Honours in Psychology 2026 Applicants

Presented by Dr Bruce Burns Honours Coordinator School of Psychology

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





We recognise and pay respect to the Elders and communities – past, present, and emerging – of the lands that the University of Sydney's campuses stand on. For thousands of years they have shared and exchanged knowledges across innumerable generations for the benefit of all.





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

- One year of full-time study
- There is **no** mid-year intake, you must start in February

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

- Empirical Thesis project (the whole year)
- Design, conduct, analyse, and write up research developed under supervision
- 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

- Advanced Seminars (× 2) (Semester 1)
 - 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?

- 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

Semester 1 (sample)

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

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

Semester 2 (sample)

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

What makes a successful attempt at Honours in Psychology?

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

Honours in Psychology - People to know

Dr Bruce Burns: Honours Coordinator

Assoc Prof Lisa Kim: Advanced Seminars Coordinator

Dr Jess Lee: Empirical Thesis Coordinator

Ms Cheyenne Dedic: Honours Education Support Officer

psychology.honours@sydney.edu.au

- Applying for Honours
 - Check that you are in an APAC-accredited degree
 - for post-2018 degrees, you need to have completed **the Psychology program**.
 - Students in a Faculty of Science degree (e.g., BSc, BLAS, GDP) 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; students in BPsych must have met their degree progression criteria.
 - Applicants are ranked based on their Honours Application Mark (HAM), which is calculated from the four Intermediate (2nd Year) Psychology units and the <u>best</u> four Senior (3rd Year) Psychology units, where the Senior (3rd Year) Psychology units are weighted twice as much. [N.B: HPSC3023, PSYC3888, and TSP/Dalyell units taken in place of PSYC units can count]
 - The top ~ 100 applicants are offered a place; the cut-off for rankings usually results in a threshold of ~ 75 , but can vary year to year.
 - Only BPsych (4 year) students can defer their offer, whereas all other successful applicants would just need to re-apply in the subsequent year.

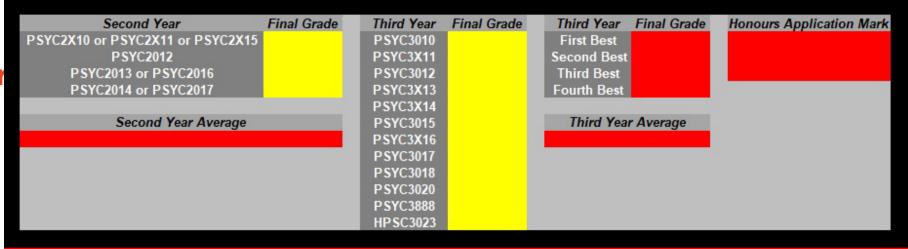
Where do I find information?

The University's <u>Honours in Science</u> portal (scroll down to find the section for Psychology)
https://www.sydney.edu.au/science/study/undergraduate-courses/honours-in-science.html#psych

What information should I note?

- the Honours Information Booklet (current for 2025, but will be updated soon)
- the Honours Application Mark Calculator

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Honours Application Mark Calculator School of Psychology, University of Sydney

