

## The University of Western Australia

UWA was founded in 1911 as Western Australia's first university. It remains the State's premier university and is widely regarded as one of the best universities in Australia.

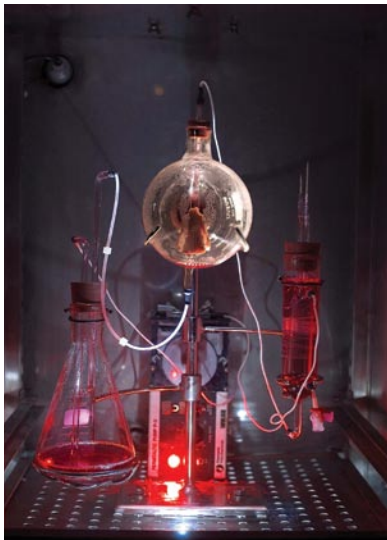
As the only Western Australian institution to belong to the Group of Eight, a coalition of Australia's leading universities, UWA has a strong international reputation backed by a superior history of experience in delivering leading research and academic excellence.

The Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences offers study in the following areas:

- Anatomy and human biology
- Biomedical, biomolecular and chemical sciences
- Human movement and exercise science
- Physics and biophysics
- Psychology
- Science communication
- and postgraduate studies in pharmacy and forensic science

Intellectual excellence and critical thinking are at the heart of all our undergraduate and postgraduate degrees. You will get to train with world-class lecturers and have the opportunity to work side by side with leading authorities in science in an environment that encourages aspirations and fosters ambitions.

Cover:  
Title: Meart: the semi-living artist  
Artists: SymbioticA Research Group in collaboration with the Potter Lab.  
Medium: robotic arm, rat neurones, compressor, texas.  
Date: BIOFEEL Exhibition, 2002  
Photo: Phil Gamblen



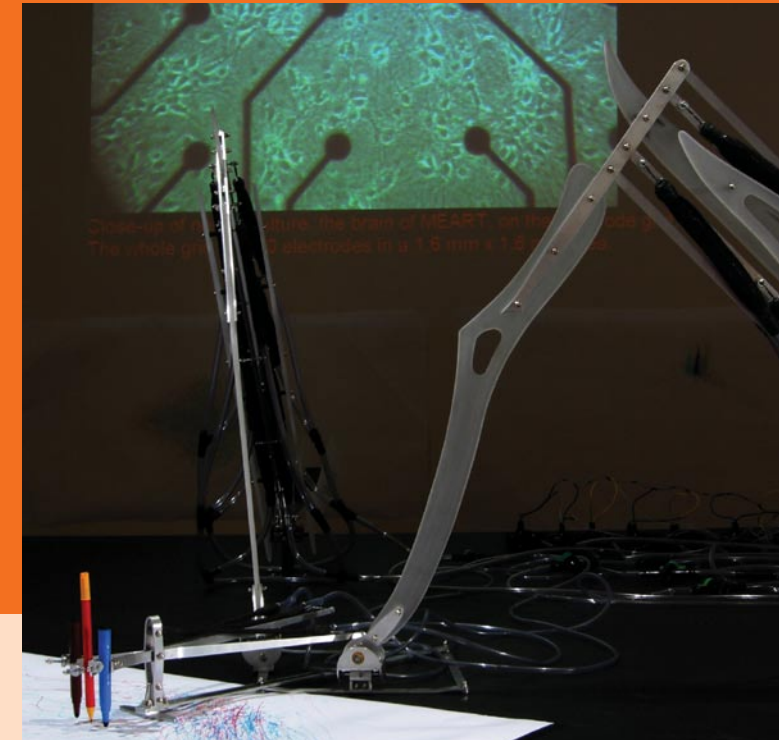
Inside page:  
Title: Fibre Reactive  
Artists: Donna Franklin  
Medium: funghi on cloth  
Date: BioDifference Exhibition, 2004  
Photo: Robert Frith

Back page:  
Title: Victimless Leather- A Prototype of Stitch-less Jacket grown in a Technoscientific "Body"  
Artists: The Tissue Culture & Art Project (Oron Catts & Ionat Zurr)  
Medium: Biodegradable polymer connective and bone cells  
Date: 2004



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## Biological Arts



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

FACULTY OF  
Life and Physical  
Sciences

### SymbioticA

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# Biological Arts

## SymbioticA

*SymbioticA: the art and science collaborative research laboratory in the School of Anatomy and Human Biology at The University of Western Australia is an artistic laboratory dedicated to interdisciplinary research, learning and critique of life sciences.*

