

# **College of Science and Engineering Student Guide: Successfully Planning Your Trimester 2 Intensive Science Subjects**

This guide is to help students enrolled in the BSc/BAdvSci (certain majors), BMarSci, BESM, MSc, MSc (Professional), and MMB decide on and prepare for subjects delivered in Trimester 2. Trimester 2 subjects in several disciplines (AQ, BZ, EV, EA, MB) at Levels 2, 3, and 5 are delivered primarily as two-week 'Intensives' designed for completely immersive and hands-on learning experiences (with some study and assessment before and/or after). These intensives are designed to be taken one-at-a-time, and you will get the most from these subjects if you can devote your energy to them.

The 'Intensive Subjects' offered in Trimester 2 have been strategically selected because they offer students opportunities for deeper experiential learning and more focused access to teaching and learning staff – the things we do best at JCU! This structure has been designed to significantly enhance our subjects and your learning. The singular focus on one subject at a time improves learning continuity, unpunctuated by other distractions, and allows more effective structuring, delivery and sequencing of materials to improve student engagement and learning. Although the total number of hours may marginally differ from subjects taught in semester- or trimester mode, these subjects have been framed to ensure that while content may be offered differently it is enhanced rather than diminished, and all learning objectives are satisfied, in more modern and appropriate ways.

Intensive subjects move quickly and require a high level of engagement. To make the most of them, it's important to plan ahead, know what to expect, and manage your time well. Whether you're enrolling for the first time or looking to improve your approach, these tips will help set you up for success.

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## **Guidance for Choosing and Managing Trimester 2 Intensive Subjects**

### **A Condensed Subject Format**

AQ, BZ, EV, EA, and MB subjects in Trimester 2 within your degree are condensed into what we call an 'Intensive'. While a trimester-long subject involves 10 weeks of part-time engagement with subject content, an intensive subject is primarily delivered in two weeks of full-time engagement. This means you'll be learning at a much faster pace, with more contact hours and independent study expected each day (including in the evenings/after class) than in a standard trimester-long subject.

### **Schedule of Intensive Subjects and Assessment**

All Intensive subjects start in Week 1 with an "Introductory Week". This week is designed for you to familiarise yourself with the expectations of the subjects. It is fully asynchronous – meaning you won't come to class during Week 1. Instead, you will engage with materials on LearnJCU that will help you determine prior to census date whether the subjects you have selected are right for you.

There are six face-to-face Intensive Periods across Trimester 2 (as per the [2026 Study Area Guide](#) – pg 3). Each Intensive Period is two weeks long, and an intensive subject uses **one** of these 2-week Intensive Periods. The first Intensive Period starts in Week 2, and the final Intensive Period ends at the end of the Study Vacation.

You can find the specific dates for each Intensive Subject by looking for the Face-to-Face Dates in the Offerings section of the subject’s entry in the [JCU Handbook](#).

Assessments for Intensive Subjects will be due during the subject’s Intensive Period and/or in the Trimester 2 Exams period. This means you will be expected to do some self-study and assessment work outside of the Intensive Period.

See below what Intensive Periods look like in Trimester 2:

Trimester 2													
Intro (A-F)	Intensive A		Intensive B		Intensive C		Intensive D		Intensive E		Intensive F		Assess (A-F)
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Recess	Recess	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8	Week 9	Week 10	Study Vac.	Exams

### Be aware of payment and census dates!

All subjects have the same [calendar dates](#), regardless of the Intensive Period. This means that even if your subject won’t be delivered face-to-face until Week 10, it will still have the same dates for enrolment close, payment due date, and census date as all other subjects in Trimester 2. Typically enrolments close before Week 1, with payment due date in Week 3 and census date in Week 4, but you should always check the [Academic Calendar](#) or confirm with the [Enrolments team](#) for the most up-to-date information.

### Every Intensive Subject will use the two-week face-to-face Intensive Period slightly differently

Most will start on the Monday of the first week and finish on the Friday of the second week, but some subjects may also use the weekend at the end of the two-week Intensive Period (e.g., to fit in fieldtrips). Several subjects will use the weekend in-between the two weeks for fieldwork.

