



COURSE OUTLINE

MCH302 Robotics and Autonomous Systems

School: School of Science, Technology and Engineering

2025 | Semester 2

UniSC Sunshine Coast
UniSC Moreton Bay

BLENDED
LEARNING

Most of your course is on campus but you may be able to do some components of this course online.

Please go to usc.edu.au for up to date information on the teaching sessions and campuses where this course is usually offered.

1. What is this course about?

1.1. Description

In this course you will develop an advanced level of knowledge and understanding of robotics and the design and application of autonomous and semi-autonomous systems that play a major role in transforming society and industry, such as recent developments in autonomous vehicles. You will learn about the principles, design, and implementation of robotics and autonomous systems, including robotic programming, sensing, path planning, control, and the design principles of mobile robots. You will gain hands-on experience in designing, analysing, and evaluating robotic autonomous systems.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
BLENDED LEARNING			
Learning materials – Asynchronous weekly learning material	1hr	Week 1	13 times
Seminar – On campus	1hr	Week 1	3 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – On campus	2hrs	Week 1	10 times
Laboratory 1 – On campus	2hrs	Week 2	5 times

1.3. Course Topics

Topics may include:

- Introduction to robotic systems
- Robot programming principles
- Sensing for robots
- Actuators for robots
- Path planning and control
- Sensor and actuation devices
- Mobile robots and dynamics

2. What level is this course?

300 Level (Graduate)

Demonstrating coherence and breadth or depth of knowledge and skills. Independent application of knowledge and skills in unfamiliar contexts. Meeting professional requirements and AQF descriptors for the degree. May require pre-requisites where discipline specific introductory or developing knowledge or skills is necessary. Normally undertaken in the third or fourth full-time study year of an undergraduate program.

3. What is the unit value of this course?

12 units

4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES	GRADUATE QUALITIES MAPPING	PROFESSIONAL STANDARD MAPPING *
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...	Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...	Competencies from multiple Professional Bodies (see below) *
1 Apply advanced technical knowledge to interpret and discriminate the development of various optimization and machine learning algorithms / techniques.	Knowledgeable	1, 1, 1.3.a, 1.3.a, 1.3, 1.3
2 Demonstrate advanced knowledge of robotics and autonomous systems.	Knowledgeable	1, 1, 1.3.a, 1.3.a, 1.3, 1.3
3 Develop and analyse autonomous algorithms to demonstrate autonomous systems capabilities.	Creative and critical thinker	2, 2, 2.1.a, 2.1.a, 2.1, 2.1
4 Perform classification and pattern recognition using artificial intelligence and suitable methodologies to solve robotic control problems.	Creative and critical thinker	2, 2, 2.1.a, 2.1.a, 2.1, 2.1
5 Apply tools to design, develop and optimize intelligent models based on artificial intelligence methodologies.	Empowered	2, 2, 2.2.d, 2.2.d, 2.2, 2.2
6 Implement technical knowledge and skills to design and develop intelligent robotics products	Empowered	2, 2, 2.3.a, 2.3.a, 2.3, 2.3

* Competencies by Professional Body

CODE	COMPETENCY
ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA STAGE 1 ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGIST COMPETENCY STANDARDS	
1	Elements of competency: Knowledge and Skill Base
1.3.a	Knowledge and Skill Base - In-depth understanding of specialist bodies of knowledge within the technology domain: Proficiently applies advanced technical knowledge and skills to deliver engineering outcomes in specialist area(s) of the technology domain and associated industry, commercial and community sectors.
1.3	Knowledge and Skill Base: In-depth understanding of specialist bodies of knowledge within the technology domain.
2	Elements of competency: Engineering Application Ability
2.1.a	Engineering Application Ability - Application of established engineering methods to broadly-defined problem solving within the technology domain: Identifies, discerns and characterises salient issues, determines and analyses causes and effects, justifies and applies appropriate simplifying assumptions, predicts performance and behaviour, synthesises solution strategies and develops substantiated conclusions.

CODE COMPETENCY

2.2.d Engineering Application Ability - Application of engineering techniques, tools and resources within the technology domain: Determines properties, performance, safe working limits, failure modes, and other inherent parameters of materials, components and systems relevant to specialist area(s) of the technology domain.

2.3.a Engineering Application Ability - Application of systematic synthesis and design processes within the technology domain: Proficiently applies technological knowledge and problem solving skills as well as established tools and procedures to design components, system elements, plant, facilities and/or processes to meet technical specifications and performance criteria.

2.1 Engineering Application Ability: Application of established engineering methods to broadly-defined problem solving within the technology domain.

2.2 Engineering Application Ability: Application of engineering techniques, tools and resources within the technology domain.

2.3 Engineering Application Ability: Application of systematic synthesis and design processes within the technology domain.

ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA STAGE 1 PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER COMPETENCY STANDARDS**1 Elements of competency: Knowledge and Skill Base**

1.3.a Knowledge and Skill Base - In-depth understanding of specialist bodies of knowledge within the engineering discipline: Proficiently applies advanced technical knowledge and skills in at least one specialist practice domain of the engineering discipline.

