

Honours in Psychology

Information Session

Dr Bruce Burns
Senior Lecturer
School of Psychology
Faculty of Science



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

The University of Sydney's campuses and facilities are located on the ancestral lands of Indigenous peoples who have sustained them for millennia. Our Camperdown/Darlington Campus is located on the lands of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, and our presence extends across many other Nations.



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

Honours in Psychology

Course overview



Duration: 1 year (full-time), 48 credit points



Availability: For students who have completed the APAC-accredited sequence in Psychology and meet the competitive WAM requirements



Location: Camperdown/Darlington campus



Intake: Semester 1 - February



Scholarships

School of Psychology – Domestic student scholarships

Scholarships	Value	Eligibility
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Undergraduate Psychology Scholarship	\$10,000 p.a. (up to 3 years)	
Sally Andrews Honours Scholarship in Psychology	\$7,000 p.a. (up to 1 year)	

Find out more



*General
scholarships*



*International
scholarships*

Questions we will address today

- Why do Honours in Psychology?
- What do you do in Honours in Psychology?
- What is required of you?
- Who is eligible for psychology honours?
- How do we select students?
- How do you apply?

Why do Honours in Psychology?

- To be eligible for pre-registration as a psychologist
- To meet requirements for entry into postgraduate professional courses (e.g., Master of Clinical Psychology)
- To meet requirements for entry into postgraduate research courses (e.g., PhD)
- To broaden employment opportunities
 - Transferrable skills (e.g., time management, research skills, project management and delivery)
- To bring together the knowledge and skills you have gained in psychology

What do you do in Honours in Psychology?

- One year of full-time study
- There is **no** mid-year intake, you must start in February
- Thesis research project plus coursework

What?	When?	Worth...
Empirical Thesis	Semesters 1 and 2	50%
Advanced Seminar 1	Semester 1	12.5%
Advanced Seminar 2	Semester 1	12.5%
Advanced Psychometrics	Semester 1	12.5%
Foundations of Professional Psychology	Intensive August	12.5%

What do you do in Honours in Psychology?

- Empirical Thesis project (the whole year)
- Design, conduct, analyse, and write up research developed under a supervisor that you are allocated
- Likely to be unlike anything you have done before – a large research project
- Develop an appreciation for the importance of the research process in psychology – an evidence-based discipline
- Submit a written thesis with a limit of 9,000 words
- Give an oral presentation of your thesis and answer questions about it

What do you do in Honours in Psychology?

- **Advanced Seminars** (× 2) (Semester 1)
 - Meet in small groups to discuss primary literature in psychology
 - Written assignment and usually a presentation/engagement component
- Seminar topics vary depending on staff availability.
- Recent examples are:

PSYC4123

- Emotion Regulation
- 'Not Guilty': The Sydney Exoneration Project
- Psycho-oncology: Adjusting to Life after Cancer
- Lost in Translation – Media Communication of Developmental Psych
- Close Relationships
- Paediatric Neuropsychology
- Development of Thinking in Childhood and Adolescence

PSYC4124

- Neurodiversity with a Focus on the Senses
- The Psychology of Uncertainty
- Exploring the Influence of Expectations on Perception and Attention
- Animal Cognition
- Behavioural Neuroscience
- Cognitive Neuroscience of Food Perception and Decision Making
- What are the Role of DNNs for Psychological Research and Theory?

What do you do in Honours in Psychology?

- **Advanced Psychometrics** (Semester 1)
 - Advanced statistics and research design
 - Psychometrics
 - Choice of workshops
- **Foundations of Professional Practice** (August intensive)
 - Ethics
 - Communication and Interviewing Skills
 - Psychometric Assessment
 - Culturally-Informed Practice

What do you do in Honours in Psychology?

Semester 1 (sample)

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
9					
10					Advanced Psychometric s Lecture
11					
12				Advanced Psychometric s Tutorial	
1					
2	Advanced Seminar #1		Advanced Seminar #2		
3		Advanced Psychometric s Lecture			
4					
5					

- Pre-semester induction/ethics workshop
- Advanced Psychometrics Tutorials run for 7-8 weeks
- Advanced Seminars run for 10 weeks

What do you do in Honours in Psychology?

