

Department of Chemistry - Macquarie University

Student Learning Experiences in the Laboratory

This survey will be used by the Department of Chemistry for the purpose of maintaining or improving the quality of this experiment for teaching purposes. Your cooperation in completing this anonymous form is greatly appreciated. It is not connected in any way to your assessment for this unit. Completion of this survey is voluntary.

Occasionally we would like to release this information into the public domain, for instance through presentations at conferences and publication in articles for journals. Such publication encourages discussion on good teaching practice. We would appreciate receiving your permission to publish your anonymous comment. If you **do not** wish to release your comments, please tick the box below.

I do not give permission for my comments to be used beyond the Department of Chemistry, Macquarie University.

The ethical aspects of this study have been approved by the Macquarie University Ethics Review Committee (Human Research). If you have any complaints or reservations about any ethical aspect of your participation in this research, you may contact the Committee through the Research Ethics Officer (telephone [02] 9850 7854, fax [02] 9850 8799, email: kdesilva@vc.mq.edu.au). Any complaint you make will be treated in confidence and investigated, and you will be informed of the outcome.

Unit: CHEM207

Experiment Name or Number: EXP 2: ELECTRONIC SPECTRA OF COLOURED COMPOUNDS

1 Did this experiment help you to understand the theory and concepts of the topic? If so, how, or if not, why not?

The theory for this experiment had not been covered in lectures at the time I did my experiment. Therefore, understanding what was happening was difficult. However, the experiment did help me to get a good understanding of the topics covered before our lectures, and thus when it was covered in lectures, I was ahead of the rest, so to speak.

2 How is this experiment relevant to you in terms of your interests and goals?

This experiment will help me to understand the topics in 207, pass the course and go on to 3rd year chemistry units.

3 Did you find this experiment interesting? If so, what aspects of this experiment did you find of interesting? If not, why not?

The experiment was interesting because we were able to use the UV spectrometers in the lab. I had not used this instrument before, so it was a little exciting.

4 Can the experiment be completed comfortably in the allocated time? Is there time to reflect on the tasks while performing them?

The allocated time, for me, was OK, but I still finished at 6:00. However, due to the experiment being hard to understand, time was spent trying to figure out what actually was happening.

5 Does this experiment require teamwork and if so, in what way? Was this aspect of the experiment beneficial?

Working in pairs on the experiment meant some form of teamwork was necessary. I was paired with a friend of mine, so we worked well together. We were able to allocate tasks and thus finish the experiment in the given time.

6 Did you have the opportunity to take responsibility for your own learning, and to be active as learners?

Not really, because both my partner and I had trouble understanding the concepts involved in the experiment. Most times when we did not know something, the demonstrator would assist us.

7 Does this experiment provide for the possibility of a range of student abilities and interests? If so, how?

The experiment is a bit boring, in the sense that you don't get to do anything "hands on". The machine does all the work. For those who like organic chemistry, these physical analyses' would be boring, and beyond their comprehension.

8 Did the laboratory notes, demonstrators' guidance and any other resources help you in learning from this experiment? If so, how?

The demonstrator was the one that helped us through the experiment. The lab notes told us what to do, and how to do it, but the demonstrator told us what was happening.

9 Are there any other features of this experiment that made it a particularly good or bad learning experience for you?

No.

10 What improvements could be made to this experiment?

I can't think of any, as it is something that needs to be done. And this method of spectroscopy, or all spectroscopy techniques can be boring, but are essential tools to the chemist.

11 Any Other Comments