**GENERAL HONOURS APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

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**What is the application process?**

Applications for Honours are online: <https://www.science.unsw.edu.au/study-us/undergraduate/honours-degrees/honours-how-apply>

Before applying you will want to consider potential projects and supervisors, based on your interests (and supervisor eligibility). The School often hosts Honours networking events, which is an opportunity for potential students to meet future supervisors and vice versa. In addition, it is advised that you reach out to potential supervisors in advance of applying – via email or in person chat – to show your interest and gauge whether honours in a given research group is a good fit for you.

Once you have an idea of supervisors and projects you prefer, head to the application link; bear in mind the relevant deadlines for applications that will change for each term and that are given on the school website (<https://www.babs.unsw.edu.au/study/undergraduate/honours>).

It is important when you apply to list at least five supervisor preferences, in the event that your first preference is unable to take you on for any reason.

**How are students allocated to supervisors?**

The way the system works after all students submit their applications, the School processes them to establish a student is eligible for Honours (based on completing their BsC as well as WAM requirements). BABS has a minimum of 65 average WAM, though there is some potential wiggle room if you are close. Once those boxes are ticked, any supervisor who has an applicant that has put them first preference is given the application where the supervisor lets the School know if they will take that student on (*note: a given supervisor can take a maximum of THREE students per Honours cohort (ONE student if they are an external supervisor*)).

These supervisor caps are in place to ensure both an equitable distribution of students across school academics, and also to ensure a given supervisor does not overload which can negatively affect the experience of students in their group.

Assuming you are eligible, there is a good chance you will get your first preference, but if a supervisor cannot take a given student on for any reason (e.g. they have too many students who put them as first preference, they are at capacity, other commitments, etc), then the School goes to the next supervisor preference on a student list, and so on. Thus, it is important really that students list more than just a first preference of supervisor to ensure applications are processed smoothly.

**What is the application process for someone who has honours as part of their degree? (For example, Bachelor of Biotechnology (Honours).**

Same as above, more details [here](https://www.babs.unsw.edu.au/study/undergraduate/honours).

**What is involved in a typical honours program? How many hours are required every week?**

Honours is classified as a full-time, so important to keep that in mind (especially if you are juggling a part-time job etc). It really depends on the project – and you as a student – there is no prescribed expectation re hours. You will get out of it what you put in. However, it is important not to go overboard, as this can have a negative impact on your physical and mental health. Your supervisors should not be putting unreasonable and excessive demands on you – at the end of the day Honours is about you, not what a supervisor can get out of you.

**How do we apply for external supervisors?**

Eligible externals supervisors are listed on the BABS website, more details can be found [here](https://www.babs.unsw.edu.au/study/undergraduate/honours). Any external supervisor must be approved and establish a connection with the School, including nominating a BABS academic to act as co-supervisor for any student they supervise.

**Can someone apply to both a SOMS and BABS honours and pick between them at a later stage?**

As far as we are aware yes; as above, bear in mind that not every supervisor in SOMS is an eligible supervisor in BABS.

**What happens when all the supervisors on your preference list are not available/full?**

This is very rare to happen, but in any event the School will endeavour to find a supervisor by doing additional callouts and liaising with the student.

**Do you have to speak with all the supervisors on your preference list before submitting your application?**

This not compulsory, but advisable. This is so if a given supervisor does indeed get your application, they will have some idea who you are, showing your enthusiasm, commitment, interest in their work and such – all about leaving a good impression with a potential supervisor.

**With supervisor that work with multiple projects, do you just focus on one of their projects or you are able to have a go at all of it?**

For your Honours you will only have the capacity to focus on one project; while you may get a chance to work on the periphery of other projects in the group, it is important you work on a defined project to ensure you can realistically achieve goals.

**How many candidates can each supervisor accept?**

As above, a given supervisor can take a maximum of THREE students per Honours cohort (ONE student if they are an external supervisor)). This is to ensure both an equitable distribution of students across school academics, and also that a given supervisor does not overload which can negatively affect the experience of students in their group.

**Will concessions be made this year due to the current COVID situation? Has a reduction of project funding occurred? If so, how has it impacted the honours projects?**

Each supervisor manages their own funds, there may have been some impact on project funding due to COVID-19 but difficult to say for everyone. Specific supervisors may have adjusted their projects to be, for example, more bioinformatic-based to cope with both (any) restricted budgets and necessary social distancing requirements.

**What is the tuition fee for an honours year?**

Please see the university handbook [here](https://www.handbook.unsw.edu.au/undergraduate/courses/2020/BABS4516/?year=2020) for list of relevant fees.

**Other FAQs from the honours booklet and school website** [**here**](https://www.babs.unsw.edu.au/study/honours/honours-faqs)

**Can I start Honours in Term 3?**

*Yes, the School of BABS offers Honours intake in all terms (1, 2 and 3).*

**What is included in the overall WAM and stage 3 Science WAM?**

*Every course completed in stages 1 to 3 is included in the overall WAM. This includes general education courses. Stage 3 Science WAM includes level 3 courses run by the Faculty of Science with the prefix: AVIA, BIOS, BEES, CLIM,GEOS,IEST,MSCI,ENVS,BABS,BIOC,BIOT,MICR, CHEM, COMP,FOOD, MATS,MATH,ANAT,NEUR,PATH, PHAR, PHSL, PSYC, PHYS, VISN or SCIF.*

**I only have one more course left to complete for my program. Can I start Honours and complete my last course at the same time?**

*No. Students must successfully complete all requirements from stages 1 to 3 of their degree before commencing Honours.*

**I have one more course to complete for my program, but I will be completing this in the summer session before Honours commences in Term 1. Am I still allowed to apply for a Term 1 start?**

*Yes. Your Honours application will be assessed as normal. If your application is successful, you will be given a conditional offer based on you passing your remaining summer session course.*

**I have met with a potential supervisor and they have agreed to supervise me. Does this mean I am guaranteed acceptance into Honours?**

*No. Potential supervisors may express their interest in supervising you for Honours and you may include them in your Project Preference List, however only the School can formally accept students into Honours and allocate students to supervisors.*

**Why is there a limit on the number of external supervisors we can nominate in our project preference list?**

*There are two reasons for this limit:*

*(a) to ensure that an optimum number of students undertake their Honours project while located within BABS;*

*(b) to ensure all students have the best possible chance to be allocated a supervisor.*

*External supervisors are restricted to accepting only one student per intake, making placements very competitive. Please note that for external supervisors, it is UNSW policy that a BABS academic based in the School be assigned as the primary supervisor and will co-supervise the student.*