Honours in Psychology
2020

Presented by
A/Prof Irina Harris
School of Psychology
Why do the honours year?

- To be eligible for registration as a psychologist
- To meet requirements for entry into postgraduate professional courses (eg. clinical psychology)
- To meet requirements for entry into postgraduate research courses (eg. PhD)
- To broaden employment opportunities
- To bring together the knowledge and skills you have gained in psychology
What is involved in the honours year?

- One year full-time study
- There is no mid-year intake
What is involved in the honours year?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What?</th>
<th>When?</th>
<th>Worth...</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Empirical Thesis</td>
<td>Semester 1 and 2</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theoretical Thesis</td>
<td>Semester 1</td>
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<td>OR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two Advanced Seminars (each is worth 12.5%)</td>
<td>Semester 1</td>
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<td>Advanced Psychometrics</td>
<td>Semester 1</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction to Clinical Practice</td>
<td>August Intensive</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
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Note: the weightings of some of these components are different from 2020 compared to previous years.
What is involved in the honours year?

– The **Empirical Thesis** (the whole year)
– 9,000 to 12,000 words
– Design, conduct, analyse and write up research developed under supervision

– Quite unlike anything you have done before – a large research project

– Appreciate the importance of the research process in psychology – an evidence-based discipline
What is involved in the honours year?

- **Theoretical Thesis** (HPSC3023 is a requirement) – 8,000 words (Sem 1)
  OR
- **Two Advanced Seminars** (Sem 1)
  - Written assignment and usually a presentation/participation component

Seminar topics vary, depending on staff availability, e.g.:

- Language
- Brain representations: The spaces inside our heads
- Psycho-oncology
- Visual Memory
- Developmental Neuropsychology
- Animal learning & cognition
- Sex and Sexuality
- Personality traits: Verbal trickery or the real deal?
- Mindfulness: Research and practice
- Individual differences
- Forensic psychology in the court
- Animal learning & cognition
- LGBTIQ individuals and the health care system
What is involved in the honours year?

– Advanced Psychometrics (Sem 1)
  – Advanced statistics and research design
  – Psychometrics
  – Choice of workshops

– Introduction to Clinical Practice (August intensive period)
What is involved in the honours year?

**Semester One (sample)**

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<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tues</th>
<th>Wed</th>
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<td>Research Methods Lecture</td>
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<td>Advanced Seminar #2</td>
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<td>Advanced Seminar #1</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Research Methods Lecture</td>
<td>Advanced Seminar #2</td>
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- there will also be a pre-semester induction/ethics workshop
- the Research Methods Tutorials are only for the first 8 weeks of semester
- there will also be two Research Methods Workshops during STUVAC
What is involved in Honours in Psychology?

**Semester Two (sample)**

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<td>Introduction to Clinical Practice</td>
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This component is in the August Intensive period, starts just before Semester 2 and finishes up in early September.
What makes a successful Honours year?

– Self discipline
– Time management
– Collegiality
– Responsibility and integrity
Psychology Honours – People to know

A/Prof Irina Harris: Honours Coordinator

Dr Rebecca Pinkus: Empirical Thesis Coordinator

Dr Fiona Hibberd: Theoretical Thesis Coordinator

Honours Educational Officer: psychology.honours@sydney.edu.au
Honours in Psychology 2020

Applying for Honours

- Check you are in an APAC accredited UG degree; e.g., for post-2018 degrees you need to have completed the Psychology PROGRAM.

- Students in a Faculty of Science degree (BSc, GDP, BLAS) must have a WAM > 65 to be eligible for Honours; students in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences must have a WAM > 70; students in B Psych must have met the progression criteria, otherwise they would apply via a BSc or BA.

- The top ~85 applicants are offered a place. The cut-off is around 75, but varies year to year.

- Applicants are ranked based on their performance in 24 credit points of Intermediate Psychology and the best 24 credit points of Senior Psychology. Senior Psychology Units are weighted twice as much as Intermediate Units.

- HPSC3023 and TSP units can count.

- Only BPsych students are able to defer a place in Honours. Other applicants would need to re-apply.
Honours in Psychology

Where to find information? (3 ways to get to the same info)

  (scroll down to find the section for Psychology)

– School of Psychology website > ‘Study with Us’ > Undergraduate > “honours”
  (this will take you to the page linked above for the Faculty of Science)

– on Canvas… Science Student Portal > School of Psychology Student Portal >
  Psychology Honours > Entry into Honours and How to Apply

What information to note?

– the ‘Honours Information Booklet’ (currently 2019, will be updated)

– the ‘Honours Application Mark Calculator’

– the link to the ‘School Application’

– the link to the ‘University Application’
Honours in Psychology – Two-Step Application Process

School Application

– regardless of your degree or internal/external status, everyone must complete the School Application

– this will open on Tue 1st Oct and close on Sat 30th Nov

University Application (Sydney Courses)

– the receipt you get from the School Application must be attached to your University Application in the section that asks for ‘Evidence of contacting a supervisor’

– internal BPsysch students do not have to complete this, whereas all other applicants, both internal and external, must complete the University Application
Honours in Psychology – For the University Application

Internal students who commenced their degree prior to 2018

– you will be applying for either BSc(Hons), BA(Hons), BLAS(Hons), etc, depending on your degree now

Internal students who commenced their degree from 2018 onwards

If you are currently in a BSc or BA, you will be applying for a Bachelor of Advanced Studies (Hons) (BAS(Hons))

– If you are in a combined BSc/BAS or BA/BAS, you will be able to enrol in the BAS directly through Sydney Student – i.e., no separate University application required.

  o Provide the School application receipt when asked for “Evidence of contacting supervisor”
Honours in Psychology – For the University Application

External students

— you will be applying for Bachelor of Advanced Studies (Hons) – BAS(Hons)
# Honours in Psychology

**Timeline (indicative)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 30&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Nov</td>
<td>School Application closes</td>
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<td>Late December / Early January</td>
<td>First round offers</td>
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<td>Early-Mid January</td>
<td>Deadline to accept/reject first round offer</td>
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<td>Mid January</td>
<td>Second round offers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Late January</td>
<td>Deadline to accept/reject second round offer</td>
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<td>Mid-February</td>
<td>Orientation and other related pre-semester workshops</td>
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Honours Research Topics

- You will be asked to nominate and rank areas of research interest – these preferences are very important, as they are used to allocate students to supervisors.
- Many possible areas available – check the School of Psychology website > Our Research
  - Consider doing an experimental, lab-based project
- Projects are also available outside the School:
  - The Woolcock Institute for Medical Research
    - Projects involving cognitive and psychological function in a range of sleep disorders
  - The Chris O’Brien Lifehouse
    - Projects in Psycho-oncology
  - The Frontier Dementia Clinic or the Healthy Brain Aging Clinic at The Brain and Mind Centre / Charles Perkins Centre
  - The Lambert Initiative
Honours Scholarships

Honours scholarships worth $6,000 are available to meritorious students

More information:

https://sydney.edu.au/scholarships/e/honours-scholarship.html
Honours in Psychology – What next?

— Stay tuned to locations mentioned in ‘Where to find information?’
— Once those locations have updated documents, read the Honours Information Booklet
— Once Tue 1\textsuperscript{st} Oct has passed, begin your School Application, and once completed, begin your University Application