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# Psychology Honours Info Session (for 2023 Honours entry)

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# Overview of Honours Info session 2

- ▶ Welcome
- ▶ Who needs Honours?
- ▶ Psychology Honours at UOW: What is involved?
- ▶ Entry into the UOW Hons Program
  - **Eligibility** - check this now
- ▶ Calculating your **competitiveness** for Honours entry (“Honours WAM”)
- ▶ If you get in... what are other considerations?
- ▶ If you don't... what are your options?
- ▶ QUESTIONS




Why would you need Honours?



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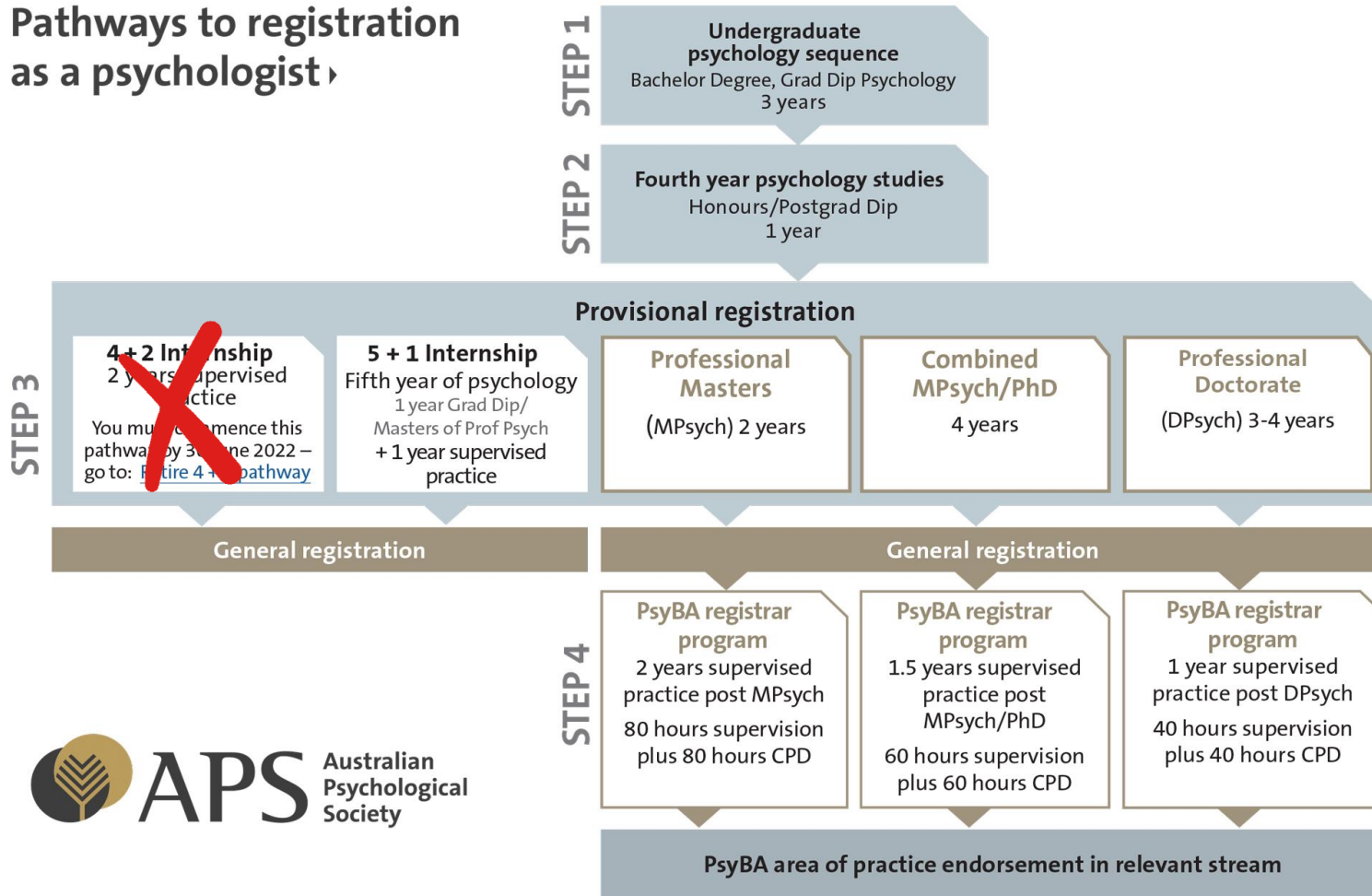
# A 4<sup>th</sup> year qualification in psychology may not be necessary if you...

