



UNSW | Arts and
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES | **Social Sciences**

School of Social Sciences and International Studies

HONOURS INFORMATION 2012

HONOURS IN THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

The School of Social Sciences and International Studies offers an honours program in the following areas:

- BA Honours (3400/3403)
(Students will select a field of study, e.g. Political Science, Development Studies, Political Science, International Relations, Sociology/Anthropology)
- Social Science Honours (3420)
- Criminology Honours
- International Studies Honours

The School of Social Sciences and International Studies also offers an **Honours in Social Work**. Please refer to separate guidelines and or contact Jan Breckenridge at j.breckenridge@unsw.edu.au

Honours involves an additional year of study in which two honours seminar courses and a thesis workshop are completed in Session 1 and a thesis of up to 20,000 words is completed and submitted towards the end of Session 2.

Information for intending honours students is contained in this document. Enquiries about honours should be directed to the honours coordinator.

The honours coordinators for the School are:

Professor Ursula Rao

Room 163, Morven Brown Building

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WHY DO HONOURS?

Honours is the highest level of an undergraduate degree in the Australian higher education system. As an optional fourth year of intensive study after an ordinary undergraduate degree, Honours offers students many benefits. Educationally, it provides you with a different quality of learning, challenging you to complete a longer, more intensive piece of original research. Intellectually, Honours offers you a closer engagement with the academic community through more sustained and intensive contact with supervisors, seminar convenors, and the literature in your field of study.

In terms of qualifications, it indicates to employers, selection committees, and postgraduate training institutions that you were at the top of your year. It allows you to characterise your degree by awarding you a first, second, or third class of Honours. Socially, Honours is also a rewarding experience. Often the intensive contact you have with your fellow students through the year forms the basis of abiding friendships.

Honours requires strong commitment on your behalf. It is different from your previous years of undergraduate study, and you should approach it differently, start work earlier, work harder and more intensively, and think more deeply. Honours is a year of extremely hard work. This hard work brings rewards, among which is a greater understanding and appreciation of what you have learnt during your previous years of study.

The following two accounts of their experiences from former honours students illustrate these points:

The Honours year was the most challenging and rewarding experience of my life thus far, at both an intellectual and a personal level. It demands dedication and determination, but it simultaneously offers an intellectual journey into a question or problem about which you become passionate. The sense of achievement you feel at the end is beyond comparison. But the benefits of doing Honours extend far beyond the realm of academia. So many job descriptions in the political field focus on research, critical analysis and communications skills, and what better way to demonstrate these skills than with an Honours thesis? My own thesis was centred on Australian security, and on this basis I was fortunate to be selected for the 2006 Graduate Programme with the Department of Transport and Regional Services, where I will be working on maritime security policy. Honours is a great way to consolidate your learning, extend yourself further than you thought you could, and make some wonderful friends along the way!

Rebecca McClean (Honours 2005)

Completing the Honours year in Politics & International Relations at UNSW was one of the most satisfying things I have ever experienced. The great thing about doing a Research thesis for me is that for the first time in my university life I got to study an area I was truly passionate about and interested in. The thesis, while a lot of hard work, enabled me to create a truly original piece of work – I was able to finally express my political ideas, formed over the previous three years, and then refined and organised with the rigorous research process that the Honours year involves. It was hard work, a very long slog, but for me it was well the worth the long hours and a long-lasting hatred of the university library.

Jacqueline Flowers (Honours 2001)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. Eligibility for honours

In most of the programs within the School, to be eligible for Honours you must have successfully completed at least 8 courses (48 units of credit) in the program in which Honours is to be completed at a minimum overall average of 70%.

Requirements in detail are:

3400/3403 BA Honours

High achieving BA students (in Stand-Alone or Concurrent Mode) may apply for entry to Honours. Honours is an additional year of study (two years part-time) which allows a student to further explore their depth studies. It involves seminars and the completion of a research project or thesis. Those students who are considering Honours should submit an expression of interest at the beginning of Level 3 and complete a formal application at the end of Level 3. Both should be submitted to the Stream Convenor or the Designated School or Stream Honours Convenor. Entry to Honours requires a WAM of 70 or higher in the stream(s) seeking to be further studied and is subject to resources and the approval of the Head of School in which the stream(s) is/are based. Honours is awarded in three classes (Class 1, Class 2 in two Divisions, and Class 3). If requirements for these classes are not met the Pass degree will be awarded if the student is not already a Graduate of the program.

3420 Social Science Honours

High achieving students may apply for entry to Honours, Honours is an additional year of study (two years part-time) which allows a student to further explore the Social Sciences in greater depth. Qualified students complete Honours in one of the following areas; (a) Social Science, (b) their major stream, or (c) combined Honours in Social Science and their major stream. Those students who are considering Honours should submit an expression of interest at the beginning of Level 3 and complete a formal application at the end of Level 3. Both should be submitted to the School of Social Sciences and International Studies Honours Convenor and/or the Honours convenor of the School or stream if a stream major is being undertaken. Entry to Honours requires a WAM of 70 or higher in the core, or the major stream, or both depending on the type of study chosen and is subject to resources and the approval of the Head of the School. Honours is awarded in three classes (Class 1, Class 2 in two Divisions, and Class 3). If requirements for these classes are not met the Pass degree will be awarded if the student is not already a Graduate of the program.

