



The University of Sydney

Faculty of Science

Undergraduate Section
STUDENT ADMINISTRATION

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HONOURS APPLICATION INFORMATION

FOR HONOURS COMMENCING SEMESTER 1, 2006

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

HONOURS COMMENCING SEMESTER 1, 2006

Undertaking an Honours program in the Faculty of Science at the University of Sydney offers a great opportunity to enhance your research skills and increase your knowledge in a specialist area.

Admission, enrolment and administration for Honours students are shared between the Faculty of Science Office and the various Schools and Departments within the Faculty of Science.

The intention of this document is to assist you through the process of application and other administrative processes.

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Seeking Information on Projects Available

The first step to undertaking Honours is investigating whether an Honours projects available in a School/Department appeal to your research interests. At the back of this document, you will find contact details and web addresses for each of the Schools/Departments. Consult the webpage for Honours information as part of your preliminary investigations.

Requirements for Admission

Honours in the BSc (Including all streams and combined degrees), BCST, BIT, BMedSc

Admission Requirements

To qualify to enrol in an honours course, students shall

- (1) (a) have qualified for the award of a relevant pass degree from the Faculty of Science, or
(b) be a pass graduate of the Faculty of Science, or
(c) be a pass graduate holding an equivalent qualification from another institution
- (2) have completed a minimum of 24 credit points of Senior units of study relating to the intended honours course (or equivalent at another institution). Students intending to undertake Honours in Psychology need to have completed 32 credit points of Psychology at Senior level (or equivalent at another institution).
- (3) have achieved either
 - (a) a credit average in the relevant Senior units of study, or
 - (b) a SCIWAM of at least 60 (or equivalent at another institution)
- (4) satisfy any additional criteria set by the Head of Department concerned.

You should also note the following:

- Students shall complete the requirements for the honours course full-time over two consecutive semesters. If the Faculty is satisfied that a student is unable to attempt the honours course on a full-time basis and if the Head of Department concerned so recommends, permission may be granted to undertake honours half-time over four consecutive semesters. Not all Departments offer students part-time enrolment in Honours, or Honours enrolment commencing in the July semester. Students considering these types of honours enrolment are urged to contact the Department concerned.
- A student may not re-attempt an honours course in a single subject area. A student who is qualified to enrol in two honours courses may either complete the honours courses in the two subject areas separately and in succession, or complete a joint honours course, equivalent to an honours course in a single subject area, in the two subject areas. A joint honours course shall comprise such parts of the two honours courses as may be decided by the Dean.

- An interdisciplinary honours course shall comprise such parts as determined by the Coordinating Committee for the interdisciplinary course
- Note that the admission requirements for admission described above are minimal requirements. Admission is competitive on the basis of academic merit.
- Admission is subject to a suitable project and supervisor being available

Honours in the BPsych

Admission

To qualify to enrol in the honours course, students shall have completed 144 credit points as specified in Resolution 4 (1) of the BPsych including completion of all Intermediate and Senior units of study in Psychology with an average grade of Distinction or better.

You should also note the following:

- Students shall complete the requirements for the honours course full-time over two consecutive semesters. If the Faculty is satisfied that a student is unable to attempt the honours course on a full-time basis and if the Head of School of Psychology so recommends, permission may be granted to undertake honours half-time over four consecutive semesters. A student may not re-attempt an honours course.
- Note that admission to Bachelor of Psychology (Hons) degree is open only to students who have been enrolled in the Bachelor of Psychology degree at the University of Sydney.
- Students who have not been enrolled in the Bachelor of Psychology degree are most welcome to apply for admission to a Bachelor of Science degree taking their Honours year in the School of Psychology.
- Note that the admission requirements for admission described above are minimal requirements. Admission is competitive on the basis of academic merit.
- Admission is subject to a suitable project and supervisor being available

Honours in the BLibStud

Admission Requirements

To qualify to enrol in the honours course, students shall

- (1) (a) completed the Bachelor of Studies degree with the grade of Credit or
(b) be a pass graduate holding an equivalent qualification from another institution;
- (2) have completed a major at Credit average in the subject area related to the intended honours course
- (3) satisfy any additional criteria set by the Head or Chair of Department concerned.