- ▶ Want to be in a “helping” profession
    - E.g., Counsellor, Case Worker at Dept of Family Services, Social work, Disability worker... etc.
  - ▶ Want a career in another area that values your foundational learning in psychology
    - E.g., marketing, human resources, government graduate positions, graduate internships in corporations
  - ▶ **Psychology Careers Moodle site:** TCHR083\_22 (you can self enrol)
- 

# I want to pursue postgraduate professional psychology training to **become a registered psychologist**

- ▶ Need honours to qualify for *provisional registration* with the Psychology Board of Australia (<https://www.ahpra.gov.au/>)
- ▶ 4<sup>th</sup> year qualification as minimum eligibility requirement to apply for postgraduate study in psychology
  - For B Psych (Hons) students: Part of your 4-year sequence
  - For Non-BPsych students: an APAC-accredited 4<sup>th</sup> year of psychology studies (i.e., a 1-year end-on honours program)

# Pathways to registration as a psychologist

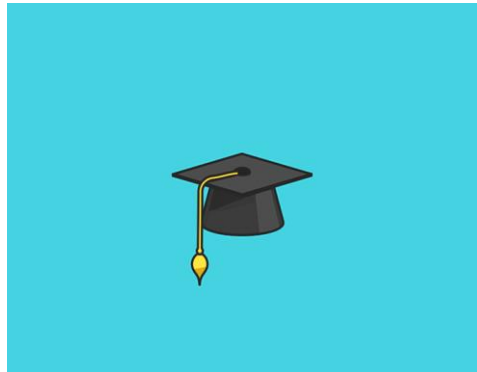


# I want to become a practising (registered) psychologist - links for further info

- ▶ Look for Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) accredited courses
  - ▶ E.g., clinical masters (UOW), neuropsychology, industrial and organisational, forensic, ... etc. (other unis).
  - [http://www.psychologycouncil.org.au/index.php/APAC\\_accredited\\_psychology\\_programs\\_australasia](http://www.psychologycouncil.org.au/index.php/APAC_accredited_psychology_programs_australasia)
- ▶ The handbook for the UOW postgrad psychology programs can be found here:
  - <https://documents.uow.edu.au/content/groups/public/@web/@socs/@psyc/documents/doc/uow228482.pdf>
- ▶ Also see APS website for more info on types of psychologists:
  - <https://www.psychology.org.au/for-the-public/about-psychology/types-of-psychologists>

# I want to pursue higher degree research

- ▶ Minimum qualification to seek enrolment in
  - **Master of Philosophy:** Hons Class 2 Division 2 (Credit grade) or higher
  - **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD):** Hons Class 2 Division 1 (Distinction grade) or higher





# Psychology Honours Program: What is involved?



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# As per APAC accreditation requirements

## ▶ Major research project (24 cps)

- Research question, intensive empirical literature review, data analysis, reporting of results and discussion
- May involve shared data collection
- Degree of independence (i.e., assisted by a supervisor)

## ▶ Advanced training in core psychological areas (24 cps)

- Theoretical and empirical knowledge
- Assessment and intervention
- Psychological practice

# 2023 UOW Honours Program

Autumn Session	Spring Session
<b>PSYC418</b> Honours Theory (6 CP)	<b>PSYC417</b> Psychological Intervention: Principles and Applications (6 CP)
<b>PSYC415</b> Honours Data Analysis (6 CP)	
<b>PSYC416</b> Psychological Assessment: Principles and Applications (6 CP)	
<b>PSYC410</b> Honours Empirical Thesis (24 CP Annual Subject)	

## Study modes:

- Full-time (default)

- Part time only available in very special cases - e.g., significant carer responsibilities. Limited places available by application.

- Cannot move from full to part time

Note: All 48 CP must be completed at UOW

# Entry into the UOW Psychology Honours Program

For BPsych (Hons) students  
and non-BPsych students with a major in psychology



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# Pathways for entering 4th year in psychology at UOW

Non-BPsych students (major in Psychology)



BPsych (Hons) students



Satisfied minimum academic performance requirement to stay in the BPsych course?