Criminology Honours

High achieving Bachelor of Criminology & Criminal Justice students (in Stand-Alone or Concurrent Mode) may apply for entry to Honours. Honours is an additional year of study (two years part-time) which allows a student to further explore their field of Criminology and Criminal Justice. It involves seminars and the completion of a research thesis. Those students who are considering Honours should submit an expression of interest at the beginning of Level 3 and

complete a formal application at the end of Level 3. Both should be submitted to the School of Social Science and International Studies Honours Convenor. Entry to Honours requires a WAM of 70 or higher in the Criminology Core and Prescribed Criminology Electives and is subject to resources and the approval of the Head of the School of Social Science and International Studies. Honours is awarded in three classes (Class 1, Class 2 in two Divisions, and Class 3). If requirements for these classes are not met the Pass degree will be awarded if the student is not already a Graduate of the program.

International Studies Honours

High achieving BInst students (in Stand-Alone or Concurrent Mode) may apply for entry to Honours. Honours is an additional year of study (two years part-time) which allows a student to further explore their stream specialisation. It involves seminars and the completion of a research project or thesis. Those students who are considering Honours should submit an expression of interest at the beginning of Level 4 and complete a formal application at the end of Level 4. Both should be submitted to the designated School or Stream Honours Convenor. Entry to Honours requires a WAM of 70 or higher in the stream seeking to be further studied and is subject to resources and the approval of the Head of School in which the stream is based. Honours is awarded in three classes (Class 1, Class 2 in two Divisions, and Class 3). If requirements for these classes are not met the Pass degree will be awarded if the student is not already a Graduate of the program.

2. Minor Streams and Honours

Students can complete a research project or thesis that draws on their studies in a minor stream. This can only be done, however, when in combination with their major stream.

3. The Graduate Diploma by Research

This course is suitable for graduates who have typically had some time away from university and wish to return to complete an Honours-equivalent degree, but do not have the prerequisites to enrol in Honours. The Graduate Diploma is an equivalent qualification to Honours. Successful completion of the Graduate Diploma permits entry into postgraduate research degrees, including a PhD. To qualify for entry into the Graduate Diploma you must have an average in your undergraduate studies of 70% or higher. Once admitted, the requirements of the Diploma are the same as those for full time Honours. Students who have completed an MA Coursework program may apply for advanced standing for the two session-length seminar subjects.

For entry to the Graduate Diploma please contact the Research Co-ordinator in the relevant program. Once you have been accepted your academic coordinator is the Honours coordinator. Once admitted, all the students in this category act as the Honours students and this Guide refers to them equally.

HOW TO ENROL

All students interested in undertaking Honours are asked to **identify a supervisor**. It is important that you do so well in advance of filling out an "Intention to Do Honours" Form, available on the Honours website. This is an information document and does NOT constitute enrolment.

Submit an Intention to do Honours Form to the Honours coordinator (Ursula Rao, u.rao@unsw.edu.au, Morven Brown, Room 163). The form is available from the Honours Website of the School of Social Sciences and International Studies, at <http://ssis.arts.unsw.edu.au/honours/>

To enrol in Honours immediately after completion of an undergraduate pass degree at UNSW, **complete an Honours Approval form** available from the Student Office of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Morven Brown, G1) or from the honours coordinator.

This must be **completed and brought to the Honours Coordinator** (Ursula Rao, u.rao@unsw.edu.au, Morven Brown, Room 163) who will check your eligibility before signing off and granting permission for you to enrol. To process the application, please bring a copy of your academic transcript with you when you bring or send this form to the School.

To enrol in Honours after a break from undergraduate studies, or after completing your undergraduate pass degree at another university, you need to complete a University application form (<http://www.unsw.edu.au/futureStudents/undergrad/sad/forms.html#Honours>)

All forms should be lodged by **10 December 2011**. There is no mid-year entry for Honours in SSIS.

HONOURS REQUIRMENTS

Full-time Honours requirements

- Work on an original piece of research throughout the year and submit a 15,000-20,000 word long thesis based upon that research.
- Complete one interdisciplinary course, List A Courses (6 Unit of Credits)
- Complete one disciplinary course, List B Courses (6 Unit of Credits).
- Complete a Thesis Workshop and pass a Mid Term Review (6 Unit of Credits)

Part-time Honours requirements (over two years)

- Work on an original piece of research throughout the year and submit a 15,000-20,000 word long thesis based upon that research, in the course of session 2 to 4 of enrolment.
- Complete one interdisciplinary course, List A Course in Session 1 of enrolment (6 Unit of Credits)
- Complete one disciplinary course, List B Course in Session 1 of enrolment (6 Unit of Credits).
- Complete a Thesis Workshop and pass a Mid Term Review in session 3 of enrolment (6 Unit of Credits)

Admission to part-time enrolment in Honours is not automatic, but is granted at the discretion of the Head of School on the recommendation of the Honours Committee. Students need to be able to present grounds for being permitted to enrol part-time.

Combined Honours Full Time requirements

- Work on an original piece of research throughout the year and submit a 15,000-20,000 word long thesis based upon that research.
- Complete one interdisciplinary course, List A Course (6 Unit of Credits)
- Complete two disciplinary course, List B Courses (2*6 Unit of Credits)

Combined Honours Part Time (4550) requirements (over two years)

- Work on an original piece of research throughout the year and submit a 15,000-20,000 word long thesis based upon that research, in the course of session 2 to 4 of enrolment.
- Complete one interdisciplinary course, List A Course in Session 1 of enrolment (6 Unit of Credits)
- Complete a disciplinary course, List B Course in Session 1 of enrolment (6 Unit of Credits).
- Complete a disciplinary course, List B Course list Review in session 3 of enrolment (6 Unit of Credits)

Graduate Diploma by Research requirements

The requirements for a Graduate Diploma by Research Full Time are identical to the requirements for Full Time Honours. The requirements for a Graduate Diploma by Research Part Time are identical to the requirements for Part Time Honours.