Most subjects will have assessments due both during the 2-week face-to-face Intensive Period and in the Exams period. For some subjects, assessment will be due before the Intensive Period begins, based on the preparatory work in LearnJCU provided during “intro week”.

***Bottom line: plan to be available for the full two weeks, and plan for some study and assessment work outside the two weeks. Check LearnJCU for exact timings of face-to-face instruction and assessment due dates.***

### Treat an Intensive Subject like a Full-Time Job

During the face-to-face Intensive Period of an intensive subject, you can expect to participate in lectures, tutorials, workshops, independent study, fieldtrips and/or practicals. Together, the time in these activities is equivalent to full-time hours over the face-to-face Intensive Period.

Avoid scheduling work, travel, or other major commitments during these two weeks. If you have caring responsibilities, it is recommended that you seek additional support during this period. If you have concerns about your ability to fully participate, please get in touch with your [Course or Major Advisor](#), and check the *Know Where to Get Help* section below for additional support.

### **Spread Your Subjects Across the Trimester**

Where possible, we recommend that you avoid enrolling in two or more intensive subjects that take place back-to-back. This helps you stay focused and minimises pressures on outside commitments. It also allows you to dedicate your full attention to one subject at a time with a break between subjects. For some courses, it may be necessary to enrol in multiple intensive subjects back-to-back, so be aware that this means committing to four weeks of continuous intensive study and plan accordingly.

You can enrol in a maximum of three (non-overlapping) intensive subjects in a given year. Most students find it most manageable to only attempt two in a given year.

Classes and required learning in an intensive subject can include full-day sessions, weekend activities, and field trips, including the weekend between the two teaching weeks. This can be very demanding and impact your ability to maintain outside employment — be realistic about your availability and workload capacity.

If you are considering enrolling in one or more elective subjects that would result in back-to-back intensive subjects, or in more than two intensive subjects in Trimester 2, you are responsible for ensuring:

- You have discussed your planned study with your [Course or Major Coordinator](#).
- You have the capacity to take time off work during these Intensive Periods to focus entirely on the subjects.

To enrol in more than three intensive subjects, you must have Course Coordinator approval.

### **Combining Intensive and Non-Intensive subjects? Be Prepared**

Enrolling simultaneously in one or more intensive subjects **and** a standard (non-intensive) subject will cause significant challenges. During your face-to-face Intensive Period for your intensive subject, you may miss critical content, assessment deadlines, or on-course exams for your non-intensive subject. For these reasons, we recommend that you do not enrol in non-intensive *elective* subjects at the same time as intensive subjects.

In some cases, simultaneous Trimester 2 non-intensive and intensive subject enrolment will be unavoidable (e.g., if you have a double major or double degree in a discipline that is not using intensives, if you are repeating a subject, or because of part-time or deferred study).

If you need to take both intensive and standard (non-intensive) subjects simultaneously, you are responsible for ensuring:

- You have planned out your calendar and are aware of subject clashes ahead of time.

- You have contacted the Subject Coordinators to let them know, and clarified assessment types and due dates so you are aware of any potential clashing dates (e.g., an assessment from one subject being due during the delivery of another subject).

You should do both of these things as soon as you enrol and have access to the LearnJCU site.

## **Enrol Early**

Some intensive subjects have a student quota or prior approval before enrolling and so they can fill up fast, particularly if they have a field trip (which many do). Subjects with quotas will prioritise enrolment for students for whom the subjects are a core requirement in their course or major. Check subject availability and enrol as soon as possible to avoid missing out or ending up with timetable conflicts.

Subjects with international travel, including SC5810, MB5001 and BZ3001, require an Expression of Interest (EOI) prior to approval for enrolment. Be sure to keep an eye on your emails for these EOI opportunities.