1.3 Knowledge and Skill Base: In-depth understanding of specialist bodies of knowledge within the engineering discipline.**2 Elements of competency: Engineering Application Ability**

2.1.a Engineering Application Ability - Application of established engineering methods to complex engineering problem solving: Identifies, discerns and characterises salient issues, determines and analyses causes and effects, justifies and applies appropriate simplifying assumptions, predicts performance and behaviour, synthesises solution strategies and develops substantiated conclusions.

2.2.d Engineering Application Ability - Fluent application of engineering techniques, tools and resources: Applies a wide range of engineering tools for analysis, simulation, visualisation, synthesis and design, including assessing the accuracy and limitations of such tools, and validation of their results.

2.3.a Engineering Application Ability - Application of systematic engineering synthesis and design processes: Proficiently applies technical knowledge and open ended problem solving skills as well as appropriate tools and resources to design components, elements, systems, plant, facilities and/or processes to satisfy user requirements.

2.1 Engineering Application Ability: Application of established engineering methods to complex engineering problem solving.**2.2 Engineering Application Ability: Fluent application of engineering techniques, tools and resources.****2.3 Engineering Application Ability: Application of systematic engineering synthesis and design processes.****5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?**

Refer to the [Unisc Glossary of terms](#) for definitions of "pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites".

5.1. Pre-requisites

Not applicable

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

5.4. Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Not applicable

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1. Grading Scale

Standard Grading (GRD)

High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL).

6.2. Details of early feedback on progress

Early feedback will be provided through completion of weekly activities in workshops. Furthermore, feedback on each assessment will be provided which will be used to help with the following assessment.

6.3. Assessment tasks

DELIVERY MODE	TASK NO.	ASSESSMENT PRODUCT	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	WEIGHTING %	WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH?	WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT?	WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT?
All	1	Written Piece	Individual	40%	2 x 1000 words	Throughout teaching period (refer to Format)	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	2	Case Study	Individual	30%	1500 words	Week 12	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	3	Examination - Centrally Scheduled	Individual	30%	2 hours	Exam Period	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check

All - Assessment Task 1: Written Piece

GOAL:	Through this task, the students develop understanding on the underlying theories and operational principles of robotics and autonomous systems. The students will carry out studies and implementations using hardware and robotic components to validate their theoretical understandings on the emerging topics in modern robotic and autonomous systems	
PRODUCT:	Written Piece	
FORMAT:	Utilise a problem based approach to develop a novel autonomous approach to a defined problem. Two submissions (Week 4 and Week 8)	
CRITERIA:	<p>No.</p> <p>1 Development and analysis of autonomous algorithms to demonstrate autonomous systems capabilities.</p> <p>2 Perform classification and pattern recognition using artificial intelligence and suitable methodologies to solve robotic control problems.</p> <p>3 Application of tools to design, develop and optimize intelligent models based on artificial intelligence methodologies.</p> <p>4 Implementation of technical knowledge and skills to design and develop intelligent robotics products</p> <p>5 Demonstration of advanced knowledge of robotics and autonomous systems.</p> <p>6 Application of advanced technical knowledge to interpret and discriminate the development of various optimization and machine learning algorithms / techniques.</p>	Learning Outcome assessed
GENERIC SKILLS:	Problem solving, Organisation	

All - Assessment Task 2: Project-Based Case Study

GOAL:	Relevant tasks and problems to enforce understanding of the students and help in gradual development of knowledge and skills throughout the course	
PRODUCT:	Case Study	
FORMAT:	Relevant tasks and problems to enforce understanding of the students and help in gradual development of knowledge and skills throughout the course	
CRITERIA:	No. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Development and analysis of autonomous algorithms to demonstrate autonomous systems capabilities. 3 2 Application of tools to design, develop and optimize intelligent models based on artificial intelligence methodologies. 5 3 Implementation of technical knowledge and skills to design and develop intelligent robotics products 6 4 Demonstration of advanced knowledge of robotics and autonomous systems. 2 5 Application of advanced technical knowledge to interpret and discriminate the development of various optimization and machine learning algorithms / techniques. 1 	Learning Outcome assessed
GENERIC SKILLS:	Organisation, Information literacy	

All - Assessment Task 3: Examination

GOAL:	The final exam will develop your ability to independently apply your skills and knowledge to solve familiar problem-based questions with confidence within a set time limit and without access to additional resources.	
PRODUCT:	Examination - Centrally Scheduled	
FORMAT:	Questions and problems related to the course contents	
CRITERIA:	No. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Development and analysis of autonomous algorithms to demonstrate autonomous systems capabilities. 3 2 Application of tools to design, develop and optimize intelligent models based on artificial intelligence methodologies. 5 3 Implementation of technical knowledge and skills to design and develop intelligent robotics products 6 4 Demonstration of advanced knowledge of robotics and autonomous systems. 2 5 Application of advanced technical knowledge to interpret and discriminate the development of various optimization and machine learning algorithms / techniques. 1 	Learning Outcome assessed
GENERIC SKILLS:	Problem solving	

7. Directed study hours

A 12-unit course will have total of 150 learning hours which will include directed study hours (including online if required), self-directed learning and completion of assessable tasks. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note: Course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Canvas site—Please log in as soon as possible.

