Honours in Chinese Studies

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 other students, Honours 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.

The Department also offers joint honours with other departments in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

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 Chinese Studies in the Arts and Social Sciences Undergraduate Handbook. Please also see the Sydney Courses Honours page for more information.

The Honours program in Chinese Studies will provide you with an opportunity to engage in in-depth study of social, political, cultural, literary or linguistic topics related to Chinese Studies.

All students with good academic records in Chinese Studies should consider an Honours year. There will be a range of options for students with different levels of Chinese language proficiency and research interest; however, the more Chinese you have learned before you start, the more interesting the options that will be available to you. The minimum requirements for admission to Honours are as follows:

1) If you commenced your degree prior to 2018: Admission to Honours requires a major in Chinese Studies with an average of 70 percent or above.

2) If you commenced your degree in 2018: Admission to Honours is via the Bachelor of Advanced Studies and requires the completion of a major in Chinese Studies plus sufficient additional credit points selected from other China-focused units of study to reach 48 senior credit points. An average of 70 percent or above is required in all qualifying units.

You will need to ensure you have completed all other requirements of the Bachelor of Advanced Studies, including Open Learning Environment (OLE) units and a second major, prior to commencing Honours.

You are advised to consider taking ASNS3690 Approaches to Research in Asian Studies, in the semester before you intend to commence honours.
Assessment
You will be assessed based on a thesis (18000-20000 words) and two seminars: the thesis worth 60% of the final Honours result and the seminars 40% (each seminar 20%).

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

In consultation with the supervisor and with the approval of the Chair of the Department, students can also select seminars from other programs in the Faculty of Arts. The Department also offers joint Honours supervision with other programs.

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 and must demonstrate both a command of a sufficient range of primary source material in the Chinese language, as well as a command of a particular disciplinary or interdisciplinary approach to the topic of the research.

Thesis Supervision
In the first instance, students should contact the 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. See the departmental Academic Staff List to get an idea of the research interests of staff.

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.