

## Interested in an Honours year

This document provides basic information to help a student understand what Honours is about and what they need to do in order to get into Honours.

### Contents

What is 'Honours'?	2
○ General	
○ Two types of Honours program	
○ Content of an Honours program	
Honours at the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Science	3
Relevance and benefits of completing Honours	4
Admission criteria	5
How to apply	6
Contact us	7

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## What is 'Honours'?

### General

'Honours' is the term for a one-year program (36 units) undertaken at the end of a Bachelor degree. An Honours program offers the opportunity to focus on an area of specialisation by completing some additional coursework, undertaking a research project and writing a (small) thesis.

Honours provides the opportunity to specialise in an area previously encountered in the undergraduate degree. An important feature of an Honours program is the presentation of the Honours thesis which usually involves individual supervision.

'Honours' is normally only available to high performing students. Hence, in the past it was seen as an 'honour' to participate in an Honours program. Today, also, people tend to know that an Honours program is special and that Honours graduates have achieved over-and-above the norm.

### Two types of 'Honours' program

- Standard, Bachelor-entry Honours. This is a stand-alone Honours program that is available to students who obtain a high GPA in their Bachelor degree. Most of the degrees offered by the Faculty offer this one-year Honours program.
- Direct-entry Honours. Some degrees incorporate Honours in their undergraduate degree. The Faculty's Psychology (Honours) degree falls into this category.

### Content of an Honours program

An Honours program is normally a combination of coursework, research and thesis writing. Specifically, Honours students complete:

- Some (advanced) coursework in an area of specialisation
- Some coursework about research methods and advanced research skills (at least 4.5 units)
- A written thesis in the chosen area of specialisation (normally 18 units)

## Honours at the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Science

The Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences offers a range of Honours programs which can be completed in addition to (and after) successful completion of a regular three-year Bachelor degree. In this Faculty you can do an Honours program in:

- Arts ( <http://www.flinders.edu.au/courses/rules/undergrad/hba.cfm>)
  - American Studies
  - Asian Studies
  - Business Studies
  - History
  - Political Studies
  - Psychology
  - Public Policy
  - Sociology
  - Women's Studies
- Behavioural Science ( <http://www.flinders.edu.au/courses/rules/undergrad/hbbsc.cfm>)
  - Management
  - Public Policy
  - Sociology
  - Women's Studies
- Business ( <http://www.flinders.edu.au/courses/rules/undergrad/hbbus.cfm>)
- Commerce ( <http://www.flinders.edu.au/courses/rules/undergrad/hbcom.cfm>)
- International Studies ( <http://www.flinders.edu.au/courses/rules/undergrad/hbis.cfm>)
- Social Work ( <http://www.flinders.edu.au/courses/rules/undergrad/bswsp.cfm>)

The Faculty's Psychology degree offers an Honours program only as part of the undergraduate degree. This Honours program cannot be completed as a stand-alone component:

- Psychology (Honours) <http://www.flinders.edu.au/courses/rules/undergrad/bpsy.cfm>.

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## Relevance and benefits

An Honours program -

- Enables specialisation which is attractive to students wanting to gain additional expertise.
- Develops research and critical analysis skills which are highly valued in a number of careers.
- Builds high quality writing skills useful in many jobs.

The traditional purpose of Honours programs is to foster research training and prepare students for PhD study. In the past most Honours graduates would move on to a research degree (a PhD) and subsequently embark on a career as an academic or a researcher. A successful Honours degree is usually necessary for admission into postgraduate research degrees.

Nowadays many Honours applicants use the Honours program to obtain an additional qualification to make them 'stand out from the crowd'. In several disciplines and for a number of jobs an Honours degree has become the entry-level qualification. The Honours degree is highly regarded by many employers.

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## Admission criteria

Applicants for Honours must meet minimum academic criteria. However, acceptance into an Honours program is not guaranteed; Schools may not have the capacity to support large numbers of Honours students.

### Academic criteria

- *All one-year stand-alone Honours degrees.* Students who have demonstrated excellence during their Bachelor degree study may be eligible for an Honours year. The Faculty normally requires a Grade Point of Average of 5.25 or above (across their Bachelor degree) for eligibility for entry into Honours. Some Honours programs require a higher GPA or calculate the GPA based on performance in upper level topics (in a major or specialisation) only.
- *Psychology (Honours) only.* In order to progress to the fourth year of the Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) program a student must normally have achieved a GPA of 5.25 in all Third Year Psychology topics attempted. Students who fail to achieve the required GPA or choose not to continue to the fourth year of the program may apply to graduate with the Bachelor of Psychological Science.

### Operational criteria

Admission into an Honours program is subject to Schools being able to supervise the proposed Honours project and being able to provide appropriate resources (where relevant).

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## How to apply

1. Discuss Honours opportunities with
  - the relevant School Honours coordinator (click-through to list of coordinators), and/or
  - ASA Coursework Office (<http://www.flinders.edu.au/sabs/asa/> and/or
  - Flinders Admissions Office (<http://www.flinders.edu.au/future-students/info-and-contacts/admissionsprospective-students-office.cfm>)
2. Complete the Honours Application Form  
[www.flinders.edu.au/for\\_prospective\\_students\\_files/Documents/honours\\_application\\_form.pdf](http://www.flinders.edu.au/for_prospective_students_files/Documents/honours_application_form.pdf)
3. Submit application and await outcome

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## Contact us

- To discuss Honours opportunities: Honours Coordinators in the Faculty  
*(this needs click-through with list of contacts; I have asked Deb Tromp to help provide the list)*
- For general information: ASA Coursework Office  
(<http://www.flinders.edu.au/sabs/asa/>)

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