## **Use Week 1 to Prepare Before the Intensive Periods Begin**

During “Intro Week” (Week 1 of Trimester 2), access the LearnJCU site early, read the Subject Outline and Assessment Overview, and complete any pre-readings or tasks for *all* intensive subjects you are enrolled in. Do not wait until the first face-to-face class — most intensive subjects hit the ground running from Day 1. This also allows you to decide whether or not a subject is the right one for you *before* census and fee deadlines.

## **Check Assessment and Exam Timing**

Most intensive subjects will have assessments due within the two-week face-to-face teaching period as well as during the Exams period. Make sure you check your Subject Outline carefully and/or correspond with your Subject Coordinator about assessment expectations so you can plan ahead and avoid surprises.

## **AccessAbility Students**

If you require adjustments to support your participation during Intensive Periods or fieldwork, please make an appointment to meet with an Advisor as early as possible to discuss supports. You can visit the [AccessAbility Services Webpage](#) to register or book an appointment.

It is important to note that for any exams/in class tests/quizzes held during intensive subjects, that you will need to apply for your exam adjustments. You are responsible for completing the [AccessAbility Exam Adjustments Application Form](#) **at least 10 university working days prior** to the exam date; noting if you are outside of this timeframe, your request is not guaranteed to be accommodated. You will need to supply the dates and times of your On Course exams. The exams team already have a copy of your Access Plan. Note Examinations are unable to accommodate requests for weekend exams or exams held off campus.

For online tests and quizzes, your Subject Coordinator will adjust the timing on Learn JCU.

## Stay Organised

Use a planner, app, or calendar to map out key dates and study times. Missing even one session of an intensive subject can set you back significantly due to the fast pace.

## Know Where to Get Help

Reach out early to your Subject Coordinator or [Course or Major Advisor](#) if you need support. There's also academic support (e.g. [Student Success Officers](#)), [Enrolment Team support](#), peer study groups, and other university services available — and the earlier you access these supports, the better for you.

For non-academic support, JCU [Counselling and Wellbeing Service](#) is a free and confidential service provided to students currently enrolled and actively engaged at JCU Australia. The Service is provided by highly qualified Counsellors with backgrounds and experience in Psychology, Social Work, Counselling and Occupational Therapy.

JCU Counselling and Wellbeing Service offers brief-intervention support, up to ten sessions per student. Appointments are available Monday to Friday between 9am to 3pm and can be offered by phone, Zoom (online video call software) or face to face on either the JCU Cairns, Nguma-bada campus, Smithfield or JCU Townsville, Bebegu Yumba campus, Douglas. Please note there are limitations to the support we can offer to students located off-shore.

If you need urgent support and the JCU Counselling and Wellbeing service is closed, **the JCU Urgent Mental Health Support Line provides support via phone or text when other university student support services are unavailable.** It helps callers by addressing immediate safety concerns, discussing coping strategies for their current crisis, and linking students to appropriate services for ongoing support.

**Text: +61 485 885 981**

**Telephone: 1300 270 254**

## International student visa holders

For international students studying on a student visa or bridging visa in between student visas, there are additional considerations for you to be aware of when enrolling in Trimester 2 Science Intensive Subjects.

It is important to note that for Trimester 2 Intensive Subjects your course is in session for the full Trimester 2 study period dates listed in the [Academic Calendar](#), from Week 1 up until the end of the Exam period, irrespective of the Intensive Period dates for your subject. As a student visa holder, you have limited rights to work while your course is in session.

Work Integrated Learning (WIL) enrolment activities, such as fieldtrips and placements, completed as mandatory core requirements of your course or major should not affect work restrictions, whether paid or unpaid. However, WIL for elective subjects which are not a core mandatory requirement for your course or major are considered as working hours.

When your course is in session, it is important that you do not plan any travel which may adversely impact your ability to successfully fulfil your enrolment requirements. If you are

required to travel, contact your Subject Coordinator or [Course or Major Advisor](#) to ensure that it does not interfere with your study or assessments.

For US Federal Aid students, you must also contact the Federal Aid Administrator prior to making travel arrangements.