- (1) <u>Please ONLY enter your Final Mark into the cells highlighted in YELLOW</u> all other cells populate based on automatic formulae, please do <u>not</u> alter any other cell.
- (2) You must have completed the four Second Year PSYC Units of Study. (N.B: if you were approved to complete any of these Units of Study on exchange, they will count towards the completion requirements for eligibility, but they will NOT be included in your Second Year Average calculation)
- (3) You must have completed <u>AT LEAST</u> four Third Year PSYC Units of Study and one of these <u>MUST</u> be PSYC3010. (N.B: if you were approved to complete any of these Units of Study on exchange, they will count towards the completion requirements for eligibility, but they will <u>NOT</u> be included in your Third Year Average calculation)
- (4) If you completed PSYC2X11, you MUST have also completed PSYC3018; however, if you completed PSYC2X10 or PSYC2X15, it was NOT compulsory to complete PSYC3018.
- (5) All four of your Second Year PSYC Units of Study and the four <u>BEST</u> Third Year PSYC Units of Study will be included in the calculation of your Honours Application Mark please note, the Third Year PSYC Units of Study are weighted twice as much as the Second Year PSYC Units of Study.
- (6) If you completed TSP and/or Dalyell units in place of specific Third Year PSYC units, you can simply enter the mark you received for that unit in the cell for the Third Year PSYC unit that it replaced.
- (7) PSYC4XXX units are not a part of the APAC-accredited Psychology program, and so are not counted in this calculation.
- (8) If you are from the University of Sydney, your Honours Application Mark will be calculated using the formulae above. Please note, the number you see is indicative only and does NOT guarantee you a place in Honours in Psychology if it is above a previously known threshold.
- (9) If you are <u>NOT</u> from the University of Sydney, you can still use this calculator as a guide, but please note that your Honours Application Mark will be calculated separately it may depend on how your sequence of study aligns with ours and on which University you are coming from.
- (10) If you have any questions, please contact Education Support (psychology.honours@sydney.edu.au).

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- the Honours Application Mark Calculator
- List of Prospective Supervisors and Topics (current for 2024, but will be updated soon)



Prospective Supervisors, Prospective Topics, and Considerations / Restrictions

Please note, if a Supervisor has a profile available on the University website, it may be found here – https://www.sydney.edu.au/science/schools/school-of-psychology/academic-staff.html

