



School of Psychology

Honours in 2019 – Internal Applicants

This information is intended for UNSW students who will complete/have completed their undergraduate degree, with an accredited major in psychology, in 2018.

The School considers these students *internal applicants* for Honours in 2019.

[Note: *All* other applicants (including UNSW graduates who completed in 2017 or earlier, and non-UNSW students/graduates) are considered *external applicants*. External applicants should refer to <http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/future-students/undergraduate/programs/honours>.]

Honours in Psychology is a one-year, full-time program available for commencement in Term 1 2019 ONLY. The program cannot be taken part-time or by distance, and mid-year entry is not available.

Honours in Psychology is taken as, EITHER:

○ One-Year, End-On Honours degree:

- Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours) (4518), immediately after completion of a 3-year degree (e.g., 3970, 3435) in 2018.

OR

○ Embedded Fourth Year of 4-Year degree:

- Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) (3632)
- Advanced Science (Honours) (3962) and AdvSc (Hons)/combined degree.

OR

○ One-Year, Mid-Program degree:

- e.g., Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) (4721)
 - Students must apply for Program Leave from 4721, for one year, and submit a new application for 4518. Upon completion of 4518, students resume their final (law) year of 4721.

The content of the Honours year is the same across each of these degrees.

What happens in the Honours year?

The Honours year comprises coursework and a research thesis.

Research Thesis – you design and carry out a research project, with guidance of your supervisor.

Coursework

- Core component – weekly lectures & tutorials.
Topics: history & systems of psychology; ethical issues; evidence-based practice of psychology.
- Elective seminar stream – weekly seminar on an advanced topic in psychology.

When does the Honours year start?

The Honours year begins on **Wednesday, 30 January 2019** with an *Honours Orientation Meeting* for all Honours students. Attendance at the Orientation Meeting is mandatory in order for students to cement their place in the program.

[Note: Students who plan to travel overseas during January 2019 must make sure they are back in Sydney before the date of the meeting.]

At this time:

- Enrolment in Honours will be finalised by the School.
- Students are expected to meet with their supervisor and begin planning their research project.

Workload

Thesis

- Research proposal (due in T1)
- Literature review (due in T2)
- Thesis (due in T3)
- Honours conference presentation (in T3)

Coursework

- Coursework begins in Week 1 of T1 and T2.
- Weekly – 5 hours of class contact (3 hours core, 2 hours elective).
- Class work – essays, class presentations, final exams.

Weekly independent study (thesis and coursework)

- 30 hours

How to apply for the Honours year

Step 1a: "Intention to Undertake Honours" form (late September to 26 October 2018)

All students intending to undertake their Honours year in 2019 are required to complete an online "Intention to Undertake Honours" form no later than **Friday, 26 October 2018** (<https://www.science.unsw.edu.au/honours-apply>).

The School needs to know who intends to undertake Honours in 2019 in order to complete progression checks before the end of S2 2018.

Step 1b: Online application via Apply Online (Admissions) (late September to 15 November 2018)

NOTE: This step does not apply to students enrolled in four-year degrees, in which Honours is embedded (e.g., 3632 BPsych (Hons), 3962 BAdvSc (Hons)).

In addition to the “Intention to Undertake Honours” form, students currently enrolled in three-year degrees (e.g., 3435 BPsychSc, or 3970 BSc), or who completed one in S1 2018, must also submit an online application for admission to program 4518 Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours) no later than **Thursday, 15 November 2018** (<https://applyonline.unsw.edu.au/login>).

Refer to <http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/current-students/undergraduate/honours> for more details.

Step 2a: School confirmation of offer (December 2018)

The School will finalise places for the Honours year once S2 results have been released.

By mid-December, eligible students will be emailed a confirmation of offer, which will include an indication of who their supervisor will be. A response to this email will be required by the specified deadline (see *Step 3: Acceptance of Offer*).

This email will be sent to all eligible students, whether they applied for the one-year 4518 BPsychSc (Hons) program, or they will continue into the fourth year of a four-year degree (e.g., 3632 BPsych (Hons)).

Step 2b: Letter of Offer from Admissions (December 2018 to January 2019)

NOTE: This step does not apply to students enrolled in four-year degrees, in which Honours embedded (e.g., 3632 BPsych (Hons), 3962 BAdvSc (Hons)).

Eligible students who applied for admission to program 4518 BPsychSc (Hons) will also receive a Letter of Offer (by email) from UNSW Admissions. This offer must be accepted online (see *Step 3: Acceptance of Offer*).

