

<b>Title</b>	<b>Complete an investigation into the ecological niche of an animal species, with guidance</b>		
<b>Level</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>4</b>

<b>Purpose</b>	People credited with this unit standard are able to, with guidance: describe the ecological niche of an animal species; and investigate and report an aspect of the animal species' ecological niche.
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<b>Classification</b>	Science > Biology
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<b>Available grade</b>	Achieved
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### Guidance Information

- 1 Ethical considerations that need to be met include:
  - a meeting requirements of relevant legislation, codes of practice, and industry standards;
  - b obtaining approval from the appropriate ethics committee;
  - c adhering to procedures required by the animal ethics committee.
  
- 2 Definitions
 

*Ecological niche* is defined as the role of an organism in a community in terms of the habitat it occupies, its interactions with other organisms, and its effect on the environment.

*Adaptive features* refers to structural, behavioural, and physiological.
  
- 3 *With guidance* means the assessor supports the candidate throughout the investigation; however the investigation is candidate driven. The assessor may set the parameters and provide general information. The assessor will monitor candidate progress, solve problems through questioning the candidate, provide resource suggestions, and suggest possible new directions in the investigation. Scientific reporting guidelines should be provided that set the procedures.
  
- 4 An investigation is an activity which includes: a statement of the purpose; testable question or prediction; collecting, recording, and processing data relevant to the purpose; and interpreting and reporting the findings in a scientific report. The candidate will collect primary data which may relate to biotic and/or abiotic factors. The nature of the investigation could be the manipulation of a variable (fair test), the investigation of a pattern, or relationship, or the use of simple models. If a variable is manipulated, or a relationship investigated it may or may not have an effect on the adaptive feature/s of the animal species.

- 5 Health and Safety practices must conform to Australian/New Zealand Standard (AS/NZS) 2243:2010 Set *Safety in Laboratories*, available at <http://www.standards.co.nz> and <http://infostore.saiglobal.com/store>.
- 6 Legislation applicable to this unit standard includes:  
Health and Safety at Work Act 2015  
Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996  
Animal Welfare Act 1999.

## Outcomes and performance criteria

### Outcome 1

Describe the ecological niche of an animal species.

#### Performance criteria

- 1.1 The physical habitat is described in relation to an animal species' ecological niche.
- 1.2 The adaptive features of the animal are described in relation to the animal species' habitat and/or niche.
- Range evidence of at least two different types of adaptive features is required.

### Outcome 2

Investigate and report an aspect of the animal species' ecological niche.

#### Performance criteria

- 2.1 A variable is manipulated and/or measured to establish the effect on one adaptive feature.
- 2.2 A valid conclusion is made which is supported by the processed data.
- 2.3 The formal scientific report is presented in a form consistent with the investigation and report procedures.

<b>Planned review date</b>	31 December 2020
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**Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions**

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	21 December 1995	31 December 2013
Review	2	31 October 1996	31 December 2013
Revision	3	7 July 1999	31 December 2013
Revision	4	13 March 2003	31 December 2013
Review	5	20 September 2012	N/A
Rollover and Revision	6	15 June 2017	N/A

**Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference**

0226

This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

**Comments on this unit standard**

Please contact NZQA National Qualifications Services [nqs@nzqa.govt.nz](mailto:nqs@nzqa.govt.nz) if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.