You should also note the following:

- Students shall complete the requirements for the honours course full-time over two consecutive semesters. If the Faculty is satisfied that a student is unable to attempt the honours course on a full-time basis and if the Head of Department concerned so recommends, permission may be granted to undertake honours half-time over four consecutive semesters. Not all Departments offer students part time enrolment in Honours, or Honours enrolment commencing in the July semester. Students considering these types of honours enrolment are urged to contact the Department concerned.
- A student may not re-attempt an honours course in a single subject area. A student who is qualified to enrol in two honours courses may either complete the honours courses in the two subject areas separately and in succession, or complete a joint honours course, equivalent to an honours course in a single subject area, in the two subject areas. A joint honours course shall comprise such parts of the two honours courses as may be decided by the Dean.
- An interdisciplinary honours course shall comprise such parts as determined by the Coordinating Committee for the interdisciplinary course
- Note that the admission requirements for admission described above are minimal requirements. Admission is competitive on the basis of academic merit.
- Admission is subject to a suitable project and supervisor being available

Please note that from 2005 administration of the Bachelor of Liberal studies will be carried out by the Faculty of Arts. Lodge your honours application /pre-enrolment form with the Faculty of Arts Office.

APPLYING FOR ADMISSION TO HONOURS IN THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE

There are different modes of application for students, depending on your citizenship status, where you are completing your undergraduate degree, and when you have completed or are completing your degree.

Domestic students enrolled at the University of Sydney in semester 2, 2005, applying to commence honours in 2006

Domestic students are citizens or permanent residents of Australia and citizens of New Zealand. If you were enrolled in semester 2, 2005, you may be able to pre-enrol.

(1) Obtaining an Application form

At the back of this package is a copy of the Application Form for Admission to Honours in 2006 for Domestic students. This is similar to a pre-enrolment form.

Forms must be returned to the Faculty of Science Office by 31st October for inclusion in the first round of offers.

(2) Taking steps to get a supervisor and project

Check the School/Department webpage for Honours information and projects available. A contact list appears at the end of this guide. If you have questions about projects, or other Honours questions, contact the relevant Honours coordinator. You should make contact with the Honours coordinator around the same time, or even before you lodge your application for admission.

(3) Notification of outcome

Notification of the outcome of your application will be made by the Faculty in early January for 'first round' offers. Follow instructions carefully in your offer letter or notification of pre-enrolment.

If you are made a conditional offer, you must meet all conditions of the offer before you enrol. If you are made an offer, details for enrolment arrangements will be included in the letter.

New Domestic students and Domestic students who have already graduated from Bachelors degrees at the University of Sydney

Domestic students are citizens or permanent residents of Australia and citizens of New Zealand. If you are in this category, you need to complete a direct admission form for admission as a conversion student – that is, you hold a Bachelor's degree and you are applying to convert it to an Honours degree by undertaking an Honours year.

(1) Obtaining an Application form

All new domestic students and those who have already graduated from Bachelors degrees at the University of Sydney should obtain a direct application form and make sure you include the name of the Schools or Departments with whom you wish to undertake Honours in 2006.

To obtain an application form on-line go to:-

http://www.usyd.edu.au/su/studentcentre/applications/Bachelors_2006.pdf

Note that applications should be submitted to the Faculty of Science Office no later than 31 October 2005 for admission to Honours in semester 1, 2006.

Students who are applying for Honours from external institutions will need to include with their application:

- Original or certified proof of citizenship
- Current and original Academic Transcript (this must have been printed within the last 12 months)
- Proof of degree completion (if not on the transcript)

If at the time of application you do not have your final results, you must forward these as early as convenient after results are known. Please forward your current transcript with your application.

(2) Taking steps to get a supervisor and project

Check the School/Department webpage for Honours information and projects available. A contact list appears at the end of this guide. If you have questions about projects, or other Honours questions, contact the relevant Honours coordinator. You should make contact with the Honours coordinator around the same time, or even before you lodge your application for admission.

(3) Notification of outcome

Notification of the outcome of your application will be made by the Faculty in early January for 'first round' offers. If you are made a conditional offer, you must meet all conditions of the offer before you enrol. If you are made an offer, details for enrolment arrangements will be included in the letter.

New International students and International students who have already graduated from Bachelors degrees at the University of Sydney

(1) Obtaining an Application form

All international students should obtain an application form and international student package from the International Office. When you are completing your form, make sure you include the name of the School or Department with whom you wish to undertake Honours in 2006.

To obtain an application form on-line go to:-

<http://www.usyd.edu.au/io/>

Note that applications should be submitted to the international office no later than 31 October 2005 for admission to Honours in semester 1, 2006.

