

Assigned Academic Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

## MA Research Project Agreement Form

Student name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

	Signature	Date
Research Advisor: (Print name)		
Second Reader: (Print name)		
Title of Project:		
Expectations of Project:		

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Notes:**

**Research Advisor:** This is the person who will be supervising your research project. This person must be on the graduate faculty roster, but may be in the Department of Biological Sciences or in another department within the University. This person should have research expertise in the field, has

responsibility for your day-to-day supervision of your activities, and in combination with your academic advisor, will assign a grade for your research each semester.

**Second Reader:** The second reader must also be a member of the graduate faculty roster. If your Research Advisor is outside of the Department of Biological Sciences, your second reader must be in the department. The second reader should also have research expertise in the field.

**Title of Project:** The title should give a clear indication of the kind of research that will be carried out. The title of the project may change over the course of research experience

**Expectations of Project:** This should be a brief summation of the nature of the research experience that you will undertake. Are you going to be performing laboratory experiments, analyzing preexisting datasets, or reviewing literature? If your project is going to be reviewing literature, please note that this project cannot be a book report of the literature – at minimum, your project should be centered on a scientific question that is thoroughly discussed using primary literature, and may include a set of proposed experiments that would allow you to interrogate the question. Please briefly outline the nature of the work that will be completed as your master's research project, along with an expected time line for completion. Please also include an expected time frame for when you plan to present your project at MA graduate student seminar (semester/year). If you and/or your research advisor have any questions about whether your proposed project is acceptable for your MA research project, please contact Dr. Mary Bisson or Dr. Dave Hoekstra for guidance.

**Graduate student seminar presentation:** This seminar represents the progress of the research progress by the student to date. It is **NOT** a final defense, and it is acceptable to present proposed experiments and expected results. Both the research advisor and the second reader must be present at the seminar – failure to comply with this requirement may result in rescheduling of your seminar. Please confirm with your committee well in advance of the seminar, and remind them as the date approached.

**Masters Project Summary:** The nature of the final submission of the masters project summary will be negotiated with the research supervisor and second reader, and will vary depending on the nature of the project. If you are successful at getting your research published, it is acceptable to use this publication as your masters project summary. At minimum, this document should include a written description of the work that was performed, and should include the following sections: Background, Question, Hypothesis, Methods, Results, and Discussion. Please note: your research advisor and second reader will not sign your M-form until they are satisfied with the quality of the project summary. To allow your committee members enough time to read and comment on your summary, plan on giving committee members a rough draft of the document **four weeks** before the M-form due date, with a final draft no later than **two weeks** before M-form due date.