



School of Psychology
Honours in Psychology

Honours Application Information Booklet
2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Aim	3
Program Description	3
Eligibility Criteria	4
Selection Process	5
How to Apply	6
Offers of Places	8
Frequently Asked Questions	9
Further Questions / Contacts	12

AIM

To provide a fourth-year program accredited by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) that will:

1. enable you to apply for postgraduate study
(e.g., Master of Clinical Psychology, Doctor of Philosophy, etc.)
2. permit provisional registration with the Psychology Board of Australia (*N.B: only upon completion and acceptance into an accredited postgraduate program*)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

- one year of full-time study, consisting of:
 - Advanced Psychometrics (12.5%)
 - Advanced Seminars (2 × 12.5%)
 - Foundations of Professional Psychology (12.5%)
 - Empirical Thesis (50%)

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Internal students with a Bachelor of Psychology with an embedded fourth year (i.e., Bachelor of Psychology Honours degree), provided they have met progression requirements, OR:

1. a Bachelor's degree, or equivalent, from a recognised institution that was
2. obtained within the past 10 years; and
3. contained an APAC-accredited sequence of study in Psychology; and
4. has all requirements completed (e.g., 144 credit points for internal students); and
5. at least a WAM of 65 for those in the Faculty of Science (e.g., Bachelor of Science), or at least a WAM of 70 for those in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (e.g., Bachelor of Arts).

*(N.B.: this is the **minimum** eligibility criteria for Honours in Psychology, but it alone is not sufficient for being made an offer for Honours in Psychology)*

SELECTION PROCESS

There is a limit of approximately 80 places in the Honours in Psychology program, but this number is subject to staff availability each year.

We openly give preference to University of Sydney students and thus have very few places for external applicants - we reserve the right to place internal applicants exclusively if demand and quality is sufficiently high in any given year.

Entry into Honours in Psychology is based solely on academic performance in the PSYC2 units and PSYC3 units. (*N.B: HPSC3023 or any TSP units or Dalyell units taken in place of PSYC3 units can count towards this criterion, but SCPU3001 cannot*).

An Honours Application Mark (HAM) is calculated for each applicant, where the PSYC3 units are weighted twice as much as the PSYC2 units – a HAM calculator is featured in the same location where this document was found.

Internal Bachelor of Psychology students with an embedded 4th year (i.e., Bachelor of Psychology Honours degree) are guaranteed to receive a place in Honours in Psychology so long as they maintain the progression criteria for their degree – any remaining places will be offered to all other applicants in a rank-ordered manner.

The threshold for receiving a place in Honours in Psychology can vary from year to year; historically, a HAM of approximately 75 has *usually* resulted in a place in the cohort for internal applicants. Please note that achieving the threshold HAM of 75 does not guarantee students a place in the cohort. The threshold HAM is much higher for external applicants given that we have few places available for external applicants.

Please note that the School uses the HAM to evaluate applicants, but the Faculty uses the WAM. Because we have applicants from multiple Faculties (e.g., Science, Arts and Social Sciences), the School uses the HAM to evaluate applicants based on the same criteria. The HAM selection process from the School is one component of the selection process, but students must also meet the WAM criteria of their respective Faculty to be eligible for Honours.

HOW TO APPLY

Please note that there are different processes for applying for Honours in Psychology depending on your degree and where you completed it. The following section has information about how to apply for Honours in Psychology, but the exact steps you need to take will depend on your situation.

- Internal Applicants (University of Sydney – embedded Bachelor of Psychology(Honours)) – Step 2 ONLY
- Internal Applicants (University of Sydney - all other degrees, including the 3-year Bachelor of Psychology) – Step 2 and 3 ONLY
- External Applicants (from Australian institutions) – Steps 2, 3, and 4 ONLY
- External Applicants (from International institutions) – Steps 1, 2, 3, and 4

STEP 1 – APAC Accreditation

External applicants who completed their degree at non-Australian universities must have their undergraduate qualification assessed for equivalence to an Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) accredited sequence of study. The Australian Psychological Society (APS) is the national authority in Australia for assessment of overseas academic qualifications in Psychology. The APS will assess your psychology qualification for a fee: <https://www.psychology.org.au/About-Us/What-we-do/Assessing-overseas-qualifications>

The University of Sydney and the School of Psychology cannot provide you with equivalence checks. Please do not pre-emptively send qualification evidence to the School – you will be contacted by the School if we require the evidence.

STEP 2 – School Application

All applicants must complete a School Application by 11:59pm (AEDST) on **Monday 8 January, 2024**. The School Application is completed in an online form – the link is available under the ‘Psychology’ subsection on the following page on the University’s website: <https://sydney.edu.au/science/study/undergraduate-courses/honours-in-science.html>

When you submit your School Application, a receipt will be emailed to you. Please save the email receipt as a PDF, as depending on your situation, you may need it for some of the following steps.

