

UNSW School of Psychology HONOURS IN 2018

Honours Information for Current UNSW Students

This information is intended for

- UNSW students who are currently enrolled in a degree program that allows for a major in psychology, and will complete Stage 3 of their program in Semester 2 2017.

AND

- UNSW students who have completed Stage 3 of their degree program in Semester 1 2017.

For eligibility purposes, the School considers the above to be *internal applicants*.

[Note: *All* other applicants (including UNSW graduates who completed in 2016 or earlier, and non-UNSW students) are considered *external applicants*. The School applies different eligibility criteria to external applicants.]

The School of Psychology Honours program is a one year, full-time program and is not offered part-time. There is no provision for mid-year entry into the Honours program.

Honours in Psychology is taken as, EITHER

- Fourth Year (Honours) of 4-Year degree program:
 - Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) (3632)
 - Advanced Science (Honours) (3962) and AdvSc (Hons)/combined degree.

OR

- One Year Honours degree program:
 - 4518 Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours), for current students following completion of a 3-year degree program (e.g., 3970, 3435) in 2017.

The content of the Honours program is the same across all Honours degree programs.

What happens in the Honours Program?

The Psychology Honours program consists of research thesis and coursework.

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

Coursework

- i) *Core component* – weekly lectures & tutorials.

Topics: history & systems of psychology; ethical issues; evidence based practice of psychology.

- ii) *Elective seminar stream* – weekly seminar on an advanced topic in psychology.

When does the Honours Year start?

The Honours program begins on **Tuesday 30th January 2018** with an *Honours Orientation Meeting* for *all* Honours students.

The Orientation Meeting is the official start of the Honours program and students are required to attend this meeting in order to take up their place in the Honours program.

[Note: Students who plan to travel overseas during January 2018 must make sure they are back in Sydney before January 30th 2018.]

At this time:

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

Workload

Thesis

- February – April: meet with supervisor, undertake independent learning, reading for research project, write research proposal (due by Week 5, S1).
- April - September – conduct project, collect and analyse data, write up project in thesis format.
- October – prepare thesis for submission. Due Week 12 Semester 2 (strict deadline).

Coursework

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

Weekly independent study (thesis and coursework) = 30 hours.

How to apply for Honours

Step 1a: Expression of Interest (late September to 27 October 2017)

All students intending to undertake Honours in Psychology in 2018 are required to complete an online “Intention to Undertake Honours” form no later than **Friday, 27 October 2017** (<https://www.science.unsw.edu.au/honours-apply>).

At this time, the School needs to know who intends to undertake Honours in 2018 so that the School can undertake progression checks before the end of S2.

Step 1b: Online Application via Admissions (late September to 15 November 2017)

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)).

Students currently enrolled in a three-year degree (e.g., 3435 BPsychSc, or 3970 BSc), or who completed in S1 2017, must also submit an online application for admission to program 4518 Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours) no later than **Wednesday, 15 November 2017** (<https://applyonline.unsw.edu.au/login>).

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

Step 2a: Offer from School (December 2017)

In early December, the School will finalise places in the Honours program (once S2 results have been released).

By mid-December, eligible students will be sent an Offer Letter (email) from the School with enrolment information and indicating who your 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: Offer from Admissions (December 2017 to January 2018)

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 be emailed a new offer of admission from UNSW Admissions. This offer must be formally accepted online before enrolment is possible (see *Step 3: Acceptance of Offer*).

Step 3: Acceptance of Offer

All students are to send an email to the Honours Coordinator, confirming whether or not they intend to accept the School's offer for the Honours year. **Action required by student.**

- Eligible students in a 4-year degree program will be enrolled into their fourth year by the School after the Orientation Meeting in January. **No action required by student.**
- Eligible students completing a 3-year degree program in S2 2017 will receive an offer from UNSW Admissions for program 4518 commencing in 2018. This offer must be accepted online *before 26 January 2018*. **Action required by student.**
- Eligible students who completed a 3-year degree program in S1 2017 will receive an offer from UNSW Admissions for program 4518 commencing in 2018. This offer must be accepted online *before 26 January 2018*. **Action required by student.**

Eligibility for Honours in Psychology for Internal Applicants

Completion of Stages 1 – 3:

- Students in a single degree program (which allows for a psychology major) must have completed 144 UoC across Stages 1, 2 and 3 of their degree program. [Students in combined degree programs complete 192 UoC across Stages 1-3.]
- Entry into the fourth year (e.g., 3632, 3962 or AdvSc (Hons)/combined) or end-on Honours degree 4518 cannot occur until all Stage 1-3 degree requirements have been met.

For students in combined degree programs (e.g., 3948 AdvSc (Hons)/Arts), in some circumstances permission may be given (by the non-Science school/faculty) for entry to Honours in Psychology provided the Science requirements across Stages 1 -3 have been met. The remaining UoC of the combined degree are completed *after* the Honours year. Students in 5-year combined programs (e.g., 4770 Science/Law) are required to take leave from their combined program and apply for admission to program 4518. The year after completing 4518, they will resume their combined program.