(2) Taking steps to get a supervisor and project

Check the School/Department webpage for Honours information and projects available. A contact list appears at the end of this guide. If you have questions about projects, or other Honours questions, contact the relevant Honours coordinator. You should make contact with the Honours coordinator around the same time, or even before you lodge your application for admission.

(3) Notification of outcome

Notification of the outcome of your application takes 6-12 weeks. If you are made a conditional offer, you must meet all conditions of the offer before you enrol.

Continuing International Students

If you are enrolled at the University of Sydney in the last semester of your degree, and you are an international student, you are considered to be a continuing International student.

(1) Obtaining an Application form

All international students should obtain an application form and international student package from the International Office. When you are completing your form, make sure you include the name of the School or Department with whom you intend to undertake Honours in 2006.

To obtain an application form on-line go to:-

<http://www.usyd.edu.au/io/>

Note that continuing students do not have to pay an application fee.

Applications should be lodged at the International Office no later than 31 October 2005.

(2) Taking steps to get a supervisor and project

Check the School/Department webpage for Honours information and projects available. A contact list appears at the end of this guide. If you have questions about projects, or other Honours questions, contact the relevant Honours coordinator. You should make contact with the Honours coordinator around the same time, or even before you lodge your application for admission. It is very important that you contact the School/Department.

(3) Notification of outcome

Notification of the outcome of your application takes 6-12 weeks. If you are made a conditional offer, you must meet all conditions of the offer before you enrol.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- Preliminary fact-finding – I have checked that the School/Department offers a project of interest to me by looking at the website
- I have contacted the School/Departmental coordinator for details of School/Departmental Processes that may be in addition to Faculty Processes
- I have completed the correct application form, including all the documentation required on the form
- I have kept a photocopy of my application, and have stored it in a safe place

OTHER HONOURS INFORMATION

Grades of Honours for all degrees

To qualify for the award of an honours degree, students shall complete 48 credit points of honours units of study in the table of Honours units of study, as prescribed by the Head of Department concerned (at least 42 credit points of Honours level units of study for the BIT(Hons)).

The grade of honours and the honours mark are determined by performance in the honours course. The Faculty has adopted the following guidelines for assessment of student performance in honours:

95–100

Outstanding First Class quality of clear Medal standard, demonstrating independent thought throughout, a flair for the subject, comprehensive knowledge of the subject area and a level of achievement similar to that expected by first rate academic journals. This mark reflects an exceptional achievement with a high degree of initiative and self-reliance, considerable student input into the direction of the study, and critical evaluation of the established work in the area.

90–94

Very high standard of work similar to above but overall performance is borderline for award of a Medal. Lower level of performance in certain categories or areas of study above.

Note: In order to qualify for the award of a university medal, it is necessary but not sufficient for a candidate to achieve a SCIWAM of 80 or greater and an honours mark of 90 or greater. Faculty has agreed that more than one medal may be awarded in the subject of an Honours course. The relevant Senate Resolution reads: ‘A candidate with an outstanding performance in the subject of an Honours course shall, if deemed of sufficient merit by the Faculty, receive a bronze medal’. Students with an honours mark of 90 or greater and a SCIWAM of 77 to 79 inclusive may be considered for the award of a university medal only if it can be demonstrated that their WAM was affected by sickness, misadventure, unusual workload or choice of units of study.

80–89

Clear First Class quality, showing a command of the field both broad and deep, with the presentation of some novel insights. Student will have shown a solid foundation of conceptual thought and a breadth of factual knowledge of the discipline, clear familiarity with and ability to use central methodology and experimental practices of the discipline, and clear evidence of some independence of thought in the subject area. Some student input into the direction of the study or development of techniques, and critical discussion of the outcomes.

75–79

Second class honours, first division – student will have shown a command of the theory and practice of the discipline. They will have demonstrated their ability to conduct work at an independent level and complete tasks in a timely manner, and have an adequate understanding of the background factual basis of the subject. Student shows some initiative but is more reliant on other people for ideas and techniques and project is dependent on supervisor’s suggestions. Student is dedicated to work and capable of undertaking a higher degree.

70–74

Second class honours, second division – student is proficient in the theory and practice of their discipline but has not developed complete independence of thought, practical mastery or clarity of presentation. Student shows adequate but limited understanding of the topic and has largely followed the direction of the supervisor.

65–69

Third class honours – performance indicates that the student has successfully completed the work, but at a standard barely meeting honours criteria. The student's understanding of the topic is extremely limited and they have shown little or no independence of thought or performance.