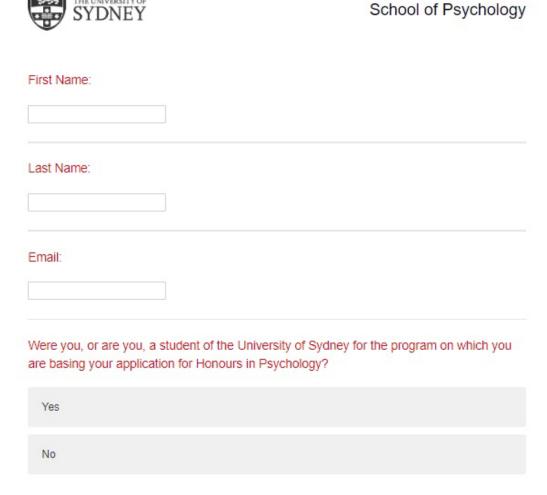
	Topics				Considerations / Restrictions for Topics				
Supervisor:	(1)	(2)	(3)	Must be able to obtain a Working With Children Check	Must have a Driver's Licence	Must be able to attend in- person	Must be able to attend out-of- hours (e.g. sleep lab)	Must be able to work with animals	
Prof David Alais	Multisensory perception	Active perception	Visual perception	Applies to none	Applies to none	(1).(2).(3)	Applies to none	Applies to none	
Prof Bart Anderson	Material perception	Shape perception	Realism and computer graphics	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	
A/Prof Damian Birney	Cognitive flexibility	Working memory	Metacognition	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	
Prof Robert Boakes	Contrast effects in liking for tastes (rats or humans)	Rat models of bingeing	Cognition and taste aversion learning	Applies to none	Applies to none	(1).(2).(3)	Applies to none	(2)	
A/Prof Michael Bowen	Dysregulated social motivation in substance use disorders	Irritability, agitation and aggression in transgenic models of high risk autism genes	Novel therapeutics and therapeutic targets for disorders of the brain and mind	Applies to none	Applies to none	(1).(2).(3)	(1).(2).(3)	(1).(2).(3)	
Dr Bruce Burns	Decision-making	Reasoning and problem-solving	Moral reasoning	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	
Dr Rachel Campbell	Psycho-oncology	Quality of life in chronic disease	Fatigue and sleep disturbance	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	
A/Prof Thomas Carlson	Object/face recognition	Cognitive neuroscience	Visual cognition	Applies to none	Applies to none	(1).(2).(3)	Applies to none	Applies to none	
Prof Ben Colagiuri	Understanding placebo effects	Inhibiting nocebo effects	Social transmission of symptoms	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	
Prof Mark Dadds	Child mental health	Parental discipline strategies	Family processes	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	
A/Prof Ilan Dar-Nimrod	Gender identity (transgender)	Gender identity (dysphoric individuals)		Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	
A/Prof Haryana Dhillon	Psycho-oncology	Cancer survivorship and supportive care	Medical decision-making in the context of cancer	Applies to none	Applies to none	(2)	Applies to none	Applies to none	
Dr Kit Double	Metacognition	Introspection	Self-confidence	Applies to none	Applies to none	(1).(2).(3)	Applies to none	Applies to none	
Prof Sally Gainsbury	Gambling and addictions	Clinical psychology	Mental health	Applies to none	Applies to none	(1).(2).(3)	Applies to none	Applies to none	
Dr Micah Goldwater	Child development: cognitive and social-cognitive	Beliefs and decision-making	Concepts and creative thinking	(1)	Applies to none	(1)	Applies to none	Applies to none	
Prof Justin Harris	Pavlovian conditioning in rats	Associative learning in humans	Using TMS to investigate response control	Applies to none	Applies to none	(1),(3)	Applies to none	(1)	
Prof Alex Holcombe	Position and motion perception	Visual cognition	Research on research (metascience)	Applies to none	Applies to none	(1).(2)	Applies to none	Applies to none	
Dr Christopher Hunt	Psychology of gambling	Treatment of problem gambling	Gender roles and stereotypes	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	
A/Prof Ian Johnston	Brain-immune interactions	Eating behaviour	Dog adoption	Applies to none	Applies to none	(1)	Applies to none	(1)	
Prof Ilona Juraskova	Psycho-oncology (adults)	Adolescents and young adults with cancer	Medical communication and decision-making	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	
A/Prof Sabina Kleitman	Decision-making (individual differences)	Self-beliefs/imposter/self-handicapping	Impact of COVID-19	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	
A/Prof Fiona Kumfor	Clinical profiles of dementia	Social cognition	Neurocognitive disorders	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	
Dr Rebekah Laidsaar-Powell	Patient hospital experiences and decisions (qualitative study)	Women's health (e.g., fertility) communication and decisions	Cancer survivors and family carers	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	
Dr Jessica Lee	Associative learning in humans	Generalisation of fear conditioning	Illusory causation	Applies to none	Applies to none	(2)	Applies to none	Applies to none	
A/Prof Evan Livesey	Learning biases in beliefs and judgments	Implicit learning	Impulsivity and cognitive control	Applies to none	Applies to none	(1).(2).(3)	Applies to none	Applies to none	
A/Prof Carolyn MacCann	Emotion regulation	Emotion regulation	Personality states and traits	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	
Dr Rachel Menzies	Death anxiety	OCD	Mental disorders	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	
Dr Caroline Moul	Psychopathy and CU traits	Social cognitive development	Associative learning and attention in psychopathology	(2)	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	
Prof Sharon Naismith	Healthy brain aging	Sleep	Dementia	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	
Dr Caleb Owens	Role of attention in learning and memory	Effective study strategies	Educational integrity	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	
Dr Helen Paterson	Eyewitness memory	Juror decision-making	Lie detection	Applies to none	Applies to none	(3)	Applies to none	Applies to none	
Dr Daniel Pearson	Cognitive processes underlying attentional bias	Attentional bias and decision-making	Cognitive processes involved in addiction and compulsive behaviour	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	
Prof Olivier Piguet	Neuroimaging of dementia	Neuropsychology of aging	Language disorders	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	
Dr Rebecca Pinkus	Social comparison	Romantic relationships	Weight stigma	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	
Dr Reuben Rideaux	Visual perception	Sensory neuroscience (EEG)	Cognitive neuroscience (EEG)	Applies to none	Applies to none	(1).(2).(3)	Applies to none	Applies to none	
Prof Louise Sharpe	Attention bias in pain	Cognitive bias modification	Fear of disease progression	Applies to none	Applies to none	(1)	Applies to none	Applies to none	
A/Prof Joanne Shaw	Psycho-oncology	Health psychology	Medical communication/health literacy	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	
Dr Niko Tiliopoulos	Personality and personality disorders	Adult attachment	Psychological elements of faith	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	
Dr Jemma Todd	Cognitive bias	Pain	Anxiety	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	Applies to none	
Dr Dominic Tran	Response inhibition/Impulse control	Diet, impulsivity, and neurophysiology	Cognitive neuroscience (TMS)	Applies to none	Applies to none	(2),(3)	Applies to none	Applies to none	
Dr Celine van Golde	Eyewitness memory	Jury decision-making in the legal system	Police interviews and victims/suspects	Applies to none	Applies to none	(1)	Applies to none	Applies to none	
Prof Frans Verstraten	Vision science	Human factors research		Applies to none	Applies to none	(1).(2)	Applies to none	Applies to none	

