

# ISN104 BIOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS OF PSYCHOLOGY

## Unit Description

The Biological Foundations of Psychology unit serves as an introduction to the neurobiological bases of behaviour. As such, students will be introduced to the fundamental principles of brain and nervous system functioning, including the neuroanatomy and function of the nervous system, neuron structure and function, electrical and chemical signalling, psychopharmacology, and genetics. The examination of these basic principles facilitates an understanding of more complex behaviours and processes such as homeostasis, biological rhythms, and sleep and waking states of consciousness.

## Administrative Details

Associated higher education awards	Duration	Core or Elective	Level
Bachelor of Psychology	One semester	Core	First year, Semester 1

## Unit weighting as a percentage of the year

Unit credit points	Total course credit points
12.5	400

### Student workload

No. timetabled hours per week	No. personal study hours per week	Total workload hours per week
4-hours (1 x 2-hour lecture; 1 x 2-hrs face-to-face tutorial)	6-hours	10-hours

### Learning Outcomes and Assessments

Learning outcomes for Unit: Upon successful completion of this unit, the student should be able to:
I. Demonstrate and apply an understanding of the underlying concepts and principles of neuroscience and the relationship between brain processes and behaviour
II. Develop an understanding of key methodologies used for investigating brain and behaviour relationships
III. Develop basic researching skills by locating and retrieving relevant scientific literature on databases, accurately interpreting experimental findings, and critically evaluating neuroscience literature
IV. Present clear, well-structured, and empirically supported arguments on one of the following areas of behavioural neuroscience: psychopharmacology; neurophysiology; genetics; sleep and waking; homeostasis; neuroethics
V. Gain an awareness of and critically examine the ethical issues and societal consequences arising from neuroscience research and technologies
VI. Demonstrate effective interpersonal and teamwork skills with classmates in small and large group settings

### **Overview of Assessment Tasks**

Assessment Tasks	Weighting (% of total marks for unit)	Unit Learning Outcomes
Essay	25%	I, II, III, IV, V
Examination	40%	I, II, V
Tutorial Activities	35%	I, II, III, IV, V, VI

### **Delivery mode**

Face to face on site; Full-time or Part-time study

### **Pre-requisites and co-requisites**

None

### **Other Resource and Requirements**

None.

*\*Unit outlines may be subject to change. The most up-to-date outlines will be provided to students once the semester commences*