Department of Media and Communications
Honours information
2019

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Closing date for 2019 Honours applications in Media and Communications / Digital Cultures:
22/10/2018

Honours in Media and Communications / Honours in Digital Cultures
The Department of Media and Communications offers two Honours Programs:
Honours in Media and Communications
Honours in Digital Cultures

What is Honours?
The Honours year is an intensive program of advanced study with research at its centre. It allows students to further explore ideas and concepts introduced in their undergraduate degree and develop skills and approaches that will enhance their abilities as researchers and practitioners in media and communications and/or digital cultures.

An Honours qualification is highly prized by employers because it demonstrates that you have the discipline and skills to thoroughly research, write and manage a project to completion.

An Honours year is also traditionally considered to be the first step on the path to careers as professional researchers and academics, and prepares students to undertake a research higher degree in the form of an MPhil or PhD.

The Honours program is a mix of coursework and individual research, designed to allow students to develop their research skills and to conduct their own research project, under academic supervision. In their Honours year, students develop skills in critical analysis and research methodologies and work closely with an academic supervisor to design their own research project, on a personally selected topic, culminating in an 18-20,000 word thesis.

Note: Mid year enrolment is not available. Part time enrolment is not available. Students from other institutions may be accepted into the program, and are requested to provide samples of previous academic work as well as a proposal. Please contact the Honours coordinator, ideally by early November in the year prior to intended enrolment.
Applying for Honours

Students who are in their final semester, or who have completed their Bachelor degree at the University of Sydney or another university, are eligible to apply.

From 2018-2020, in addition to the requirements in the degree resolutions, admission to Honours in Media and Communications requires:
(i) an average of 70 percent or better in Media and Communications

Honours in Media and Communications requires 48 credit points from this table including:
(i) 12 credit points of 4000 level Honours seminar units
(ii) 36 credit points of 4000 level Honours thesis units

From 2021, in addition to the requirements in the degree resolutions, admission to Honours in Media and Communications requires:
(i) An average of 70 percent or better in Media and Communications
(ii) 24 credit points of 1000-level core units
(iii) 18 credit points of 2000-level core units
(iv) 6 credit points of 2000-level selective units
(v) 18 credit points of 3000-level core units
(vi) 6 credit points of interdisciplinary project unit
(vii) Completion of a second major

Honours in Media and Communications requires 48 credit points from this table including:
(i) 12 credit points of 4000-level Honours seminar units
(ii) 6 credit points of 4000-level Internship unit
(iii) 30 credit points of 4000-level Honours thesis units

From 2018-2020, in addition to the requirements in the degree resolutions, admission to Honours in Digital Cultures requires:
A major in Digital Cultures with a WAM of 70 or above

From 2020/2021, in addition to the requirements in the degree resolutions, admission to Honours in Digital Cultures requires:
A major in Digital Cultures with a WAM of 70 or above
A second major

Honours in Digital Cultures requires 48 credit points from this table including:
(i) 12 credit points of 4000 level Honours seminar units
(ii) 36 credit points of 4000-level Honours thesis units

Potential Honours students must also consult with the Honours Coordinator, Dr Fiona Giles, before making their application through Sydney Student. All students interested in applying for Honours must make an appointment to speak with the Honours Coordinator as early as possible and definitely before the end of October in the year prior to their intended enrolment.
It is in the student's interest to have a reasonably well-developed idea of what his or her area of research will be so that an appropriate Supervisor can be arranged. Students may wish to refer to the staff profiles on the Department homepage to gain an understanding of the research strengths and interests of the department. Students should not confine their attention to academics who have taught them before, and should not hesitate to seek advice from the Honours Coordinator about possible supervisors.

All students applying for Honours must submit a research proposal to the Honours Coordinator via email (Word doc. attachment) by the end of November in the year prior to their planned enrolment. This will enable the coordinator to determine whether appropriate supervision will be available in the following year.

The Honours Proposal should outline the intended research project (minimum 1500 words) and include:

- A description of the field the student is interested in studying for the thesis and a question/problem within that field that he or she believes requires investigation.
- A brief literature review that outlines the key theorists in the field, identifying where the student believes his or her work will enhance the existing body of work and/or address a gap in knowledge.
- You may email the Honours Coordinator for a past example of a thesis proposal.

Email: fiona.giles@sydney.edu.au

Further information about Honours in Media and Communications and Honours in Digital Cultures can be found in the Faculty Handbook.

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.

Scholarships

As an Honours candidate, you write a 15,000 word thesis. This is done under the supervision of a member of the department who has some expertise in the field in which you choose to work. To supplement your supervision, we provide a comprehensive series of seminars on scholarly research and writing throughout the year. These are designed to help you at each stage of your project. Due at the end of the October recess, your thesis is worth 40% of your overall mark.

You will also take three coursework options, usually two in semester one and one in semester two. For each of these, you will attend a weekly 2 hour seminar. For English Honours students, one of these can be chosen from amongst the Australian Literature Honours options. Each of these is worth 20% of your overall mark. Two of these are normally assessed by means of a long essay, the precise topic of which you develop in conjunction with the option coordinator.

In the March semester, you nominate one of your options to be assessed by your participation in the English Honours conference. The conference is an exciting opportunity to be involved with a vibrant academic community. The paper you give at the conference is then written up and the marks divided 50/50 between oral presentation and final write-up.
The seminar options change every year, although we attempt to make sure that there is always a broad historical and generic range of topics available. Past seminars have included Troilus and Cressida, Material Culture in Victorian and Modernist Literature, Reading Whiteness, Old English/Old Norse, Reading Suburbia, Australian Literature and the Canonical Imaginary, Language and Subject, History in English, American Gothic, and The Idea of Home: Literature of Exile, Loss and Longing.

Previous Honours Theses titles include:

- Play to win: How competitive modes of play have influenced cultural practice in digital games
- Capture - Upload - Broadcast. A case study in the gatekeeping of amateur footage
- Daily Life: pink ghetto or feminist triumph? An analysis of the content of and responses to Fairfax’s women’s news website.
- I am your worst fear, I am your best fantasy: new approaches to slash fiction
- False Start: Representation of sportswomen in The Sydney Morning Herald
- Regulating the Political Blogosphere
- The Disconnect Between Journalism and Governance: A Critical Analysis of the Interaction of Journalism and Governance in the Virtual World Second Life
- The Mythic Monument and Monumental Myth: 9/11 Through Film Posters
- Telling Bodies: Reading Pro-anorexia websites in search of anorexic voices
- Niche Publications and Subcultural Authenticity: The Case of Stealth Magazine
- Difficult Territory: Reporting and Representing under the Northern Territory Permit System
- The Friend I Hate the Most: British Popular Culture, Cultural Studies and the American Other
- Informing A Distracted Audience: News Narratives in Breakfast Television
- In the Public Interest? Investigative Journalism and Fourth Estate Philosophy within the Australian Press
- Technology and Culture: Charting the Conceptualisation of Digital Audio
- Broadcasting in Australia
- So everyone’s a rock critic? Music Journalism in a Networked Society
- MySpace: a place for friends? A Study of Friendship on MySpace
- Misconceived: Representations of ‘The RU486 Debate’ in Australian Media
- Making Traks: Hip-hop subculture in Sydney (Video and discussion paper)