

8.5 HONOURS DEGREES

Students who have achieved the required academic standard may undertake an Honours degree - a year of research training in their nominated discipline. The honours degree provides students with the first real opportunity to undertake research on a topic of your interest. The honours year is particularly important as it represents a gateway to future opportunities such as higher research degrees, a career in research, or other vocations that require advanced analytical and research skills. Students will gain generic skills that employers are looking for too such as report writing, performing oral presentations, project management, time management, and data analysis and interpretation.

Honours following completion of a Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Marine Science

Students may apply to enrol in an Honours degree after the requirements of the pass degree have been fulfilled, normally at the prescribed academic standard. Students who complete a minor sequence in a Science discipline are not eligible to undertake Honours in that discipline. A full major is required for entry to Honours. Admission to Honours is by recommendation of the relevant Head of School and approval by the Dean or Associate Dean of the Faculty.

Students proceeding directly from a 3-year degree to Honours do not graduate until after they have completed Honours. However, it is possible to graduate with a Pass Degree and then decide to undertake Honours at a later date, either at this University or at another University. Graduates from other Universities may also apply to undertake Honours at the University of Wollongong.

To apply for entry into an Honours degree students should complete an Undergraduate Course Application Form, available from UniAdvice in Building 36 and on the University's website: www.uow.edu.au/prospective/apply. Applications should be submitted to UniAdvice and will take approximately one month to be processed. Please note that honours projects can commence in both Autumn and Spring Sessions. The course codes are 741 for a Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree and 741M for a Bachelor of Marine Science (Honours) degree.

The University also provides a limited number of Honours scholarships (valued at \$2,000 each) for students enrolling full-time in Honours degrees each year. Students who demonstrate potential to undertake postgraduate research in the future are encouraged to apply. Student projects in selected areas of research strength or emerging research strengths will be highly regarded. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of application, research potential, undergraduate grades and referee reports. Application forms are available from the Research Student Centre, Ground Floor, Bldg 20, and usually close in November.

To graduate with an Honours degree, candidates undertake a research thesis within their major study discipline, together with any required coursework. The Honours program will normally be completed in an additional year of full-time study or two years of part-time study. The final grade is calculated entirely on the required work completed during the Honours year. A Weighted Average Mark (WAM) is calculated using a weighting of 1 for 400 level subjects.

Grades are:

Class	(High Distinction: 85-100%)
Class II, Division 1	(Distinction: 75-to less than 85%)
Class II, Division 2	(Credit: 65-to less than 75%)
Class III	(Pass: 50-to less than 65%)

Honours in the Bachelor of Science (Honours) Advanced Program

Candidates in the Bachelor of Science (Honours) Advanced Program (course code 741A) proceed directly to Honours without being required to lodge an application. All other regulations for Honours are the same as for the BSc. Note, that if a student in an advanced degree wishes to study a double major, they must complete Honours in both majors.

Honours in the School of Biological Sciences

Students with at least a credit average in their major are encouraged to proceed to the Honours year, a fourth year of study which provides training in independent research. The Honours year consists of a research project plus supplementary assignments. Entry is restricted to approved students. A joint honours program is also available for Biological Sciences and some other Schools. Research projects in the Honours year, like those for postgraduate degrees, are oriented towards the specialist interests of the School's staff (see Current Research Interests under "School of Biological Sciences" in Section 3.3.1).

For further information or assistance with identifying a potential supervisor, please contact the Honours Coordinator, Dr James Wallman (Room 15.G11, Telephone: 4221 4911), or the Professional Officer, (Room 35.103).

Honours in the School of Chemistry

Students with a good record, particularly in 3rd year (e.g. credit average or higher) are encouraged to proceed to the Honours year, a fourth year of study providing training in independent research. The BSc (Hons) course consists mainly of a research project leading to a minor thesis together with a lecture course. Research projects in the Honours year, like those for postgraduate degrees, are oriented towards the specialist interests of the School's staff (see Current Research Interests under "School of Chemistry" in Section 3.3.2).

For further information or assistance with identifying a potential supervisor, please contact the Honours Coordinator, Associate Professor Stephen Wilson (Head of School), located in 18.102A or phone 4221 3505.

Honours in the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences

Students with at least a credit average in any of the School's majors are encouraged to proceed to the Honours year, a fourth year of study, consisting of a research project plus supplementary assignments, which provides training in independent research. A joint honours program is also available for Earth and Environmental Sciences and some other Schools. Earth and Environmental Sciences Joint Honours requires a minimum of three 300-level Earth and Environmental Sciences subjects. Research projects in the Honours year, like those for postgraduate degrees, are oriented towards the specialist interests of the School's staff (see Current Research Interests under "School of Earth and Environmental Sciences" in Section 3.3.3).

For further information or assistance with identifying a potential supervisor, please contact the Honours Coordinator, Associate Professor Chris Fergusson (Room 41.159, Telephone: 4221 3860), or the Professional Officer, Ms Marina McGlenn (Room 41.G15, Telephone: 4221 4396)

Honours in the 4-year degrees: BBiotech, BEnvSc, BMedChem, BNanotech and BSc (Hons) Int.

Honours is incorporated into these degrees and awarded on a weighted average mark (WAM) determined using the Honours Project mark together with the marks awarded for other identified 300- and 400-level subjects. Please refer to the relevant degree information in Section 7.3 for further information about the WAM calculation.

Honours Enrolment

If you are a currently enrolled UOW student and you have been issued with an Offer of Admission to an Honours degree program, you must enrol into your Honours degree as a new student through the new student enrolment process and not via Enrolment Variations in SOLS. Further instructions are available at the following link:

www.uow.edu.au/student/enrolment/UOW008285.html.

The relevant subject codes are listed below:

Subjects	Session	Credit Points
Biological Sciences, Environment (Biological Sciences Strand) or Ecology Honours		
BIOL401 Biology Honours	Annual	48
or		
BIOL402 Biology Joint Honours	Annual	24
or		
BIOL403 Biology Honours Part 1 for Part-Time Students	Annual	24
and		
BIOL404 Biology Honours Part 2 for Part-Time Students	Annual	24
Chemistry or Environment (Chemistry Strand) Honours		
CHEM401 Chemistry Honours	Annual	48
or		
CHEM405 Chemistry Joint Honours	Annual	24
or		
CHEM402 Chemistry Honours Part 1 for Part Time students	Annual	24
and		
CHEM403 Chemistry Honours Part 2 for Part Time students	Annual	24
Environment (Geosciences Strand), Geology, Geosciences, Human Geography, Land and Heritage Management, or Physical Geography Honours		
EESC401 Earth and Environmental Science Honours	Annual	48
or		
EESC402 Earth and Environmental Science Joint Honours	Annual	24
or		
EESC404 Earth and Environmental Sciences Honours Part 1 (Part-Time	Annual	24

Students)

and

EESC405	Earth and Environmental Sciences Honours Part 2 (Part-Time Students)	Annual	24
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If your Honours year forms part of your existing bachelor degree program, for example Bachelor of Biotechnology Advanced (744A), you must enrol into your Honours subject(s) via SOLS. Please refer to the degree information in Section 7.3 for the relevant subject codes.