



School of Psychology

Honours in 2021 – Internal Applicants

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Who is the intended audience of this document?

This information is intended for UNSW students due to complete an APAC-accredited undergraduate three-year, or bridging, sequence in psychology¹ at any point during 2020.

The School considers these students *internal applicants* for Honours commencing in 2021.

All other applicants (including UNSW graduates who completed in 2019 or earlier) are considered *external applicants*. External applicants should refer to <http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/future-students/undergraduate/programs/honours>.]

¹ A three-year sequence can be completed during a single or dual Bachelor degree with a (minimum) 78 UOC Psychology major. A bridging sequence is completed during the Graduate Diploma in Psychology.

About the Honours year

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

A student may undertake the Honours year in a variety of ways at UNSW, as outlined below (program codes in brackets). Honours year content is identical regardless of the program code.

- **A one-year, separate Honours program**
 - Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours) (4518)
 - Apply and enrol after completion of a 3-year program¹ in 2020 (e.g., 3970, 3435), or
 - Apply and enrol mid-program of a dual program after completing Stage 1-3 Science (Psychology) requirements² in 2020 (e.g., 4770, 4722)
 - Apply and enrol after completion of the Graduate Diploma in Psychology (5331) in 2020

- **Embedded fourth year of a 4-Year Honours program:**
 - Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) (3632)
 - Bachelor of Advanced Science (Honours) (3962)

- **Embedded X^{th3} year of a dual degree with Honours:**
 - Bachelor of Psychology (Honours)/Bachelor of Laws (4721)
 - Bachelor of Advanced Science (Honours)/dual degree (various, incl. 3593, 3931, 3948)

When does the Honours year start?

The Honours year begins in late January with a mandatory *Orientation Meeting* for *all* Honours students. Those who may be travelling during the Summer break should plan accordingly and be back in Sydney in order to attend the meeting. The specific time and location of the meeting will be published on the [School website](#) once known.

After a student attends the Orientation Meeting, they 1) will be able to self-enrol in their courses for the year, and 2) are expected to meet with their supervisor and begin planning their research project.

What happens in the Honours year?

The Honours year comprises coursework and a research thesis.

Research Thesis (Terms 1, 2, 3)

- Students conduct a *year-long* major independent research project (completed under the guidance of an academic supervisor) and write a thesis based on the project

² Subject to approval by the Program Authority (Law); students will need to take Program Leave from 4770/4722 if they are yet to complete their Law component

³ Please contact the Program Authority for a sample study plan to indicate when the Honours year should/can be taken.

Coursework (Terms 1, 2)

- Core component – weekly lectures & tutorials
Topics: history & systems of psychology; ethical issues in psychology; evidence-based practice of psychology.
- Elective seminar stream – weekly seminar on an advanced topic in psychology
Topics: vary each term, but past topics have included “Recent Advances in Neuroscience”, “Language Dysfunction”, “Emotions” and “The Psychology of Environmental Decisions”.

Workload

Thesis

- Research proposal and panel meeting (T1)
- Thesis (T3)
- Honours conference presentation (T3)

Coursework

- Coursework begins in Week 1 (T1, T2)
- Weekly – 5 hours of on-campus classes (3 hours core, 2 hours elective)
- Varies – likely to include essays, class presentations, exams

Weekly independent study (thesis and coursework)

- Approximately 30 hours

Eligibility for the Honours year

The number of places available for Honours varies from year to year and depends upon the availability of School resources.

Completion of the Graduate Diploma in Psychology

- Students enrolled in the Graduate Diploma must complete all 60 UOC of their program by the end of Session 6 2020 (whether or not they have received credit for PSYC5001 and/or PSYC5002).