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- the link to the School Application
- the link to the University Application



Honours in Psychology 2025 – Two-Step Application Process

School 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 in January

University Application

- the receipt you get from the School Application must be attached to your University Application in the section that asks for Evidence of contacting a supervisor; for this reason, you cannot complete the University Application first
- N.B:
 - internal BPsych (4 year) students do <u>not</u> have to complete the University Application
 - If you are a 4-year BPsych of BPsych Hons student and you do not automatically progress to Honour then you can be considered for Honours based on your HAM, but you will need to complete the university application
 - <u>all other applicants</u>, both internal and external, <u>must</u> complete the University Application
 - Note that we accept external applications, but we strongly favour students who completed their degree at the University of Sydney.

Determine the Honours course for you:

I am a USYD student	Which Honours is the best option for me?
Enrolled in, or previously completed an eligible single bachelor degree	Appended honours, e.g. Bachelor of Science (Honours)
Currently enrolled in a 4-year combined Bachelor of Advanced Studies , on track to complete two majors, e.g. Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Advanced Studies (Note: some streams do not allow students to undertake honours in their second major, please confirm stream requirements in your handbook)	Combined Bachelor of Advanced Studies
Currently enrolled in a single bachelor degree, e.g. (Bachelor of Science) and on track to complete two majors	 Either: Transfer to a combined Bachelor of Advanced Studies (tuition fee changes may be applicable) OR; Apply for appended honours, e.g. Bachelor of Science (Honours)
I am a student from another university	Which Honours is the best option for me?
Who has completed an eligible bachelor degree	Appended honours, e.g. Bachelor of Science (Honours)

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-Feburary	Second round offers (if applicable)			
	Deadline to accept/reject second round offer is one week after offer			
Mid-February	Pre-semester Induction Honours Orientation			

Empirical Thesis Topics

- You will be asked to rank areas of research interest
 - these preferences are very important, as they are used to allocate students to supervisors
- Many possible areas available
 - check the School of Psychology website
 Our Research
 - Experimental projects
 - Correlational projects
 - Qualitative projects
- Check the Prospective Supervisors and Topics (2026) document
- 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

Honours in Psychology – What next?

- Check back with the location mentioned on the Where do I find information? slide
- Once the documents have been updated:
 - » read the Honours Information Booklet
- Once 15 December has passed:
 - » begin your School Application
- Once the School Application has been completed:
 - » begin your University Application

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

Consider the Master of Philosophy in Psychology (MPhil)

- Questions?

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

Frequently Asked Questions

- How are students assigned supervisors for the Empirical Thesis?
- Do I have to have done a relevant Senior (3rd Year) Psychology unit to do my Empirical Thesis in the area?
- Do I have to do a clinically-relevant thesis to get into postgraduate professional course (e.g., Master of Clinical Psychology)?
- Where can I go overseas with Honours in Psychology from Australia?
- How would I go about doing Honours in Psychology overseas and then coming back to Australia to work?
- What do I do if don't get into Honours in Psychology?