*SymbioticA is the first research laboratory of its kind in the world, in that it enables artists and academics to engage in wet biology practices in a biological science department. SymbioticA also offers a new means of creative inquiry, one in which artists and scholars actively use the tools and technologies of science, not just to comment about them, but also to explore their possibilities.*

*Designed as an evolving place of artistic investigation, SymbioticA welcomes undergraduate and postgraduate students, artists and scholars from all disciplines, to work in interdisciplinary research teams exploring innovative directions for new technologies and the effects on society that they may have.*

## Postgraduate degrees in Science (Biological Arts)

Designed for art practitioners, scientists and humanities scholars who wish to engage in interdisciplinary studies as a foundation for creative bioresearch, the Biological Arts programme focuses on recent advances in the life sciences, both in theory and practice. Emphasis is placed on developing critical thought, exploring ethical and cultural issues and experimenting with cross-disciplinary art and science projects.

Laboratories focus on learning scientific techniques in a meaningful way for both the artist and scientist, and using these techniques for creative output that is multidisciplinary in nature.

Cultural issues such as ownership of living systems, issues of partial life, gene patenting, population diversity, new reproductive technologies, modifying bodies, nature/culture boundaries, emerging perceptions of life and the ethics of living art and/or science production are researched, discussed and debated.

The programme is structured so that students may exit after one semester with a Graduate Certificate or after two semesters with a Graduate Diploma. A further year's study will lead to the Master of Science (Biological Arts).

## Graduate Certificate in Science (Biological Arts)

**Duration of Course:** 1 semester

**Mode of Study:** Coursework

**Intake Period:** Variable – check with academic coordinator

**Prerequisites:** A recognised bachelor's degree in arts or science

### COURSE STRUCTURE

The course comprises units to the value of 24 points.

Students choose one of the following:

ANHB8510 Advanced Aesthetic Crossovers in Art and Science (12pts)

This unit is a practical and theoretical investigation, through critical engagement, of the links and differences between art and science by the use of the technologies of life sciences and biotechnology as an art-form.

**or:**

ANHB8511 Advanced Art and Life Manipulation (12pts)

This unit introduces students to issues, concepts and techniques relating to contemporary arts practices dealing with the manipulation of living forms. Emphasis is placed on developing critical thought, ethical issues and cross-disciplinary experimentation in art (art/science collaborations, art as research). Students are introduced to biological lab practices and techniques and are expected to get their hands wet.

Plus electives chosen from either the arts or the sciences.

## Graduate Diploma in Science (Biological Arts)

**Duration of Course:** 1 year

**Mode of Study:** Coursework

**Intake Period:** February and July

**Prerequisites:** A recognised bachelor's degree in arts or science

### COURSE STRUCTURE

The course comprises units to the value of 48 points.

Students choose one of the following:

ANHB8510 Advanced Aesthetic Crossovers in Art and Science (12pts)

**or:**

ANHB8511 Advanced Art and Life Manipulation (12pts)

Plus electives chosen from either the arts or the sciences.

## Master of Science (Biological Arts)

**Duration of Course:** 2 years (applicants with a recognised honours degree or equivalent in any discipline are exempted from the first year).

**Mode of Study:** Coursework and research

**Intake Period:** February and July

**Prerequisites:** A recognised bachelor's degree in arts or science.

### COURSE STRUCTURE

The course comprises units to a maximum of 96 points.

Students must complete:

ANHB8510 Advanced Aesthetic Crossovers in Art and Science (12pts)

ANHB8511 Advanced Art and Life Manipulation (12pts)

ANHB8512 Project Unit Research (12pts)

ANHB8513 Major Project and Dissertation (24pts)

Plus electives chosen from either the arts or the sciences.

## SymbioticA undergraduate units

In conjunction with the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts at UWA, SymbioticA offers two elective units for undergraduates from various disciplines and from other local, national and international universities: -

VISA2214 Aesthetic Crossovers of Art and Science

VISA2249 Art and Life Manipulation

## CAREER PROSPECTS

SymbioticA's academic programme can lead to wide and diverse career opportunities in the fields of art, science or social science, especially in positions dealing with issues of policy, communication and commentary, or in education. It offers opportunities for further academic pursuits for the people who are interested in the holistic view of the effects of the sciences on our society and culture.