Completion of Stages 1–3 of a single or dual Bachelor degree

- Students in a single degree [with a (minimum) 78 UOC psychology major] must have completed 144 UoC across Stages 1, 2 and 3 of their program.
 - Students enrolled in a four-year embedded Honours program that complete Stages 1-3 in Terms 1 or 2 will be required to apply for Program Leave for Terms 2 and/or 3.
- Students in a dual degree must have at least completed the Science component of their program.
 - Dual degrees with Honours: students *may* be permitted by the non-Science school/faculty to enter the Honours year (under the same program code) upon

completion of their Stage 1-3 Science degree requirements. The remaining UoC of the dual degree will be completed *after* completion of the Honours year.

- Dual degrees without Honours: subject to Program Authority⁴ approval, students may be permitted to take leave from their dual degree and apply for the Honours year (4518) upon completion of their Stage 1-3 Science degree requirements. The remaining UoC of the dual degree will be completed *after* completion of the Honours year.

Can Stage 3 requirements of a single or dual Bachelor degree be completed in Summer 2021?

Where a student has a choice between completing at the end of Term 3, or at the end of Summer 2021, the School will not recommend the Summer 2021 option as the Honours year begins before Summer 2021 results are released. Should a student fail their Summer course they will be required to discontinue from the Honours year (which will include a program transfer for embedded Honours students). Further, their supervisor will lose a student and it will be too late to be able re-adjust the supervisor allocation across the cohort.

A student *may* be permitted to enrol in 6 UoC (non-PSYC) in Summer 2021 in order to complete Stage 3 and there is no other option, but must contact the School (via the [Ask a Question webform](#)) for approval.

Concurrent enrolment

Students are unable to enrol in any other program/course concurrently with the Honours year.

What is the psychology major requirement for a single or dual Bachelor degree?

3632 BPsych (Hons) students must complete *at least* 96 UoC of PSYC courses (core and Level 3 Psychology electives). All other Bachelor degree students must complete *at least* 78 UoC of PSYC courses (core and Level 3 Psychology electives).

Students who are unsure whether they have met their psychology requirements should (i) check the UNSW Handbook (for their year of commencement); or (ii) contact the School (via the [Ask a Question webform](#)).

	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Level 3 PSYC electives
3632	1001, 1011, 1021, 1111	2001, 2061, 2071, 2081, 2101	3001, 3011	2 x L3 List A electives 2 x L3 List B electives 1 x other A or B elective
All other PSYC majors	1001, 1011, 1111	2001, 2061, 2071, 2081, 2101	3001, 3011	1 x L3 List A elective 1 x L3 List B elective 1 x other A or B elective

What marks are required to enter the Honours year?

The number of places available for Honours varies from year to year and depends upon the availability of School resources.

The minimum requirement for eligibility for entry into the Honours year is to achieve a *Psychology Average* mark of **at least 75**.

⁴ A student's Program Authority can be found in the Handbook (e.g., see [3632](#), [4721](#), [3593](#))

For Graduate Diploma students the *Psychology Average* is calculated based on first attempt marks for **all** courses completed during their program (i.e., from PSYC5001 to PSYC5010).

For Bachelor degree students the *Psychology Average* is calculated based on:

- First attempt marks for **psychology core courses common to all psychology programs / specialisations** (see below); and
- The **three highest** first attempt marks of any completed Level 3 psychology electives.

Psychology core courses common to all psychology programs/plans are:

Level 1

- PSYC1001 Psychology 1A, PSYC1011 Psychology 1B, PSYC1111 Measuring Mind and Behaviour

Level 2

- PSYC2001 Research Methods 2, PSYC2061 Social and Developmental Psychology, PSYC2071 Perception and Cognition, PSYC2081 Learning and Physiological Psychology, PSYC2101 Assessment, Personality and Psychopathology

Level 3

- PSYC3001 Research Methods 3, PSYC3011 Research and Applications of Psychology

The *Psychology Average* **does not** take into account:

- Level 1 psychology electives (i.e., PSYC1031, PSYC1022 – PSYC1029); or
- marks for psychology courses completed at another university, including those completed whilst on exchange; or
- Non-psychology free electives or courses counted as General Education

NOTE:

- Completion of PSYC3371 Multivariate Data Analysis for Psychology, in conjunction with PSYC3001, is important as preparation for the Honours year – some Honours projects may require the use of advanced statistical techniques. It can be taken as a List A or List B elective.

