Honours in Psychology
Information Session for
1st year & 2nd year students

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why bother doing Honours?

• to work as a psychologist
  – clinical, counseling, health, organisational, sport/exercise…
  – individual/group practice or in an organisation
  – need 4 year degree for provisional registration
  – after 4th year: Masters program or supervised practice (2 yrs)

• to work in research & evaluation (academic or applied)
  – clinical, health, organisational, developmental, social, cognitive, neuroscience…
  – contexts: univs., gov’t, research institutes, policy institutes
  – need 4 year degree for research jobs (public or private sector)
  – need 4 year degree for research PhD programs
GPA of 70% or higher (all courses & thesis)

postgraduate options at UQ

- Research PhD (3-4 Years)
- Professional Doctorate (4 Years)
- Master of Clinical Psychology (2 Years)
- Master of Organisational Psychology (2 Years)
- Master of Applied Psychology (Health/Counselling/Sport) (2 Years)

Academic/Research Career

Registration as a Psychologist (May commence PhD after 1 year of Masters level study)

why do Honours at UQ?

- largest School of Psychology in Australia
  - broad range of staff expertise
  - broad range of thesis topics and elective courses

- researchers at the forefront of discovery
  - publications, grants, awards...
  - high-quality thesis supervision

- excellent lecturers and tutors
  - awards, publications, grants...
  - high-quality learning experiences

- active professionals with real-world experience
  - clinical work & industry consultancies
  - broad education regarding application and practice
what is Honours like at UQ?

- **broad aim:** provide transition from UG to PG training
- **goals of 4th year**
  - integrated & comprehensive general education in psychology
  - introduce applied aspects of psychology
  - provide advanced study in a range of fields in psychology
  - provide experience & training in advanced research
- **what you will do**
  - year-long thesis project
  - core courses: research methods, ethics, scientist/practitioner
  - elective course & seminar: range of options available
  - optional: attend research seminars and career workshops
- **entry only in Semester 1 of each year**
- **part-time enrollment:** courses in Year 1, thesis in Year 2

application requirements for Honours at UQ

- **must complete Years 1 → 3 of degree program**
  - #48 units of credit with grade of 4 or higher
- **must meet minimum GPA for Honours (2010 entry or later)**

  - **BPsycSci**
    - all courses required for the program
  - **BA & BSc**
    - all courses in extended major
    - all other requirements

  - **BPsycSci**
    - GPA > 5.5 for Honours
    - final cutoff depends on supervision constraints
    - pass stream option
  - **BA & BSc**
    - GPA > 5.5 for Honours
    - final cutoff depends on supervision constraints
what counts in the GPA: BPycSci (entry since 2011)

- all 2nd year core courses
  - PSYC2010: Psychological Research Methodology II
  - PSYC2020: Neuroscience for Psychologists
  - PSYC2030: Developmental Psychology
  - PSYC2040: Social & Organisational Psychology
  - PSYC2050: Learning & Cognition
  - PSYC2063: Psychological Approaches to Complex Problems

- all 3rd year core courses
  - PSYC3010: Psychological Research Methodology III
  - PSYC3020: Measurement in Psychology
  - PSYC3034: Topics in Applied Psychology
  - PSYC3042: Psychological Research: Interpretation & Evaluation
  - PSYC3102: Psychopathology

- three 3rd year psychology electives from at least two areas
  - areas: applied/prof, social, cognition, biological, developmental

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  - PSYC2030: Developmental Psychology
  - PSYC2040: Social & Organisational Psychology
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- all 3rd year core courses
  - PSYC3010: Psychological Research Methodology III
  - PSYC3020: Measurement in Psychology
  - PSYC3102: Psychopathology

- three 3rd year psychology electives from at least two areas
  - areas: applied/prof, social, cognition, biological, developmental
  - PSYC3042 is strongly encouraged in place of 1 elective
  - if 4+ psychology electives: we use the 3 best marks from 2 areas
how GPA is calculated

• use the grade earned for each relevant course
  – i.e., 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
  – percentage marks are not used

• steps in calculating GPA:
  – for each course: multiply number of units by grade achieved
  – calculate total grade: sum all results from previous step
  – calculate total # of units: sum of units for all your courses
  – divide total grade by total number of units
    \[
    \frac{(\text{Units} \times \text{Grade}) + (\text{Units} \times \text{Grade}) \text{ etc. etc.}}{\text{SUM number of Units}}
    \]

• grades for repeated attempts at courses will be averaged when calculating GPA
  – if a grade is recorded on mySInet, it will be counted

what you can do without Honours

• 3 year BBehSci (for BPsychSci) or BA or BSc extended major
  – 3 year accredited psychology degree
  – not a pathway to registration as a psychologist

• can focus on a related helping field
  – counseling, social work, occupational therapy…
  – 3 year degree provides pathway to post-graduate work
    (check application requirements for different programs)

• can focus on a career path outside of psychology
  – what you learn in psychology can be applied to other fields!
    o general methodology & statistics skills
    o theories and research on particular topics / issues
  – 3 year Bachelors degree may be sufficient or additional training may be required
career paths related to psychology

• Human Resource Management
• Work Force Selection and Training
• Mediation
• Market Research
• Advertising
• Government Policy & Planning
  – Health, Disability Services, Corrections, Education, Department of Families, Australian Bureau of Statistics
• Test Development and Evaluation
• Residential Care Work
• Technology: Product Development and Evaluation
• Fund-raising for Non-Profit Organisations

what next?

• stay on track academically
  – make sure you take all the right courses
  – work out what you need to do to get 6s and 7s
  – get help to deal with obstacles (academic, personal, financial…)
  – if facing chronic issues, consider taking a break

• think about the kind of work you want to do (next 3-5 years)
  – what have you enjoyed most in your studies?
  – what type of questions / issues do you want to focus on?

• find out more about different careers and occupations
  – attend School workshops, info sessions, seminars…
  – see the School website: Current Students → Undergraduate → Work
  – see Career Hub @ Student Services: www.uq.edu.au/careers
  – get work experience in the area(s) you are interested in
    (see above websites for some advice to get you started)