students who have a disability or disadvantage that interferes with their learning. Office: Ground Floor, John Goodsell

Building; Ph: 9385 4734

9 COURSE RESOURCES

The website for this course is on UNSW Blackboard at:

<http://lms-blackboard.telt.unsw.edu.au/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>

The course website contains copies of: All Course Handouts; Brief Lecture Notes; Tutorial Questions; and Data sets required for the tutorial questions; Notes on "How to Use SHAZAM"; Examples of SHAZAM programs and output; and Announcements. Students should consult this website at least once a week as it contains important information about the course. It will be assumed that all students have seen any notice posted on the course website.

The textbook for this course is:

J.M. Wooldridge (2009) *Introductory Econometrics: A Modern Approach*, South-Western, 4th edition.

This book is denoted by "W" in the lecture outline below. This textbook is currently in stock at the UNSW bookstore, and copies are held in Open Reserve in the Main Library.

The 2nd and 3rd editions of the textbook are very similar to the 4th edition, and are fine to use.

There is a companion book for the text that may be useful to refer to throughout the session:

J.M. Wooldridge (2009) *Student Solutions Manual to Introductory Econometrics: A Modern Approach*, South-Western.

This companion book is available electronically via the textbook website: access to the solution manual is free with the purchase of the book. Older, hardcopy versions of the Student Solution Manual are held in the Main Library.

The following books provide an alternative presentation of similar *material*:

J.H. Stock and M.W. Watson (2007) *Introduction to Econometrics*, Addison Wesley, 2nd edition.

R.C. Hill, W. Griffiths and G.G. Judge (2001) *Undergraduate Econometrics*, 2nd Edition, Wiley.

More advanced treatment of the topics covered in the course are presented in the textbooks:

W. Greene (2007) *Econometric Analysis*, 6th edition, Prentice Hall.

A.C. Cameron and P. Trivedi (2005) *Microeconometrics: Methods and Applications*, Cambridge University Press.

10 COURSE SCHEDULE

10.1 Lecture Schedule

Lectures start in Week 1 and finish in Week 12. Weekly lecture notes will be posted on the course website.

LECTURE SCHEDULE		
Week	Topic	Reference
Week 1 2 nd March	Introduction	W: chapter 1
Week 2 9 th March	Simple Regression Model	W: chapter 2
Week 3 16 th March	Multiple Regression: Estimation	W: chapter 3
Week 4 23 rd March	Multiple Regression: Inference I	W: chapter 4
Week 5 30 th March	Multiple Regression: Inference II	W: chapter 4
Mid-Session Break: 2-11 April		
Week 6 13 th April	Asymptotics, Further Issues	W: chapters 5, 6
Week 7 20 th April	Qualitative Information	W: chapter 7
Week 8 27 th April	Heteroskedasticity	W: chapter 8
Week 9 4 th May	Specification issues	W: chapter 9
Week 10 11 th May	Time Series Data I	W: chapter 10
Week 11 18 th May	Time Series Data II	W: chapter 11
Week 12 25 th May	Evaluation methods	W: chapter 13

10.2 Tutorial Schedule

Tutorials start in Week 2 and finish in Week 13. The material covered in tutorials follows on from the lecture material of the previous week.

TUTORIAL SCHEDULE		
Week	Topic	Reference
Week 2 8-12 March	Introduction	W: chapter 1
Week 3 15-19 March	Simple Regression Model	W: chapter 2
Week 4 22-26 March	Multiple Regression: Estimation	W: chapter 3
Week 5 29 March-1 April	Multiple Regression: Inference I	W: chapter 4
Mid-Session Break: 2-11April		
Week 6 12-16 April	Multiple Regression: Inference II	
Week 7 19-23 April	Asymptotics, Further Issues	W: chapters 5, 6
Week 8 26-30 April	Qualitative Information	W: chapter 7
Week 9 3-7 May	Heteroskedasticity	W: chapter 8
Week 10 10-14 May	Specification issues	W: chapter 9
Week 11 17- 21 May	Time Series Data I	W: chapter 10
Week 12 24-28 May	Time Series Data II	W: chapter 11
Week 13 31 May-4 June	Evaluation methods	W: chapter 13

11 KEY DATES AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

It is your responsibility to ensure that:

1. You are recorded by the University as being correctly enrolled in all your courses.
2. You have successfully completed all prerequisite courses. Any work done in courses for which prerequisites have not been fulfilled will be disregarded (unless an exemption has been granted), and no credit given or grade awarded.
3. You abide by key dates:
Monday 1 March is the first day of Semester 1 lectures. **Sunday 7 March** is the last day you can enrol in Semester 1 courses.
Sunday 7 March is the due date for Semester 1 fees.
Wednesday 31 March (Week 5) is the last day for students to discontinue without financial penalty (and the last date to finalise arrangements for HECS-HELP and FEE-HELP).
Sunday 25 April (end Week 7) is the last day to discontinue without academic penalty.
4. You organise your affairs to take account of examination and other assessment dates where these are known. Be aware that your final examination may fall at any time during the semester's examination period. The scheduling of examinations is controlled by the University administration. No early examinations are possible. The examination period for Semester 1, 2010, falls between **Friday 11 June** and **Monday 28 June (provisional dates subject to change)**.
5. When the provisional examination timetable is released, ensure that you have no clashes or unreasonable difficulty in attending the scheduled examinations. The final examination timetable for Semester 1 is released in May (date TBA).
6. Note that some Schools schedule a common date for any **supplementary exams** that may be required – it is your responsibility to check the School websites and ensure that you are available to take the exam on the scheduled date.

A full list of UNSW Key Dates is located at:

<https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/resources/KeyDates2.html>