How to apply for the Honours year

Applications open on 1 August and close on 15 November.

Please review the step-by-step guide to applying for the Honours year, available at <http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/current-students/undergraduate/honours>.

How do I choose my supervisor?

Students do not choose their own supervisor, rather they submit to the School a preference list of potential supervisors with whom they would like to work. The supervisor preference nomination process is outlined on the following page.

Step 1:

Review the “2021 Supervisors and Research Areas” document to identify available supervisors and their research interests (<http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/current-students/undergraduate/honours>).

This document is used by both Honours and Masters students to identify potential supervisors and is updated twice a year, just before preference nominations are due around March for Clinical Masters students and August for Forensic Masters and Honours students).

Students should ensure they are viewing the latest version of the document, direct from the School's website, before submitting their preferences.

Step 2:

Identify **10** potential supervisors from the list, and be prepared to work with *any one of the 10*.

Students who do not follow instructions (e.g. submit fewer than 10 preferences, submit a preference not from the list) may be allocated a supervisor that they did not list.

Step 3:

Complete and submit the online “Intention to Undertake Honours in Science” form

(<https://www.science.unsw.edu.au/study-us/undergraduate/honours-degrees/honours-how-apply>) no later than the advertised deadline (in 2019, this was within the first two weeks of November).

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.

Students should not assume that they will be able to work with the supervisor of their choice.

Factors that play the most important role in allocating supervisors are:

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

Can I defer my place in the Honours year?

NO.

Students applying for 4518

If a student is unable to accept their offer for 2021 they may re-apply, as an external applicant, for the 2022 Honours year. Eligibility requirements for external applicants are *not the same* as for internal applicants. Offers made to external applicants, if any, are assessed on the basis of academic merit and are subject to appropriate research and supervision resources being available. More information about admission as an external applicant can be found at <https://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/future-students/undergraduate/programs/honours>.

Students in a four-year embedded Honours program

Students are encouraged to complete Honours the year immediately following completion of Stages 1-3 of their degree. A guarantee of admission in one year is not an unconditional guarantee of admission in any subsequent year, should a student wish to take time off. Permission to take leave before commencing the Honours year will be at the discretion of the School, and may be granted only in exceptional circumstances. Otherwise, a student will be asked to transfer to the relevant three-year degree⁵—in order to graduate—and can apply for admission to 4518 when they are ready.

Students in dual degree with embedded Honours

Students are encouraged to seek advice from their Program Authority as to how the Honours year fits in with their program structure. The most important consideration, from the School's perspective, is that the requirements of Stages 1-3 of the Science component of the dual degree are complete.

Alternative pathways to a fourth year in psychology

What are my options if ineligible for Honours at UNSW?

The UNSW School of Psychology 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 a student is offered a place in our program, this does not necessarily signal the end of their journey towards becoming a psychologist – other options are available. Keep in mind that a UNSW degree with an accredited major in psychology is likely to be well regarded elsewhere.

Students who believe they are unlikely to meet the requirements for Honours in 2021 should start thinking about their next steps now, including:

- Becoming familiar 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/>.
- Making contact with other tertiary institutions to obtain information about their fourth year programs and application deadlines.
- Submitting applications to as many other tertiary institutions as possible.

Further Information

Students may contact the School directly (via the [Ask a Question webform](#)) if they have questions about the application process, eligibility, administrative issues, or anything else relating to the Honours year.

Before doing so, students should carefully review all information about the Honours available on the various pages of the [School's website](#), including the Frequently Asked Questions.

Honours Committee

Dr Denovan Begg, Prof Simon Killcross, Prof Thomas Whitford

Honours Administration

Emmalee Taylor

⁵ e.g., 3435 BPsychSc for 3632 BPsych (Hons) students, or 3970 BSc for 3962 AdvSc (Hons) students