Semester 2 (sample)

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
9					
10					
11					
12					
1					
2					
3			Seminar or Workshop		
4	drop-in session				
5					

Foundations of Professional Psychology is run in the Intensive August session, starting in July (prior to the start of Semester 2) and finishing in early September. Focus is more on your thesis.

What is required of you?

- Self-discipline
- Time management
- Collegiality
- Responsibility and integrity

Who is eligible for psychology honours?

- If you are a student in the 4-year Bachelor of Psychology Honours (or 4-year BPsych) degree then you must meet the degree progression criteria for 2000-level and 3000-level units specified in the faculty handbook.
- For all other students you must have completed a Level-1 APAC-accredited degree (if not sure, check apac.au) PLUS
 - for post-2018 degrees, you need to have completed **the Psychology program**.
 - Students in a Faculty of Science degree (e.g., BSc, BLAS, GDP, 3-year BPsych) must have a WAM > 65 to be eligible to apply; students in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences degrees (e.g., BA) must have a WAM > 70 to be eligible to apply.
- For external students, applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis

How do we select students for honours?

Many more eligible students apply than we have space for, so we have a selection process for deciding who to admit.

- If you are a student in the 4-year Bachelor of Psychology Honours (or 4-year BPsych) degree then you will be admitted if eligible
- Honours is the embedded fourth year of this degree
- For all other students we will calculate your Honours Application Mark (HAM) and rank you based on this
- Your HAM ranking is the only criterion we use to select eligible students for admission
- For external students, we will try to calculate an equivalent HAM
- We have separate rankings for internal and external applicants and students who completed their degree at the University of Sydney are given preference

You can
download a
HAM calculator
Excel file [here](#).

How to apply

A two-step process

School of Psychology Application

- Regardless of your degree or internal/external status, everyone must complete the School Application
- The School Application will likely open in December and close January 6th 2027
- When it opens it will be available on the [psychology honours page](#)

University Application

- Your receipt from the School Application must be attached to your University Application in the section '*Evidence of contacting a supervisor*'
 - for this reason, you need to complete the School Application first
- Internal 4-year BPsych Honours student do not have to complete the University Application

How to apply: Empirical Thesis Topics

- You will be asked to rank areas of research interest and supervisors
 - These preferences are very important, as they are used to allocate students to supervisors. You cannot be guaranteed a particular supervisor
 - You will be asked question such as whether you are willing to work with animals or have a drivers licence which may restrict the projects you can undertake
- Many possible areas and types of research are available
 - Check the School of Psychology website [Our Research](#)
 - Experimental projects
 - Correlational projects
 - Qualitative projects
- Projects may also be available outside the School, for example:
 - The Matilda Centre for Research in Mental Health and Substance Use
 - The Frontier Dementia Clinic at the Brain and Mind Centre
 - The Healthy Brain Ageing Clinic at the Charles Perkins Centre

How to apply: Hearing the result

Timeline (indicative)	
Mid-December	School Application opens
Early January	School Application closes
Late-January	First round offers
	Deadline to accept/reject first round offer is one week after offer
Early-February	Second round offers (if applicable)
	Deadline to accept/reject second round offer is one week after offer
Mid-February	Pre-semester Induction Honours Orientation

Do I *really* need to do an Honours degree???

If you are not interested in becoming a registered psychologist then you may consider the Master of Philosophy in Psychology (MPhil) as an alternative to honours.

Honours in Psychology

Who to ask for help

If you have further questions then you can contact us:

Dr Bruce Burns:

Honours Coordinator

Dr Jess Lee:

Empirical Thesis Coordinator

Ms Cheyenne Dedic:

Honours Education Support Officer

psychology.honours@sydney.edu.au

Honours Team in Psychology

psychology.honours@sydney.edu.au

psychology.honours-coordinator@sydney.edu.au

psychology.empirical-coordinator@sydney.edu.au

sydney.edu.au/science/study/undergraduate-courses/honours-in-science.html#psych

Important: the University of Sydney regularly reviews courses and reserves the right to change courses and admission criteria.

To stay up to date on available study options, including course details, accreditation, admission criteria and availability, refer to the relevant course page at: sydney.edu.au/courses.

The information included in this presentation is correct at September 2026.

sydney.edu.au/science