WAM for all degrees in the Faculty of Science

WAM means the weighted average mark calculated by the Faculty from the results for all Intermediate and Senior units of study with a weighting of 2 for Intermediate units and 3 for Senior units.

The WAM is calculated by summing the products of the marks achieved and the weighted credit point values of the units of study taken in the degree and then dividing by the sum of the weighted credit point values, with all attempts at units of study being included in the calculation, except where units of study are discontinued with permission; the formula used is:

$$\sum (Wc \times Mc) / \sum Wc$$

where Wc is the weighted credit point value (ie the product of the credit point value and level of weighting of 2 for 2000-2999 units of study and 3 for 3000-3999 units of study) and Mc is the mark out of 100 for that unit of study. All units where a result has been recorded, including Discontinued Fail, Absent Fail and PCON (but not W or DNF) are included in the calculation.

In calculating the WAM for a student transferring from another university, units of study are assigned level weightings and credit point values consistent with their equivalent units of study at The University of Sydney. A mark is assigned to each unit of study credited based on the results provided on a validated academic transcript from the university. Where no mark is provided by the institution an appropriate estimate is used. Students are encouraged to obtain actual marks from Departments at those universities that do not issue formal marks.

Note that where students have grades of Discontinued – Failed, a mark of zero will be used for the purposes of WAM calculation.

If you would like to try calculating your WAM for yourself, the Faculty of Science has a calculator on the main website:-

<http://www.science.usyd.edu.au/cstudent/ug/wam.shtml>

Honours units of study

Honours units of study are listed in Table VI: Honours units of study or in the tables associated with the relevant degree. Included in this package are the Honours Units of Study.

Please note that enrolment in Honours requires both Faculty and Departmental permission, and students intending to attempt an Honours year should read the relevant sections of chapters 3 and 5 of the Faculty of Science handbook for further information.

Frequently asked Questions

Is there scholarship support available?

There are a number of scholarships available for students undertaking Honours. Scholarship information appears on the Scholarships Unit website:-

<http://www.usyd.edu.au/fstudent/undergrad/study/shm/scholarships.shtml>

Use the search terms 'Honours' and Science

In 2005 a limited number of scholarships were available for Science students (15). Both equity and merit scholarships are available in 2006. The cut off for a successful merit honours scholarship application was a sciwam of 85. The Faculty anticipates a similar cut off for 2006.

There are also a number of prizes available, by searching the Scholarships website.

I haven't got the grades for admission to Honours – but I'm still keen to go onto a research degree. What do I do?

You could consider applying for Honours at other Universities, who may have different selection criteria or different projects available. You might also consider enrolling in a Graduate Diploma in Science degree – a full-fee paying postgraduate equivalent of Honours. Psychology students should consider the fourth year equivalent – Graduate Diploma of Applied Science (Psychology).

Students thinking of undertaking postgraduate degrees can contact the Faculty of Science Office for a postgraduate studies prospectus, or follow the links from the Faculty of Science website www.science.usyd.edu.au

What happens if I run into problems during my Honours year?

You should speak to your supervisor and/or Honours coordinator regarding any academic problems. University support services can also help. There are links to various University services through your personalized student MyUni webpage.

Honours Contact Details Honours 2006

AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY

Professor Lester Burgess
Tel: 9351 2526, Fax: 9351 6481
email: L.Burgess@agec.usyd.edu.au
<http://www.usyd.edu.au/agric/ACSS/>

ANATOMY AND HISTOLOGY

Dr Frank Lovicu
Tel: 9351 5170, Fax: 9351 2813
Email: lovicu@anatomy.usyd.edu.au
<http://www.anatomy.usyd.edu.au/teaching/honours/index.html>

BIOLOGY

Dr Adele Pile
Tel: 9351 2440, Fax: 9351 2560
email: honc@bio.usyd.edu.au

Ms Ros Malin
Tel: 9351 2369, Fax: 9351 4119
Email: rmalin@bio.usyd.edu.au
http://www.bio.usyd.edu.au/honours/future_honours.htm

CELL PATHOLOGY

Associate Professor Brett Hambly
Tel: 9351 3059, Fax: 9351 3429
email: bretth@pathology.usyd.edu.au
http://www.pathology.usyd.edu.au/Pathology2004/Students/Pathology_Honours/Pathology_Honours.html

CHEMISTRY

Dr Cameron Kepert
Phone: 9351 5741, Fax: 9351 3329
Email: c.kepert@chem.usyd.edu.au
<http://www.chem.usyd.edu.au/future/honours.html>

