

Frequently Asked Questions

- **What's Honours? Why is it a good program to do?**

A Bachelor with Honours program is a one year research intensive course after the completion of your Bachelors' course. For those studying Public Health or Social Sciences, Honours is a new degree after you finish your Bachelors' degree. For Social Work students, you have a choice to add Honours as a fourth year of study.

The Honours program allows you to explore a topic area with more depth under the guidance of an academic supervisory team. You will get hands on experience in academic research skills, and learn how to apply research methodologies to research practice. During the program, you will develop a thesis, a substantial piece of written work resulting from your research. These foundational research skills are crucial if you are thinking about furthering a career in academic research, such as a masters by research or a PhD program. These research and analytical skills are also highly valued in diverse work places, such as the public service, private industries and community organisations.

- **How do I know if I am eligible to apply for Honours?**

You will be eligible to apply if you have obtained a Distinction+ average (Weighted Average Mark (WAM) of 75 or more) across your 200 & 300 level courses.

- **I'm keen! What should I do now?**

Have a look at the list of projects being offered in your discipline:

<https://www.uow.edu.au/the-arts-social-sciences-humanities/current-students/honours-programs/>

If you have identified a project you're interested in, contact the academic supervisors to discuss the potential of working with them. Look for projects that really jump out at your interests, because passion for a topic really sustains and embellishes a research project. You may also choose a project because the research methods are aligned with the skills or expertise you are keen to develop for a particular career pathway. You may also choose a project because you know your supervisors well from a previous course or project, and you know you will make a good team.

Once you've discussed the project with your supervisors and you both agree to go ahead with the project, contact the Honours Coordinators to confirm the project.

- **When will I graduate from my Bachelor's degree?**

For Social Science and Public Health students, your Bachelors' and Honours degrees are separate programs. While you do have the option of graduating from both one year after the next, the usual practice is to graduate once when your Honours degree is conferred.

For Social Works students, Honours is embedded to your Bachelors' degree. You will graduate once your Honours components are completed, and your entire degree is conferred.

- **How does enrolment work?**

Once you have an Honours project and supervisor confirmed, you will need to wait for the marks of your final year Bachelors' subjects to be finalised, as your final WAM cannot be calculated till this point. Once the marks are released and it is confirmed that your WAM meets the enrolment eligibility, you can officially apply for entry into the Honours program. Usually this will happen from mid - late January, and the very last day to enrol or withdraw is census day of the autumn session.

You need to submit an online application to study: <https://www.uow.edu.au/study/apply/>
Once your application is approved, we will send you an offer of study. Once you accept this, you're ready to go.

- **When will I start?**

You can start working on your Honours project as soon as you enrol. It is up to you and your supervisors how and when you regularly meet and work on the project. In session 1, there are compulsory seminars for all Honours students in most weeks that covers key aspects of research methods and practice, and there are minor project related assignments to steer you along. Consult the Honours Guide for these details: <https://www.uow.edu.au/the-arts-social-sciences-humanities/current-students/honours-programs/>

- **More info & support**

The Honours Guide will have a lot more information about the program. An information session for the Honours Program is usually held in September, where you get to meet some of the potential supervisors. A video of the session is available by contacting the Honours Coordinators.

Please contact the Honours Coordinators (Dr Patti Shih & Dr Cammi Webb-Gannon) if you'd like to talk through your options or get some support.