HONOURS IN PSYCHOLOGY
This Guide provides information about the current eligibility criteria and application process for entry to Honours in Psychology courses in 2020 only. Flinders University reserves the right to make changes to the entry requirements and selection methodology in the future. Any such changes will be reflected in future editions of this Guide.
**WELCOME**

Welcome to the 2020 Honours in Psychology Domestic Application Guide. Reading this Guide is the first step on the way to applying for a Psychology Honours program at Flinders University. This Guide will help applicants determine their eligibility to apply and to understand the application process and required supporting documentation. Reading and understanding this Guide forms part of the application process.

Flinders University’s one year Psychology Honours program, accredited by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC), is available in the following courses:

- Bachelor of Behavioural Science (Honours)
- Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours)
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours)

Entry to the Psychology Honours program is based on academic merit and entry is competitive.

The Psychology Honours program is a one year full-time (or part-time equivalent) course which is available for semester one commencement only. Offers to this program are not deferrable.

If, after reading this Guide, applicants have any questions relating to the application process, they are asked to email askflinders@flinders.edu.au for assistance. We thank applicants for considering Psychology Honours at Flinders University.

All prospective students are expected to act professionally toward the university, its staff, students and other applicants. Flinders University reserves the right to consider any aspect of an applicant’s behaviour in the assessment of their suitability for admission.

**APPLICATION TIMELINE**

**2019 FOR 2020 ENTRY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 23 September</td>
<td>Applications for Honours in Psychology open 9.00am (ACST)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 22 November</td>
<td>Applications close 11.59pm (ACST)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 13 December</td>
<td>Final date for submission of academic transcripts*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week commencing 16 December</td>
<td>First round offers are made by the end of this week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early January</td>
<td>Second round offers are made (if required)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid to late January</td>
<td>Unsuccessful notifications sent to applicants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 3 February</td>
<td>Honours year commences with an Honours meeting (attendance is compulsory)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Academic transcripts must be submitted by applicants who have studied at institutions other than Flinders University.
ELIGIBILITY TO APPLY

Admission to a Flinders Psychology one year Honours program is via application following completion of an accredited three year degree with a Psychology major or an accredited graduate entry degree in Psychology (e.g. the Bachelor of Psychological Studies (Graduate Entry) at Flinders University).

CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Australian citizens, Australian permanent residents, New Zealand citizens and Humanitarian Visa holders are classified as domestic applicants. Applicants are required to meet domestic eligibility criteria at the time of application.

Applicants who do not meet the domestic citizenship classification above are considered international students and are not eligible to apply as domestic applicants. Please note that New Zealand permanent residents are classified as international students. International applicants are required to meet the international eligibility criteria at the time of application.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

• Applicants must have completed a three year degree with a Psychology major, normally within the last ten years.

• Honours applicants are required to have passed a minimum of 18 units of second year Psychology topics and 18 units of third year Psychology topics (the equivalent to 50% of a full time academic load at each year level). All applicants must have passed PSYC3007 Research Methods 3 (or its third year level equivalent at another university).

• All potential Honours applicants should note that the Honours year may only be commenced after all requirements have been met for a three year degree. This is a course requirement (and an APAC rule) and applies to three year Bachelor degrees and to the four year Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) degree.

• Intending applicants should note that those with a Grade Point Average (GPA) of less than 5.25 for second and third year Psychology topics will not be considered for a place in Honours. A GPA of 5.25 is equivalent to 75% Credit and 25% Distinction grades. In practice, a higher GPA is required. The specific minimum GPA varies from year to year depending on the applicants and the number of available places.

Please note that Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) students do not apply for a one year Honours, they progress into Honours following completion of the first three years (providing that the academic performance requirements have been met).
WHICH COURSE TO APPLY FOR

In Australia, by tradition the name of an Honours award that is undertaken by a student is determined by the name of their three year degree.

• Applicants with a Bachelor of Psychological Science would normally apply for Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours).

• Applicants with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology would normally apply for a Bachelor of Arts (Honours).

• Applicants with a Bachelor of Behavioural Science (or who have a second major that is equivalent to one of the cognate (second major) areas in Flinders University’s Bachelor of Behavioural Science) would normally apply for a Bachelor of Behavioural Science (Honours).

• Applicants with a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Psychology should apply for a Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours).