STEP 3 – University Application

Submit your University Application AFTER completing your School Application. As part of your University Application, you will be asked to submit proof of contact with a supervisor. Please note, those applying for Honours in Psychology do NOT need to do this; instead, you must upload the email receipt of your School Application.

With regard to the University Application, depending on your internal/external status, and also the degree you completed, you will be applying for a specific degree –

- If you are an Internal Applicant who has completed an eligible **single bachelor degree** (e.g., Bachelor of Science; Bachelor of Liberal Arts and Science), you will apply for appended honours (e.g., [Bachelor of Science \(Honours\)](#), [Bachelor of Liberal Arts and Science \(Honours\)](#)).
- If you are an Internal Applicant who has completed the **3-year Bachelor of Psychology degree**, you will apply for [Bachelor of Science \(Honours\)](#).
- If you are an Internal Applicant who has completed the **Graduate Diploma in Psychology**, you will apply for [Bachelor of Science \(Honours\)](#).
- If you are an Internal Applicant who has completed an eligible **single bachelor degree** (e.g., Bachelor of Science) and you completed **two majors** (e.g., BSc with the Psychology program and a major in Chemistry; BA with a major in English and the Psychology program, etc.), you will apply for appended honours (e.g., [Bachelor of Science \(Honours\)](#), [Bachelor of Arts \(Honours\)](#))*
- If you are an Internal Applicant who is currently enrolled in a **4-year combined Bachelor of Advanced Studies** and you completed two majors (e.g., [Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Advanced Studies](#) or [Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Advanced Studies](#)), you will be required to identify in Sydney Student if you wish to complete 'Advanced Coursework' or 'Honours' for your embedded Fourth Year – if you wish to do Honours in Psychology, you need to select 'Honours', and then complete the subsequent form identifying that you wish to do Honours in Psychology.
- If you are an External Applicant, and if you completed an eligible bachelor degree, you will apply for appended honours that aligns with your bachelor degree. For example:
 - [Bachelor of Science \(Honours\)](#) if your degree was in the Sciences
 - [Bachelor of Arts \(Honours\)](#) if your degree was in the Humanities
 - [Bachelor of Commerce \(Honours\)](#) if your degree was in Business or Economics

*unless you applied to transfer to a combined Bachelor of Advanced Studies degree

STEP 4 – Academic Reference

External applicants must arrange for one academic reference (e.g., University tutor, University lecturer, Professor) – this will only be requested from you if your application is considered for endorsement by the School of Psychology, so you do not need to send this information until requested. If an external applicant is being considered and has been asked to send this information, the Honours Coordinator will assess the academic reference in light of the rest of their application and may or may not direct the University's Admissions Office to proceed with your application.

OFFERS OF PLACES

Although the School of Psychology will choose to endorse applicants or not, the actual offer for a place in the Honours in Psychology cohort will be made by the University's Admissions Office. Only the University's Admissions Office will communicate with you about your University Application; the School of Psychology will not communicate with you about your University Application. Only the School of Psychology will communicate with you about your School Application; the University's Admissions Office will not unless it is to advise you to attach documentation as evidence that you have completed the School Application.

With regard to the offer, successful applicants will be required to indicate their acceptance or refusal in a timely manner to the University's Admissions Office, according to instructions given by the University's Admissions Office.

All applicants should ensure that both the School of Psychology (i.e., in your School Application) and the University (i.e., in your University Application) are operating with the same contact details (i.e., same exact name, same exact email address, and same exact phone number in both applications).

Once offers are made, places will not be held for applicants who fail to respond to their offer by the deadline advised by the University's Admissions Office.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: There are two “Bachelor of Psychology” degrees at the University of Sydney. How do I know whether I am in the embedded Bachelor of Psychology Honours degree or the three-year Bachelor of Psychology degree?

A: The best way to determine this information is to review the code in your letter of offer. If it is BPPSYCHO3000, then you are in the embedded Bachelor of Psychology Honours degree. If it is BPPSYCHO4000, then you are in the three-year Bachelor of Psychology degree.

Q: Is Honours admission purely based on HAM or a combination of HAM and other things (e.g., lived experience, research experience, volunteering experience)?

A: Due to the limited number of places available in the Honours cohort, applications are evaluated solely on the HAM. Additional work-, research- or other experience is not considered in the evaluation of applicants.

Q: My application in Sydney Student is asking for proof that a supervisor is willing to oversee my Honours studies – what should I do?

A: As part of your University Application, you will be asked to submit proof of contact with a supervisor. As noted above, students applying for Honours in Psychology do not need to do this. Instead, you must upload the email receipt of your School Application.

Q: I have already completed a postgraduate qualification – will this count towards my Honours Application Mark or towards my Honours components if I am accepted into the Honours in Psychology program?

