



School of Psychology
Honours in Psychology

Honours Information Booklet

2021

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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 (upon completion and acceptance into a postgraduate program)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

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

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. a Bachelor's degree, or equivalent, from a recognised institution; that is
2. obtained within the past 10 years (from the commencement of the degree); and
3. contained an APAC-accredited sequence of study in Psychology; with
4. completion of a statistics and research methods unit at a Third Year level (e.g. PSYC3010 at the University of Sydney); and
5. at least a SciWAM of 65 for those in the Faculty of Science, or at least a WAM of 70 for those in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

*(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 85 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 Second Year PSYC units and Third Year PSYC units. *(N.B: HPSC3023 and any TSP units taken in place of Third Year PSYC units can count towards this criteria)*

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

Current internal Bachelor of Psychology students are guaranteed to receive a place in Honours in Psychology so long as they maintain the progression criteria for their degree. Given that, any remaining places will be offered to applicants in a rank-ordered manner.

The threshold for receiving a place in Honours in Psychology can vary from year to year, but historically, an 'Honours Application Mark' of approximately 75 or above has resulted in a place in the cohort.

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 - Bachelor of Psychology) – Step 2 ONLY
- Internal Applicants (University of Sydney - all other degrees) – 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 **Sun 13th Dec**. 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 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 by 11:59pm (AEDST) on **Thu 31st Dec**. 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 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 program –

If you are an Internal Applicant, and you commenced your Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Liberal Arts and Science degree prior to 2018, you will apply for [Bachelor of Science \(Honours\)](#) or [Bachelor of Arts \(Honours\)](#) or [Bachelor of Liberal Arts and Science \(Honours\)](#).

If you are an Internal Applicant, and you commenced your degree from 2018 onwards, you will apply for [Bachelor of Advanced Studies \(Honours\)](#), however, if you are an Internal Applicant, and you completed either the [Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Advanced Studies](#) or [Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Advanced Studies](#), with commencement in any year, you will be required to identify in Sydney Student if you wish complete 'Advanced Coursework' or 'Honours' for your 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, you will apply for [Bachelor of Advanced Studies \(Honours\)](#).

STEP 4 – Academic Reference

External applicants must arrange for one academic reference – 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. The School of Psychology will not communicate with you about your University Application, only the University's Admissions Office will – equally, the University's Admissions Office will not communicate with you about your School Application, only the School of Psychology will.

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. name, email address, and phone number to be the exact same 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

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

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 receipt of your School Application.

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?

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

I completed some of my psychology units of study while on exchange at an overseas university. How will my Honours application mark be calculated?

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.

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?

Applicants enrolled in degrees other than the Bachelor of Psychology cannot defer an offer into the Honours in Psychology program. If you wish to be considered for a later Honours year, please apply in the year immediately prior to that year.

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

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

FURTHER QUESTIONS / CONTACTS

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

<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.):

In the '*Prospective or current students*' section at <https://sydney.edu.au/contact-us.html>