Step 3: Acceptance of Offer

All students must email the Honours Coordinators to confirm whether or not they intend to accept their offer for the Honours year. *Some* students will be required to take further action (see below).

- Eligible students in a 4-year degree – **no** further action required. You will be enrolled in your fourth year by the School after attending the Orientation Meeting in January.
- Eligible students completing a 3-year degree program in S2 2018 – further action **is** required. You will receive a Letter of Offer from UNSW Admissions for program 4518 commencing in 2019. This offer must be [accepted online](#) before 28 January 2019.
- Eligible students who completed a 3-year degree program in S1 2018 – further action **is** required. You will receive a Letter of Offer from UNSW Admissions for program 4518 commencing in 2019. This offer must be [accepted online](#) before 28 January 2019.

Eligibility for the Honours year for Internal Applicants

Completion of Stages 1 – 3:

- Students in a single degree (which allows for completion of a psychology major) must have completed 144 UoC across Stages 1, 2 and 3 of their program.
- Students in a dual degree (e.g., Commerce/Science) must have completed the Science component of their program.

In some circumstances, students in a dual degree program (e.g., 3948 AdvSc (Hons)/Arts) may be given permission by the non-Science school/faculty for entry to the Honours year in Psychology, provided the Science degree requirements across Stages 1 -3 have been met. The remaining UoC of the dual degree will then be completed *after* completion of the Honours year.

Students in 5- or 6-year dual degrees (e.g., 4770 Science/Law, 4721 BPsych (Hons)/Law) are required to take leave from their dual degree and apply for admission to program 4518. The year after completing 4518, they will enrol again in their dual degree.

Can Stage 1-3 requirements be completed in Summer 2019?

We do not recommend this. There are disadvantages to completing Stage 3 in Summer because the Honours year begins before Summer courses are due to end.

In exceptional circumstances, the School may allow a student to enrol in 6 UoC (non-PSYC) in Summer 2019 in order to complete their Stage 3 degree requirements.

Concurrent enrolment?

The School does not permit students to enrol in any other program/course concurrently with the Honours year.

Psychology major requirement for eligibility for Honours in 2019

- Students in program 3632 Bachelor of Psychology complete *at least* 96 UoC of PSYC courses (per [2016 Handbook](#)).
- ALL other current UNSW students complete *at least* 78 UoC of PSYC courses (per [2016 Handbook](#)).

Minimum PSYC:	3632	All other internal applicants
Stage 1	1001, 1011, 1111, 1021	1001, 1011, 1111
Stage 2	2001, 2061, 2071, 2081, 2101	2001, 2061, 2071, 2081, 2101
Stage 3	3001, 3011, 2 x L3 Stream A electives 2 x L3 Stream B electives plus another L3 elective	3001, 3011, 1 x L3 Stream A elective 1 x L3 Stream B elective plus another L3 elective

- Students who began their programs prior to 2016, or who are unsure whether they have met their psychology requirements should (i) check the School website and/or the UNSW Handbook (for their year of commencement); or (ii) submit an “Ask a question” webform to the School (<https://unswinsight.microsoftcrmpartals.com/web-forms/>).

What psychology marks do you need for entry to Honours?

Entry to the Honours year for internal applicants is based on performance in psychology courses across Levels 1, 2 and 3.

Entry to the Honours year for internal applicants is obtained by achieving a *Psychology Average* mark of **at least 75%**. The *Psychology Average* is calculated from:

- Marks for **psychology core courses common to all psychology programs / plans** (see below); and
- The **three highest** of marks for all Level 3 psychology elective courses ever attempted.

The *Psychology Average*:

- is based on a student's *first attempt* at a PSYC course;
- **does not** include Level 1 PSYC electives (e.g., PSYC1031, 1022, 1023);
- **does not** include marks/grades for psychology courses completed at another university, including those completed whilst on exchange.

Impact of withdrawing from a PSYC course on the Psychology Average

- If you withdraw from a PSYC course before the [Late Drop deadline](#), or after this deadline with permission (PW – Permitted Withdrawal), there is no impact on your *Psychology Average* (the course does not count).
- If you withdraw from a PSYC course *after* the Late Drop deadline, without University permission (AW – Academic Withdrawal), this is still considered a *first attempt* with respect to your *Psychology Average*.

What if your Psychology Average is < 75?

To be considered by the Honours Committee for a place in the program, your *Psychology Average* must be at least 70%.

Students with a Psychology Average < 70% will not be offered a place in Honours under any circumstances.