A: No – entry into the Honours in Psychology program is based on academic performance in undergraduate psychology units only, and credit or advanced standing is not given to applicants with postgraduate qualifications.

Q: I completed some of my psychology units while on exchange at an overseas university – how will my Honours Application Mark be calculated?

A: For internal applicants, your Honours Application Mark will be based only on Units of Study completed at the University of Sydney. For external applicants, your Honours Application Mark will be based on whatever units we are able to determine contributed to your sequence of study in psychology.

Q: I completed SCPU3001: Science Interdisciplinary Project. Will this count toward my Honours Application Mark?

A: No – entry into the Honours in Psychology program is based on academic performance in undergraduate *psychology* units only, and the interdisciplinary projects offered to date do not meet the threshold for psychology content. However, the SCPU3001 unit will count towards the completion of the requirements of your broader undergraduate degree.

Q: I have relevant work experience – will this be taken into account when I apply for Honours in Psychology?

A: No – entry into the Honours in Psychology program is based on the Honours Application Mark only.

Q: I want to do Honours in Psychology the year after next, not the coming year – should I apply now and defer any offer that I get?

A: Only applicants enrolled in the embedded Bachelor of Psychology Honours can defer an offer into the Honours in Psychology program. Applicants from all other degree pathways (including the 3-year Bachelor of Psychology) cannot defer an offer. If you are an embedded Bachelor of Psychology Honours student and wish to be considered for a later Honours year, please only apply in the application for that year.

Q: [general questions concerning allocation to a Supervisor]

A: You can find out about prospective Supervisors by browsing the [School's research areas](#) and then searching for specific researchers (see the portal where this booklet was found). Please also review the [2024 document with a list of prospective supervisors and topics](#) (it is also available as a link within the School Application). Please note that not all prospective Supervisors will be available every year for supervision of Honours students.

You are welcome to contact prospective Supervisors to ask them about what kinds of topics Honours students typically work on with them, but it is not advisable to pitch research ideas to prospective Supervisors as the probability you will be allocated to that particular Supervisor is not high – research ideas should only be negotiated between students and Supervisors once allocations have been made.

In the School Application, you will be asked to rank the topics of interest to you – these rankings will be used to match students to Supervisors, but because some topics are more popular than others, not everyone will get allocated to one of their highest-ranked topics. The allocations are not based on HAM – once a student has been endorsed for a place in Honours, their HAM does not affect how they are allocated.

Q: [general questions concerning coursework and the Empirical Thesis]

A: Students are expected to enrol in Honours on a full-time basis – the coursework in Honours is concentrated to Semester 1 (Advanced Psychometrics and both Advanced Seminars) and Intensive August (Foundations of Professional Psychology). Students can reasonably expect to have commitments every day of the week in those teaching periods, taking up to 10 face-to-face hours each week in Semester 1 and up to 4 face-to-face hours each week in Intensive August – this does not include any commitments for your Empirical Thesis, which takes place throughout the year (i.e., from the beginning of Semester 1 through to Week 10/Week 11 of Semester 2), with some periods of time being busier than others. Students who will be engaging in work outside of University should discuss time management with their Supervisor to ensure that students are dedicating an appropriate amount of time to their Empirical Thesis.

The Empirical Thesis is an individual project (although data collection might be shared with another student), but it will be designed in consultation with your Supervisor – it is advisable that you negotiate something that capitalises on your Supervisor's research expertise. Supervisors are expected to meet with their students once each week on average – at some points during the year (e.g., during data collection), you might meet less frequently than once a week, whereas at other points during the year (e.g., during data analysis), you might meet more frequently than once a week.

Q: How do we choose our Advanced Seminar topic? Is it in the School Application?

A: Students who have been endorsed for a place in the Honours cohort will be sent information about the descriptions of the Advanced Seminars that are available, and the timetable for these Advanced Seminars. Information on how to select the specific Advanced Seminars will be provided by the Honours Team to students who have been endorsed for the 2024 cohort and have accepted their offer.

Q: How many weeks before the usual semester does Honours start?

A: The official start to the Honours year begins with the Honours Orientation Day, which is usually the week before the semester begins. For 2024, it will be at some point during the week of 12-16 February.

FURTHER QUESTIONS / CONTACTS

If you cannot find the answer to your question in this document, please refer to other information sources on the University's 'Honours in Science' portal:

<https://sydney.edu.au/science/study/undergraduate-courses/honours-in-science.html>

If your enquiry specifically concerns something about the components within the Honours in Psychology program, the School Application, or the selection process:

Education Support (psychology.honours@sydney.edu.au)

If your enquiry specifically concerns the University Application (e.g., which degree you should be applying for, what documents are required, deadlines, etc.):

<https://www.sydney.edu.au/students/forms/make-an-enquiry.html>