Honours in Asian Studies

The Asian Studies Program

Overview

‘Honours’ is an intensive year-long program of advanced study with research at its centre. The Honours year enables students to engage with the subject of their major in depth by undertaking research of their own, under the supervision of an expert in their field. For some students, Honours is the culmination of their formal education while for others, it is the first step on the path to careers as professional researchers and academics. Many staff in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences find Honours teaching the most rewarding part of their job.

Entry Requirements and Program Structure

Entry Requirements for Honours and Unit Descriptions of Honours Seminar and Thesis Units can be found in the Subject Area section for the Department of Arabic Language and Cultures in the Arts and Social Sciences Undergraduate Handbook. Please also see the Sydney Courses Honours page for more information.

Students intending to complete Honours must have a major in Asian Studies with an average of 70% or above, including ASNS3690 Approaches to Research in Asian Studies, or an equivalent subject if entering Honours from another university. Students in the Bachelor of Arts/B Advanced Studies (Honours) degree are expected to have completed a second major by the time they begin Honours.

The Honours program consists of two seminars and an 18,000-20,000-word thesis on a topic in the corresponding area of interest. As with the undergraduate Asian Studies major, all units and the thesis will be in English. However, students with Asian-language proficiency are encouraged to utilise sources in that language for their thesis research.

Students whose bachelor’s degree was undertaken at another university, or students who completed their bachelor’s degrees at the University of Sydney more than two years ago, should contact the Honours Coordinator to discuss whether the classes they have taken are equivalent to these prerequisites.

Important note: Meeting the minimum entry requirements does not guarantee entry into the Honours programme. Honours places can only be granted where there is supervisory capacity. This will usually be determined in consultation with the relevant Honours Co-ordinator.
Assessment

The Honours program in Asian Studies consists of:

1. A thesis written under the supervision of one or more members of the academic staff.
2. Two seminars that meet weekly for two hours during one semester each.

The thesis should be of 18000-20000 words in length. Each seminar requires 6000 words of written work. The thesis is worth 60% of the final Honours mark and each of the seminars is worth 20%.

As with the undergraduate Asian Studies major, all units and the thesis will be in English. However, students with Asian-language proficiency are encouraged to utilise sources in that language for their thesis research.

Seminars

Students should consult with the Honours Coordinator regarding seminar offerings in the current year.

Thesis

The Honours thesis constitutes an original piece of research and writing in a field that can be supervised by a member of staff. It amounts to 18000-20000 words of writing in English and must demonstrate both a command of a wide range of secondary source material in Asian studies, as well as a command of a particular disciplinary or interdisciplinary approach to the topic of the research.

Thesis Supervision

Students are invited to contact the Program's Honours Coordinator to discuss their preferred field of Honours study. The Honours Coordinator will then be able to suggest the most appropriate member of staff within the department to supervise the thesis.

Enrolment

In the first instance you should discuss your intention to apply for Honours with the Honours Coordinator.

Once you have been accepted into the Honours program by the Honours Coordinator (or Coordinators for Joint Honours) please go to Sydney Courses and locate your Degree with Honours (e.g. Bachelor of Arts Honours). Click on ‘Apply’ on the right-hand side.

Please note: although there is a note below ‘Apply’ that indicates that the information is for prospective students, current students are also deemed ‘prospective students’ for Honours and therefore need to apply through Sydney Student.

Contacts

The Honours Coordinator can answer any queries relating to the Honours program.