• Applicants with a Bachelor of Psychological Studies or a Bachelor of Psychological Studies (Graduate Entry) (or equivalent graduate-entry degree from another university) should apply for a Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours).

Please note: each applicant is considered equally irrespective of the Psychology Honours degree they apply for. Therefore, applicants are permitted to apply for only one of these courses. If an applicant submits more than one application the least relevant application as per the above will be withdrawn by the University.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

ACADEMIC TRANSCRIPTS

Applicants with studies at institutions other than Flinders University, must upload a certified copy or original official academic transcript or a My eQuals link (see below) for all qualifications relevant to their application at the time of applying. This includes applicants with current enrolment relevant to their application.

The transcripts should show results in all subjects, including grades for all second and third year Psychology subjects. A final academic transcript showing final grades must also be uploaded to your application or forwarded to askflinders@flinders.edu.au as soon as possible and no later than Friday 13 December 2019.

Please include a grading key (usually found on the back of the official transcript).

MY EQUALS

If your official academic transcript is available via the My eQuals platform, provide the URL link to allow access to the digital document in your online application. If you have set a PIN via my eQuals (this is optional) you will also need to supply this. If you wish to set an expiry date for access to the digital document, please ensure the date selected is after 3 February 2020 as the University may need to access the document up to this time. For further information about providing official academic transcripts via My eQuals refer to My eQuals FAQs.
TRANSCRIPTS IN A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH

If any of the academic transcripts are in a language other than English, applicants must submit copies of both the original documents and full translations. Transcript translations must show results for all subjects undertaken. All translations must be certified by an independent accredited translator. It is an applicant’s responsibility to comply with any requests to provide further documentation, either in the original language or translated into English.

OVERSEAS QUALIFICATION ASSESSMENT

Applicants who are graduates with Psychology degrees from non-Australian universities must have their qualifications assessed by the Australian Psychological Society (APS) for equivalence to an Australian program of study prior to submitting their application. Information about the process for obtaining this assessment can be found on the APS website.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

International students must satisfy our English language proficiency requirements for admission.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications are submitted directly to Flinders University through the online application system.

If you have never studied at or made an application to Flinders University, you can register and submit your application for admission to a one year Honours course using the eApplication portal. You will receive two emails once your application is completed: confirmation of application submission; and a second email with your student ID. Please note it may take one to four hours for your student ID to be created.

If you have studied at Flinders University within the last 12 months, you can submit your application for admission to a one year Honours course via the Student Information System. You can apply for admission by selecting the My Applications tab at the top of the page and searching for the course you wish to apply for.

If you have studied at Flinders University more than 12 months ago, you will need to reactivate your FAN first. With an active FAN you will then be able to submit your application for admission via the Student Information System as advised above.
SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants are required to have satisfactorily completed an APAC accredited degree with a Psychology major (e.g. Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Psychological Science, Bachelor of Behavioural Science (Psychology), Bachelor of Psychological Studies (Graduate Entry) or Graduate Diploma in Psychology).

Selection is based on:

• Academic merit – applicants are ranked for offers based on performance in second and third year Psychology topics.
• At least 80% of offers are made to graduates of one of the following Flinders University degrees:
  • Bachelor of Arts (Psychology major)
  • Bachelor of Psychological Science
  • Bachelor of Behavioural Science (Psychology)
  • Bachelor of Psychological Studies (Graduate Entry)
  • Graduate Diploma in Psychology.
• Up to 20% of offers are made to external applicants that have satisfactorily completed an approved APAC accredited degree with a Psychology major.
• In some cases the Honours Selection Committee may also consider the pattern of results across all of the topics taken. For example, in the event of a tie in Grade Point Average (GPA), if necessary, applicants may be distinguished on the basis of their third level topic results, and on consistency of grades across topics.

OFFERS

• First round offers are made in the week commencing 16 December 2019.
• Second round offers are made in early January (if required).

Applicants are required to respond to their offer by the date stated in the offer letter. If a response is not received by the offer lapse date the offer will be forfeited and the place will be offered to the next ranked applicant.

Important notes:

• It is important that we are able to contact all applicants between November and February. Correspondence will be sent via email. Applicants must ensure that they check their inboxes (including junk and clutter folders) and respond to any emails they receive.
• Offers are only valid for the year in which the application is made.
• Deferrals are not available.
ARRANGING SUPERVISION

Following the initial Honours meeting in early February, students are required to consult with potential supervisors and discuss possible thesis topics. They can consult with up to six potential supervisors in individual consultations.