Students with *Psychology Average* > 70% may be admitted to Honours in 2019 subject to appropriate research and supervision resources being available, and at the discretion of the Honours Committee.

- We will consider your academic record, and other relevant information (such as history of Special Consideration requests), when considering whether to offer you a place in Honours.
- Internal applicants in this category will be competing with exceptional external applicants for a place in the Honours year.

Factors taken into account for students with a Psychology Average in the 70 – 74.99 range:

In deciding whether or not to offer a place in the Honours year, we consider the following:

- Has the student demonstrated the capability of Distinction performance? In particular, is this evident in their Level 3 Psychology marks?
- Has the student completed adequate research methods training for Honours?
- Is the student likely to manage the pressures (academic and otherwise) of the Honours year?
 - e.g., manage a full-time load? History of Special Consideration requests?

How are supervisor allocations made?

Allocating supervisors to students is a complex process that considers many variables. We aim for a fair and equitable process and *to achieve the best match between student and supervisor*, but there is always a random component to the allocation process which cannot be avoided.

You should not assume that you will be able to work with the supervisor of your choice.

The factors that play the most important role in allocating supervisors are:

- A student's supervisor preferences
- Supervisor availability (other work commitments/supervision, leave etc.)
- A student's academic strengths

Supervisor Preferences

Step 1: Review the "2019 Supervisors and Research Areas" document to identify the available supervisors for 2019 and their research interests (<http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/current-students/undergraduate/honours>).

Step 2: Identify **ten** potential supervisors from the list, noting that you must be prepared to work with *any of your nominated* supervisors – you WILL be allocated to one of them.

[Students who do not follow instructions, and provide fewer than 10 preferences, may be allocated a supervisor not on their preference list.]

Step 3: Complete and submit the online "Intention to Undertake Honours" form (<https://www.science.unsw.edu.au/honours-apply>), and do so no later than **Friday, 26 October 2018**.

Special consideration for admission to the Honours year

Students may apply for 'special consideration' for admission to the Honours year, where valid circumstances exist that may have affected your undergraduate performance.

To make such an application, please:

- Before the end of Semester 2, set out the special circumstances in an email (with supporting documentation) to the Honours Coordinators (honours.psychology@unsw.edu.au).

Note:

- Special consideration may only be granted in exceptional circumstances and, if applicable, impacts on how the *Psychology Average* may be calculated – for example, including the mark from a second attempt at a course, rather than the first attempt.

Can I defer my place in the Honours year?

NO.

Students applying for 4518

If you are unable to accept your offer for 2018 you may apply again (as an external applicant) for the 2020 Honours year.

- The School's eligibility requirements for external applicants are *not the same* as for internal applicants. Offers made to external applicants (including UNSW graduates who do not enter the Honours year in the immediately-available intake following completion of their undergraduate degree), if any, are assessed on the basis of academic merit, and also rely on the availability of School resources.

Students in a four-year degree (embedded Honours)

You are encouraged to complete the fourth year of your degree immediately following Stage 3. Permission to take leave (for two semesters) from your four-year degree (such as 3632 BPsych (Hons)) will be at the discretion of the School, and may be granted only in exceptional circumstances.

Alternative pathways to a fourth year in psychology

What are your options if you are not offered a place in the Honours year in 2019?

The School of Psychology at UNSW is highly-ranked and our Honours program is highly sought after. For this reason, we can afford to set high entry standards for our Honours year.

If you are not offered a place in our program, this does not necessarily signal the end of your journey towards becoming a psychologist – other options are available.

However, if you believe it is unlikely that you will be eligible for Honours in 2019, then you need to act now. What can you do?

Step 1: Familiarise yourself with other tertiary institutions offering an accredited fourth year (or equivalent) program in psychology. Consult the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council website for a list of such programs offered in each state: <http://www.psychologycouncil.org.au/>.

Step 2: Start making contact *now* with other tertiary institutions and obtain information about their fourth year programs and application deadlines.

Step 3: You are strongly advised to submit applications to as many other universities and tertiary institutions you can.

Keep in mind that an undergraduate degree with an accredited major in psychology from UNSW will typically be well regarded elsewhere.

Further Information:

Please contact the Honours team (see below) via honours.psychology@unsw.edu.au with any questions you may have about the application process, eligibility, and administrative issues relating to the Honours year.

Honours Coordinators

A/Prof Thomas Whitford and Dr Denovan Begg

Honours Administration

Emmalee O'Grady