GEOSCIENCES

Geography
Dr Melissa Neave
Tel: 9351 6463, Fax: 9351 3644
email: mneave@geography.usyd.edu.au
<http://www.geosci.usyd.edu.au/future/honours/index.html>

Geology and Geophysics

Dr Michael Hughes
Tel: 93515190, Fax: 9351 0184
email: michaelh@mail.usyd.edu.au
<http://www.geosci.usyd.edu.au/future/honours/index.html>

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Dr Craig Barnes
University of Sydney Institute of Marine Science
Tel: 9351 2972, Fax: 9351 3644
email: craigb@mail.usyd.edu.au
<http://www.usyd.edu.au/envsci/courses/ugradhonours.htm>

HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

Dr Michael Selgelid
Tel: 9351 7652, Fax: 9351 4124
email: michael@science.usyd.edu.au
<http://www.usyd.edu.au/su/hps/course/course.html>

IMMUNOLOGY

Dr Helen Briscoe
Tel: 9351 7308, Fax: 9351 3968
email: hbriscoe@med.usyd.edu.au
<http://www.medicine.usyd.edu.au/immunology/honours/honours.shtml>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Associate Professor Colin Harbour
Tel: 9351 4334, Fax: 9351 4731
email: charbour@infdis.usyd.edu.au
<http://www.usyd.edu.au/su/infdis>

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

Dr Bernhard Scholz
Tel: 9351 4216, Fax: 9351 3838
http://www.it.usyd.edu.au/current_ugrad/honours/honours.html

MARINE SCIENCES

Dr Craig Barnes
University of Sydney Institute of Marine Science
Tel: 9351 2972, Fax: 9351 3644
email: craigb@mail.usyd.edu.au
<http://www.usims.org.usyd.edu.au/marine/resources/honours.html>

MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS

<http://www.maths.usyd.edu.au/u/UG/HM/>

Statistics

Dr Jonathan Hillman

Tel: 9351 3049, Fax: 9351 4534

email: hillman_j @maths.usyd.edu.au

Applied Mathematics

Dr Jonathan Hillman

Tel: 9351 3049, Fax: 9351 4534

email: hillman_j @maths.usyd.edu.au

<http://www.maths.usyd.edu.au/u/UG/HM/>

Pure Mathematics

Dr Jonathan Hillman

Tel: 9351 3049, Fax: 9351 4534

email: hillman_j @maths.usyd.edu.au

<http://www.maths.usyd.edu.au/u/UG/HM/>

MOLECULAR AND MICROBIAL BIOSCIENCES

Biochemistry

Dr Simon Easterbrook-Smith

Tel: 9351 3905, Fax: 9351 4726

Email: sbe@mmb.usyd.edu.au

<http://www.mmb.usyd.edu.au/futurestudents.php#hons>

Microbiology

Dr Tom Ferenci

Reader

Tel: 9351 4277, Fax: 9351 4571

email: T.Ferenci@mail.usyd.edu.au

<http://www.mmb.usyd.edu.au/futurestudents.php#hons>

NUTRITION

Associate Professor Samir Samman

Tel: 9351 2476, Fax: 9351 6022

email: s.smman@mmb.usyd.edu.au

Ms Rachel Moerman

Tel: 9351 3757, Fax: 9351 6022

email: t.mohr@mmb.usyd.edu.au

<http://www.mmb.usyd.edu.au/futurestudents.php#hons>

PHARMACOLOGY

Dr Jasmine Henderson

Tel: 9036 9408 3433, Fax: 9351 3868

Email: jasmine@mail.med.usyd.edu.au

<http://www.usyd.edu.au/pharmacology/>

PHYSICS

Associate Professor Anne Green

Tel: 9351 2727, Fax: 9351 7726

email: agreen@physics.usyd.edu.au

<http://www.physics.usyd.edu.au/ugrad/hons.html>

PHYSIOLOGY

Professor David Allen

Tel: 9351 4602, Fax: 9351 2060

email: davida@physiol.usyd.edu.au

<http://www.physiol.usyd.edu.au/students/honours/index.html>

PSYCHOLOGY

Dr Damian Birney

Tel: 9351 4236, Fax: 9036 5223

email: damianb@psyc.usyd.edu.au

<http://www.psych.usyd.edu.au/info/honours2005/>

SOIL SCIENCE

Professor Lester Burgess

Tel: 9351 2526, Fax: 9351 6481

email: L.Burgess@agec.usyd.edu.au

<http://www.usyd.edu.au/agric/ACSS/>