The discussions might begin with an idea from the student or from the staff member. Students are given a list of staff members’ research interests and some possible thesis ideas at the first meeting.

Students submit a list of possible supervisors to the Honours Coordinator. Supervising staff similarly submit a list of possible students.

The Honours Coordinator allocates each student a supervisor by seeking to maximise the match between student and supervisor preferences.

External supervisors: With the approval of the Honours Coordinator, a person who is not a staff member in the College of Education, Psychology and Social Work may act as an external supervisor for the thesis. An internal co-supervisor will be appointed in such cases. In the past, joint supervision with an external supervisor has included staff at the Australian Institute of Sport, CSIRO, the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction, and Flinders Medical Centre.

Please note:

• We cannot guarantee that a particular student’s idea for a research project will be approved as an Honours thesis topic, nor that a member of staff will agree to supervise a particular topic. This could be because some ideas may be not appropriate for a thesis (e.g. idea might be too ambitious, require specialist skills, or be too simple). Other projects might not be practical because they require ethical clearance from external agencies, which can take a long time.

• Although the majority of students usually receive their first choice of supervisor, this is not guaranteed, each supervisor has a maximum number of Honours students they can supervise.

• Conducting research projects with participants from a vulnerable population group (e.g. school children under 18, people with disabilities, older adults in residential care) is generally not a good idea for an honours project because of the challenge of gaining ethics approval and the often complex logistics of recruiting in such settings. A Department of Human Services screening check will be essential for working with vulnerable populations. This should be arranged as early as possible by contacting the College of Education, Psychology and Social Work on epswenquiries@flinders.edu.au
## FAQs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How can I calculate my GPA?</td>
<td>The <a href="#">GPA calculator</a> can be used to determine your GPA for second and third year Psychology topics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can I do extra topics to increase my GPA to get into honours?</td>
<td>Yes, however, this is really only helpful for students who already have a good GPA and who have just missed out on a place. Undertaking one or two extra topics will only increase your GPA slightly. If you do more topics than are required to complete your degree, they would be classified as non-award and are likely to require up-front payment of fees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can I repeat topics I have already attempted to get a better grade to improve my GPA?</td>
<td>Yes, however, they don’t replace the grade for your first attempt. Your GPA is calculated on all topics attempted (successfully or not) not just your best attempt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am having issues with the student account activation process, who do I contact to get technical assistance?</td>
<td>If you are experiencing difficulties with the account activation process you can contact our helpdesk on (08) 8201 2345.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have logged on to the Flinders Student Information System and my application is showing as 'unassessed', what does this mean?</td>
<td>The application portal will only show the final outcome of your application and until this is known it will continue to show as 'unassessed'.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do I need to provide an official transcript?</td>
<td>If you are an existing Flinders student, you don’t need to provide a transcript. External applicants must upload a certified copy or original official academic transcript at the time of applying. If you have results pending an additional final transcript must be submitted by 13 December 2019.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can I submit my official academic transcript via My eQuals?</td>
<td>Yes, you will need to provide your URL link on the online application. If you have set a PIN you will also need to supply this, ensuring that the expiry date is after 3 February 2020. Further information can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When will I be advised of the outcome of my application?</td>
<td>First round offers will be made by the end of the week commencing 16 December. If required, second round offers will be made in early January. To ensure the University fills its quota for admission to this course each year, final notification to unsuccessful applicants will not be confirmed until mid to late January.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I wasn’t successful in my application. Am I able to get more information on the outcome?</td>
<td>If you have been unsuccessful in your application for the course and you wish to obtain more information than was provided in the correspondence notifying you of the outcome, you can email <a href="mailto:askflinders@flinders.edu.au">askflinders@flinders.edu.au</a>. Advice on the outcome of your application will not be provided over the phone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How will I be contacted about my application?</td>
<td>Correspondence is via email, it is your responsibility to ensure that you regularly check your inbox (including junk and clutter folders) and respond to any emails you receive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can I defer my place to the next year?</td>
<td>Deferment of an offer is not permitted. If you are unable to commence the program in the current admission cycle you will be required to reapply.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are late offers made if places are available?</td>
<td>Occasionally offers are issued in early January should any applicants decline first round offers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can I study the course externally?</td>
<td>No, the course is only available internally.</td>
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