Can Stage 1-3 requirements be completed in Summer Semester 2018?

We do not advise this. There are disadvantages to completing Stage 3 over Summer because the Honours year begins before the Summer course is completed.

In exceptional circumstances, the School may allow students to enrol in 6 UoC (non-PSYC) in Summer Semester 2018 in order to complete Stage 3 requirements

Concurrent enrolment?

The School of Psychology does not permit students to enrol in any other program/course concurrently with Honours in Psychology (and this includes UNSW Diplomas offered concurrently with undergraduate enrolment).

Psychology major requirement for eligibility for Honours in 2018

- Students in program 3632 Bachelor of Psychology complete *at least* 96 UoC of PSYC courses (per [2015 Handbook](#)).
- ALL other current UNSW students complete *at least* 78 UoC of PSYC courses (per [2015 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 2015, 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) check with the School (psychology@unsw.edu.au).

What psychology marks do you need for entry to Honours?

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

To gain entry to the Honours program in psychology, students are required to have achieved an **average of 75% or higher** of:

- 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.

For students completing, or who have completed, Stage 3 in 2017, the **Psychology Average** is the average mark across **thirteen** psychology courses, comprising:

- **ten** psychology core courses common to all programs, as follows:
 - Level 1: PSYC1001, PSYC1011, PSYC1111
 - Level 2: PSYC2001, PSYC2061, PSYC2071, PSYC2081, PSYC2101
 - Level 3: PSYC3001, PSYC3011

AND

- **three** L3 psychology electives

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 Psychology Average:

- If you withdraw from a PSYC course before the academic deadline, or after this deadline with University permission (Permitted Withdrawal – PW grade), there is no impact on your Psychology Average (the course does not count).
- If you withdraw *after* the academic deadline (e.g. AW), without University permission to drop the course, this is still considered a *first attempt* with regard to how we calculate 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 2018 subject to appropriate research and supervision resources being available, and at the discretion of the Honours Committee.

- We will look at your academic record (and other relevant information, such as history of Special Consideration requests) in deciding whether to offer you a place in Honours.
- Current students (internal applicants) in this category will be competing with exceptional external applicants for a place in Honours.

Factors taken into account for students with Psych Average in range 70-74.99

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

- Has the student demonstrated the capability of Distinction performance, in particular, is this evident in L3 PSYC grades?
- Has the student completed adequate research methods training for Honours?
- Is the student likely to manage the pressures (academic and otherwise) of the Honours program?
 - 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 (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:

- Your supervisor preferences
- Supervisor availability (other work commitments/ supervision, on leave etc.)
- Your academic strengths

Supervisor Preferences

Step 1: Review the “2018 Supervisors and Research Areas” document to identify the available supervisors for 2018 and their research interests/projects (<http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/current-students/undergraduate/honours>).

Step 2: You will be asked to nominate **ten** supervisor preferences from this list. Be prepared to work with *each of your nominated* supervisors; you will be allocated to one of them.
[Students who provide fewer than 10 preferences may be allocated a supervisor not on their preference list.]

Step 3: Complete the “Intention to Undertake Honours” form online (<https://www.science.unsw.edu.au/honours-apply>). This form must be completed no later than **Friday, 27 October 2017**.

Special Consideration for entry to Honours

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

To apply for special consideration for Honours entry:

- Set out the special circumstances in an email (with supporting documentation) to the School (psychology@unsw.edu.au).
- Do so **before the end of S2**.

Note:

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

Can I defer my place in the Honours program?

Students applying for 4518

No – if you are unable to accept your offer for 2018 you may apply again (as an external applicant) for the 2019 Honours program.

- The School's eligibility requirements for UNSW graduates are *not the same* as for current students. UNSW graduates are assessed as external applicants and offers of a place into the Honours program (if any) are made on the basis of academic merit (School resources permitting).

Students in a 4-year degree program

No (with rare exception)

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

Alternative pathways to a fourth year in psychology

What options are available if you are not offered a place in Honours in 2018?

UNSW School of Psychology is highly ranked and our Honours program is highly sought after. Because of this, we can afford to set high entry standards for our Honours program.

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

There are other options available to you to continue on a career path to becoming a psychologist.

However, if you believe it is unlikely that you will be eligible for Honours in 2018, 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 fourth year programs and application deadlines.

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

Don't forget that a 3-year degree with a major in psychology from UNSW will typically be well regarded elsewhere.

Further Information:

- Honours Administrative Officer, Emmalee O'Grady (psychology@unsw.edu.au) for enquiries regarding the application process, eligibility, and administrative issues.
- Honours Coordinator, Dr Melanie Gleitzman (m.gleitzman@unsw.edu.au) for complex enquiries regarding your eligibility for Honours.