8.1. Prescribed text(s) or course reader

There are no required/recommended resources for this course.

8.2. Specific requirements

Not applicable

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low. It is your responsibility to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers and understand the health and safety risks associated with your specific course of study and to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online induction training for students](#), and following the instructions of the University staff.

10. What administrative information is relevant to this course?

10.1. Assessment: Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the ethical standard of university participation. It ensures that students graduate as a result of proving they are competent in their discipline. This is integral in maintaining the value of academic qualifications. Each industry has expectations and standards of the skills and knowledge within that discipline and these are reflected in assessment.

Academic integrity means that you do not engage in any activity that is considered to be academic fraud; including plagiarism, collusion or outsourcing any part of any assessment item to any other person. You are expected to be honest and ethical by completing all work yourself and indicating in your work which ideas and information were developed by you and which were taken from others. You cannot provide your assessment work to others. You are also expected to provide evidence of wide and critical reading, usually by using appropriate academic references.

In order to minimise incidents of academic fraud, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Canvas, are electronically checked through Turnitin. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work to which Turnitin has access.

10.2. Assessment: Additional Requirements

Eligibility for Supplementary Assessment

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:

- (a) The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%; and
- (b) The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

Eligibility for Supplementary Assessment

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- The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%
- The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale
- You have not failed an assessment task in the course due to academic misconduct

10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submissions may be penalised up to and including the following maximum percentage of the assessment task's identified value, with weekdays and weekends included in the calculation of days late:

- (a) One day: deduct 5%;
- (b) Two days: deduct 10%;
- (c) Three days: deduct 20%;
- (d) Four days: deduct 40%;
- (e) Five days: deduct 60%;
- (f) Six days: deduct 80%;
- (g) Seven days: A result of zero is awarded for the assessment task.

The following penalties will apply for a late submission for an online examination:

Less than 15 minutes: No penalty

From 15 minutes to 30 minutes: 20% penalty

More than 30 minutes: 100% penalty

10.4. SafeUniSC

UniSC is committed to a culture of respect and providing a safe and supportive environment for all members of our community. For immediate assistance on campus contact SafeUniSC by phone: [07 5430 1168](#) or using the [SafeZone](#) app. For general enquiries contact the SafeUniSC team by phone [07 5456 3864](#) or email safe@usc.edu.au.

The SafeUniSC Specialist Service is a Student Wellbeing service that provides free and confidential support to students who may have experienced or observed behaviour that could cause fear, offence or trauma. To contact the service call [07 5430 1226](#) or email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au.

10.5. Study help

For help with course-specific advice, for example what information to include in your assessment, you should first contact your tutor, then your course coordinator, if needed.

If you require additional assistance, the Learning Advisers are trained professionals who are ready to help you develop a wide range of academic skills. Visit the [Learning Advisers](#) web page for more information, or contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or studentcentral@usc.edu.au.

10.6. Wellbeing Services

Student Wellbeing provide free and confidential counselling on a wide range of personal, academic, social and psychological matters, to foster positive mental health and wellbeing for your academic success.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 1226.

10.7. AccessAbility Services

Ability Advisers ensure equal access to all aspects of university life. If your studies are affected by a disability, learning disorder mental health issue, injury or illness, or you are a primary carer for someone with a disability or who is considered frail and aged, [AccessAbility Services](#) can provide access to appropriate reasonable adjustments and practical advice about the support and facilities available to you throughout the University.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email AccessAbility@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 2890.

10.8. Links to relevant University policy and procedures

For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:

- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Conduct
- Students with a Disability

For more information, visit <https://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

10.9. Student Charter

UniSC is committed to excellence in teaching, research and engagement in an environment that is inclusive, inspiring, safe and respectful. The [Student Charter](#) sets out what students can expect from the University, and what in turn is expected of students, to achieve these outcomes.

10.10. General Enquiries

In person:

- **UniSC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **UniSC Moreton Bay** - Service Centre, Ground Floor, Foundation Building, Gympie Road, Petrie
- **UniSC SouthBank** - Student Central, Building A4 (SW1), 52 Merivale Street, South Brisbane
- **UniSC Gympie** - Student Central, 71 Cartwright Road, Gympie
- **UniSC Fraser Coast** - Student Central, Student Central, Building A, 161 Old Maryborough Rd, Hervey Bay
- **UniSC Caboolture** - Student Central, Level 1 Building J, Cnr Manley and Tallon Street, Caboolture

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890

Email: studentcentral@usc.edu.au