

Directed Studies and Research (BIOL 490) is a course where you work with a faculty member on a research project with specific evaluation methods. Students normally approach a faculty member whose area of research is of particular interest and who has space in their lab for students. You may have a project in mind, or the faculty member may suggest a project to you. These courses must be supervised or co-supervised by a regular faculty member from the Department of Biology.

If more than one Directed Studies and Research are taken, they must be with different supervisors. If a student takes two Directed Studies and Research courses, the topics should be distinctly different.

Please note that the prerequisites for directed studies are a cumulative GPA of 5.0 on the last 15 units of course work and third- or fourth-year standing.

You will need to complete a registration form called a [Proforma](#).

On the form, the content description should include 2-3 sentences about the project. The section on evaluation techniques should be broken down into clear percentages. For example, review of literature 20%; design of an experiment 15%; presentation of work 10%, and final report/paper 55%. You and your supervisor(s) need to sign the form.

If you are going to use the course towards one of the concentrations, you will also need to get the approval of the following advisors:

Dr. Varela ([dvarela@uvic.ca](mailto:dvarela@uvic.ca)) for the concentration in Marine Biology;

Dr. Delaney ([kdelaney@uvic.ca](mailto:kdelaney@uvic.ca)) for the concentration in Neuroscience;

Dr. Hawkins ([hawkins@uvic.ca](mailto:hawkins@uvic.ca)) for the concentration in Forest Biology.

The deadline to submit the Proforma is 5 days before the last day to add courses for that particular term. Please refer to the latest calendar for the date. Ideally, you will want to talk to potential supervisors well before the start of the term.

Please email the signed Proforma to [biology.directedstudies@uvic.ca](mailto:biology.directedstudies@uvic.ca), where it will be processed and sent to the Academic Advising Office. The course will be manually entered into your program.

Please feel free to contact [biology.directedstudies@uvic.ca](mailto:biology.directedstudies@uvic.ca) if you have any questions.