# What is your plan?

	BPsych (Hons) students	Non-BPsych students
Entering Honours Program straight after 3 <sup>rd</sup> year	Let the School know via <b>online expression of interest form</b> at UOW Psychology Honours website	Apply for entry to <b>Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours) Course (Course 353)</b> via UOW Future Students (Note: no need to provide certified UOW academic transcript)  <b>AND</b> complete <b>online expression of interest form</b>
Taking a gap year	Apply for leave of absence with UOW	[Apply to graduate;] apply for <b>Course 353</b> entry the following year

# Who applies?

## Potential 2023 Psychology Honours candidates

- ▶ **External (i.e., non-UOW) students:** Completed all course requirements of an APAC-accredited psychology undergraduate degree (or equivalent)
  - ▶ Must include 300-level research methods and statistics subject(s)
  - ▶ **GPA > 5** to be eligible
    - ▶ But please note - because of the small number of places, successful applicants usually have GPA > 6
- ▶ **UOW BPsych (Hons) students:** Completed all 100- to 300-level course requirements of the BPsych degree

# Potential 2023 UOW Psychology Honours candidates

- ▶ UOW BA, BSc and BPsycSc students: **Eligibility to graduate**
  - ▶ But no need to have attended graduation ceremony!
  - ▶ Must have completed requirements for **Psychology Extension for Honours Eligibility**
    - ▶ If you started your degree in 2017:  
<https://documents.uow.edu.au/handbook/yr2017/ug/H17008083.html>
    - ▶ If you started your degree in 2018:  
<https://documents.uow.edu.au/handbook/yr2018/ug/H18008083.html>
    - ▶ If you started your degree in 2019:  
<https://documents.uow.edu.au/handbook/yr2019/ug/H19006093.html>.
- ▶ You need
  - ▶ All subjects compulsory for your psychology major (refer to UG course handbook)
  - ▶ Must include PSYC251, PSYC354/PSYC326 & PSYC348/PSYC325



# Note: Eligibility Versus competitiveness of your application

1. Are you **eligible** to apply?
  - INFO ON NEXT SLIDE
2. Then.... how **competitive** is your application compared to others
  - Judged by your “**Honours WAM**”
  - Note that work experience, special circumstances etc are not counted towards honours entry
  - NEXT SECTION

# Eligibility for Honours

- ▶ To be eligible to apply for entry into Course 353 in 2023, **make sure** you have met all the following requirements:
  - ▶ Completed all credit point requirements for a degree with a major in Psychology - **CHECK YOUR COURSE HANDBOOK**;
    - If there are credit points or requirements outstanding at the end of 2022, you are **INELIGIBLE** for honours - **CHECK THIS NOW**
  - ▶ Successfully completed
    - PSYC324 (Assessment and Intervention)
    - PSYC325 (History and philosophy)
    - PSYC326 (Design and analysis)
    - PSYC251 (Abnormal Psych)
    - Either PSYC327, PSYC328 or PSYC329
  - ▶ **at least a good credit average (i.e., 70+)** for Psychology subjects at 200- and 300- levels;
  - ▶ completed at least **76 credit points** of Psychology subjects at 200- and 300- levels;

# Ensure that you have sufficient credit points!

- ▶ Any course credit from
  - International exchange?
  - Transfer from a different course?
  
- ▶ Are all 100- to 300-level credit points towards your degree shown in your enrolment record?
  - Specified credit and unspecified credit
  - Consult with the Psychology Heads of Students ([psyc-headofstudents@uow.edu.au](mailto:psyc-headofstudents@uow.edu.au)) if necessary

# BPsych (Hons) students continuing on to the final year in 2023

- ▶ Complete and submit an **online expression of interest form** - see web link on the School's Honours website
- ▶ **Important notes:**
  - ▶ Guaranteed place in honours program for every continuing BPsych (Hons) student
    - **BUT you must complete expression of interest form by 31/10/2022**
  - ▶ No acknowledgement email or message will be sent to you - take a screenshot of your completed form if you require proof!

# B Psyc Sc (Hons) (Course 353) applications

- ▶ **About 65 full-time equivalent honours places available in total** (including returning part-time students)
  - Number of BPsycSc (Hons) places  
= **Number of total places** - **Number of BPsych (Hons) students commencing honours year** - number of returning part time Honours students
- ▶ Estimated threshold mark each year: High credit average to low distinction average in psych subjects (approx. 70-75)
  - No pre-determined cut-off WAM for BPsycSc (Hons) entry
  - Depends on number of places available

# Summary for BPsych + Non-BPsych Students

- ▶ One round of applications per year
  - ▶ Apply by the 31<sup>st</sup> of October
  - ▶ You must submit expression of interest, **even if you are in the BPsych 4 year degree**
- ▶ Students are not expected to have discussed honours topics or supervision arrangements before applying
- ▶ Students are expected to commit to their indicated study mode (i.e., full-time)
- ▶ **No mid-year applications or intake**

# Calculating your “Honours WAM”

(THIS IS USED TO JUDGE YOUR COMPETITIVENESS)



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# BPsychSc (Hons) applications: What we count

