Honours in Psychology 2017

Presented by
Evan Livesey
School of Psychology

Honours in Psychology 2017

– School of Psychology Webpage >> Future Students >> Honours Studies

– Contains the Honours Information Booklet – a must read
  • NB the 2017 Honours Information Booklet will be made available in late September
– Links to excel spread sheets to calculate your application mark
– Link to the School application form
  • Available in late September
– Links to the Faculty application form
  • Available in late September
– Link to scholarships info
Psychology Honours – People to know

Evan Livesey: Honours Coordinators

Laura Corbit: Empirical Thesis Coordinator (in 2016)

Fiona Hibberd: Theoretical Thesis Coordinator

Honours Support Staff: psychology.honours@sydney.edu.au

Why do the honours year?

- To be eligible for registration as a psychologist
- To meet requirements for entry into postgraduate professional courses (eg. clinical psychology)
- To meet requirements for entry into postgraduate research courses (eg. PhD)
- To broaden employment opportunities
- To bring together the knowledge and skills you have gained in psychology
What is involved in the honours year?

- One year full time study
- There is no mid-year intake
- Part-time study allowed only in exceptional circumstances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What?</th>
<th>When?</th>
<th>Worth...</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Empirical Thesis</td>
<td>Semester 1 and 2</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theoretical Thesis</td>
<td>Semester 1</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td>OR</td>
<td>Semester 1</td>
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<td>Two Special Fields Seminars</td>
<td>Semester 1</td>
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<td>(each is worth 15%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Methods</td>
<td>Semester 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethics &amp; Professional Issues</td>
<td>Semester 2 (some in Sem 1)</td>
<td>5%</td>
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Honours in Psychology, 2017

- The Empirical Thesis
- 9,000 to 12,000 words
- Design, conduct, analyse and write up research developed under supervision
- Quite unlike anything you have done before – a large research project
- Appreciate the importance of the research process in psychology – an evidence-based discipline

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- Theoretical Thesis (HPSC Unit is a requirement) – 8,000 words
  OR
- Two Special Fields (topics are dependent on staff availability)- Written assignment and usually a presentation/participation component

• Vision, illusion, and reality
• Language
• Psychopharmacology: Drugs & Behaviour
• Decision making research
• The placebo effect
• The neurobiology of extinction learning
• Existential Social Psychology
• How can we use developmental psychology to improve education?
• Animal Learning & Cognition
• Binding in vision and memory

• Theory & Systems
• Neurobiology of learning and memory
• Patient & family adjustment to life after cancer
• Paediatric Neuropsychology
• Learning, cognition and action
• Eyewitness Memory
• Qualitative Inquiry
• The psychology of religion & spirituality
• Unravelling the enigma of anorexia nervosa
• Not Guilty: The Sydney Exoneration Project
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- Research Methods
  - Advanced statistics and research design
  - Psychometrics
  - Choice of workshops

- Ethics and Professional Issues

Sample Timetable: Semester 1

*Pre-semester induction/ethics workshop (before start of semester)*

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<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tues</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thurs</th>
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<td>Research Methods Lecture</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<td>Research Methods Tutorial</td>
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<td>Theory &amp; Systems Special Field</td>
<td>Language Special Field</td>
<td>Research Methods Lecture</td>
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* Research Methods classes only for the first 8 weeks of semester
* 2 Research Methods Workshops; assessed via attendance only
## Sample Timetable: Semester 2

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<td>Ethics &amp; Professional Issues</td>
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* Ethics & Professional Issues lectures: Weeks 1 – 7; Exam usually in Week 8

## What makes a successful Honours year?

- Self discipline
- Time management
- Collegiality
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- Applying for Honours
  - Check you are in an APAC accredited UG degree
  - Everyone, including BPsych and BA (Psych) students, has to apply
  - Students in a Faculty of Science degree (eg. BSc, BPsych, GDP) must have a SCIWAM of at least 65
  - Applicants are ranked based on their performance in 24 credit points of Intermediate Psychology and the best 24 (30 for BPsych and BA (Psych)) credit points of Senior Psychology – including PSYC3010. Senior Psychology Units are weighted twice as much as Intermediate Units.
  - HPSC and TSP units can count
  - Downloadable calculator
  - The top ~85 applicants are offered a place. The cut-off is around 75, but varies year to year.
  - Only BPsych students are able to defer a place in Honours. BA (Psych) will need to check with the Faculty of Arts. Other applicants would need to re-apply.

- The Application Process
  - 2 steps
    1. Complete the SCHOOL online application form by 5pm 30 November
      » Please make sure your SID is correct
      » You will receive an email confirming receipt of your application
    2. Complete an online honours application form for your Faculty. Links from our website (upload PDF of the email receipt from the SCHOOL application with your FACULTY application)
      » There is NO NEED to get approval from staff

- Apply for Honours Scholarships
- All details on the Future Students Honours Webpage
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<th>Timeline</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>November 30</td>
<td>SCHOOL application submitted online</td>
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<td>FACULTY Applications Due (Check with your Faculty)</td>
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<td>Late Nov/Early Dec</td>
<td>Gather information about staff research areas</td>
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<td>Mid-December</td>
<td>First round offers sent out – Empirical thesis area preference form open for submission</td>
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<td>Early January</td>
<td>Deadline to accept/reject first round offer</td>
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<td>Deadline for Honours scholarship applications</td>
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<td>Mid-January</td>
<td>Second round offers sent out</td>
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<td>Deadline to accept/reject second round offer</td>
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<td>Late Jan / early Feb</td>
<td>Students informed of Empirical Thesis Supervisor</td>
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<td>Throughout February</td>
<td>Initial discussions with supervisor (face-to-face or email)</td>
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<td>Mid February</td>
<td>Orientation Session</td>
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Frequently Asked Questions

- How are students assigned supervisors for the empirical thesis?
- Do I have to have done a relevant third year subject to do my empirical thesis in the area?
- Do I have to do a clinically relevant thesis to get into postgraduate clinical psychology?
- What do I do if don’t get into Honours?
- What can I do overseas with a psychology honours degree from Australia?
- How would I go about say doing honours overseas and then coming back to Australia to work?
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- Next steps
  - Read the Honours Information Booklet
  - Submit your School and Faculty applications.

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- Questions