- ▶ Your completed 200- and 300-level **psychology subjects** are used to calculate a **weighted average mark** (i.e., by credit point weighting).
  - PSYC354/PSYC326 (3<sup>rd</sup> year History and Metatheory),
  - PSYC348/PSYC325 (3<sup>rd</sup> year Design and Analysis), and
  - Your “best” subject marks in **six (6)** other 200- and 300-level psychology subjects

This is your **“Honours WAM”** or WAM for Psychology Honours entry

- ▶ More than one attempt in a subject?
  - Higher mark will be counted
  - Accommodation for setbacks (ill health and other unforeseen personal circumstances)
- ▶ **Important note:** This honours entry assessment procedure may change in future years



# Example 1

Year	Subject	Mark
2017	PSYC231	70
2017	PSYC236	75
2017	PSYC250	72
2017	PSYC241	69
2017	PSYC251	80
2017	PSYC234	68
2018	PSYC347	80
2018	PSYC356	74
2018	PSYC345	85
2018	PSYC348	77
2018	PSYC354	79
2018	PSYC350	65



Rearrange  
in  
descending  
order of  
marks

Year	Subject	Mark
2018	PSYC348	77
2018	PSYC354	79
2018	PSYC345	85
2017	PSYC251	80
2018	PSYC347	80
2017	PSYC236	75
2018	PSYC356	74
2017	PSYC250	72
2017	PSYC231	70
2017	PSYC241	69
2017	PSYC234	68
2018	PSYC350	65

CP	Mark x CP
8	616
8	632
8	680
6	480
8	640
6	450
8	592
6	432

Sum each column

Divide Total Marks  
by total CPs

<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>4522</b>
<b>WAM</b>		<b>77.97</b>

# Example 2:

More than one attempt in some subjects

Year	Subject	Mark
2016	PSYC231	58
2016	PSYC250	70
2017	PSYC231	70
2017	PSYC250	80
2017	PSYC241	72
2017	PSYC236	68
2017	PSYC251	70
2017	PSYC234	82
2018	PSYC347	72
2018	PSYC355	69
2018	PSYC349	68
2018	PSYC348	70
2018	PSYC354	82
2018	PSYC350	64
2018	PSYC352	63



Year	Subject	Mark	CP	Mark x CP
2018	PSYC348	70	8	560
2018	PSYC354	82	8	656
2017	PSYC234	82	6	492
2017	PSYC250	80	6	480
2017	PSYC241	72	6	432
2018	PSYC347	72	8	576
2017	PSYC231	70	6	420
2017	PSYC251	70	6	420
2016	PSYC250	70		
2018	PSYC355	69		
2017	PSYC236	68		
2018	PSYC349	68		
2018	PSYC350	64		
2018	PSYC352	63		
2016	PSYC231	58		
<b>Total</b>			<b>54</b>	<b>4036</b>
<b>WAM</b>				<b>74.74</b>

# Other considerations



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# Other things to be aware of before you begin Honours ...

## ▶ **Honours is challenging**

- Content is more difficult/advanced
- Expect greater independence
- On campus attendance expected

## ▶ **4<sup>th</sup> year as a “full-time job”**

- Considering a gap year before 4<sup>th</sup> year?
- “One credit point has an implied workload of **two hours per week**. Six credit points represents a minimum of 12 hours of work: this may be 3 hours of lectures, 4 hours of reading and 5 hours of personal study or essay writing.”

## ▶ **E.g., PSYC410 (Thesis)**

- 24 credit points across 2 semesters (12 cps per semester)
- 24 hours per week (AT LEAST 3 full 8 hour days)

# What if you don't get in?



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# Alternative 4<sup>th</sup> year paths: If you REALLY need Honours

- ▶ **Honours or (sometimes) a 400 level graduate diploma elsewhere**
  - Other institutions that offer APAC accredited 4<sup>th</sup> Year Psychology programs
  - Some may accept lower GPA
  - Universities that offer 4<sup>th</sup> year in distance education mode?
  - Graduate Diplomas APAC accredited 4<sup>th</sup> year of study
  - Do your research and make inquiries!
- ▶ **Going back in time...**
  - ▶ Graduate diplomas that allow you to re-do core psychology undergraduate subjects (100-300 level) in order to improve GPA
  - ▶ Be aware of:
    - APAC accreditation
    - Costs
- **Try again in 2024 or later**

# Key Dates for 2023 Honours Entry

See School of Psychology Honours website

▶ <https://www.uow.edu.au/the-arts-social-sciences-humanities/current-students/honours-programs/#d.en.136560>

2023 Psychology Honours Guide will be available in  
late 2022

# Questions?

Email: [sreis@uow.edu.au](mailto:sreis@uow.edu.au)



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