

# Meeting with 300-level students re: 2018 psychology honours entry July 2017

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## Why Study for a 4<sup>th</sup> Year?

- B Psych (Hons) students: Part of a 4-year sequence
- BA, BSc and BPsycSc students: an APAC-accredited 4<sup>th</sup> year of psychology studies (i.e., a 1-year add-on honours program)
- qualify for *provisional registration* with the Psychology Board of Australia (<https://www.ahpra.gov.au/>)

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## A 4th Year Qualification leads to:

- Eligibility to seek enrolment in Postgraduate **Research** degrees
  - Research Masters
  - PhDs
- further **postgraduate coursework** study in psychology
  - APAC accredited courses E.g., clinical masters (UOW), neuro  $\Psi$ , industrial and organisational, forensic, ... etc. (other unis).
  - (<https://www.psychologycouncil.org.au/accredited-courses/>)
- Good marks are required

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## Psychology Honours year: What is involved?

- **As per APAC accreditation requirements**
  - **Individual research project**
    - Research question, intensive empirical literature review, data analysis, reporting of results and discussion
    - May involve shared data collection
  - **Advanced training in core psychological areas**
    - Theoretical and empirical knowledge
    - Assessment and intervention
    - Psychological practice

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# ENTRY TO PSYCHOLOGY HONOURS AT UOW

For

BA, BSc, BPsycSc and BPsych (Hons) students

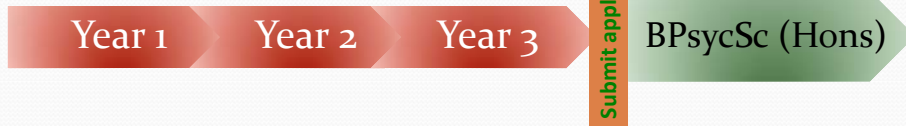
<http://socialsciences.uow.edu.au/psychology/current-students/UOW049351>

[also see the Guide to the 4<sup>th</sup> Year in Psychology on  
School of Psychology 4<sup>th</sup> year website]

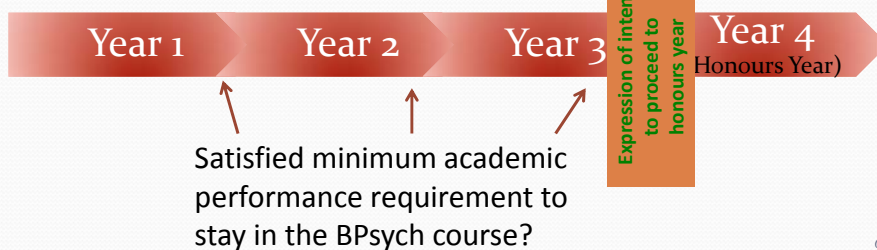
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## Pathways for entering 4th year in psychology at UOW

BA, BSc, BPsycSc (major in Psychology)



BPsych (Hons)



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## MUST HAVE

- BA, BSc and BPsycSc students: Eligibility to graduate
  - No need to have attended graduation ceremony!
- BPsych (Hons) students: Completed all 100- to 300-level *course requirements* of the BPsych degree
- you need at least **76 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> year credit points in psychology**
  - All usual subjects compulsory for a psychology major
  - **Plus PSYC251, PSYC354 & PSYC348**

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## 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 your undergraduate course director – not the honours coordinator - if necessary

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## BPpsych (Hons) students continuing on to the final year

- 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 BPpsych (Hons) student
    - BUT you must complete expression of interest form by 31/10/17
  - No acknowledgement email or message will be sent to you – take a screenshot of your completed form if you require proof!
  - You are expected to commit to your indicated study option (full-time or part-time)

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## B Psyc Sc (Hons) applications

- About 60-65 full-time equivalent honours places available **in total** (plus returning part-time students)
  - # of BPscSc (Hons) places  
= # **Total places** – # of **BPpsych (Hons) students commencing honours year**
- Estimated threshold mark each year: High credit average to low distinction average
  - No pre-determined cut-off WAM for BPscSc (Hons) entry
  - Note APAC requirements and broader rationale

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## Applying for Honours entry at UOW

- One round of applications per year
  - Apply by the 31<sup>st</sup> of October
- 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 vs. part-time)
- **Note: No mid-year applications or intake**

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## Honours application procedure

- **Continuing BPsych students**
  - Online expression of interest form
- **BA, BSc and BPsycSc students** [i.e., BPsycSc (Hons) applicants]
  - Online expression of interest form
  - **PLUS**
  - UOW online undergraduate course application form – Home → Future Students → Undergraduate or Postgraduate Coursework  
<https://applytouow.uow.edu.au/app/login.jsp>
    - Note: no need to provide certified UOW academic transcript

<http://socialsciences.uow.edu.au/psychology/current-students/UOW049351>

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## BPsychSc (Hons) internal applications: What we count

- Your “best” eleven 200- and 300-level psychology subjects are used (including PSYC354 & PSYC348) to calculate a **weighted average mark** (i.e., by credit point weighting)
  - **PSYC348** and **PSYC354** plus your “best” nine 200- and 300-level psychology subjects
- More than one attempt in a subject?
  - Higher mark will be counted
  - Accommodation for setbacks (ill health and other unforeseen personal circumstances)

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## Example 1

| Year | Subject | Mark |  | Year         | Subject | Mark | CP | Mark x CP    |
|------|---------|------|--|--------------|---------|------|----|--------------|
| 2015 | PSYC231 | 70   |  | 2016         | PSYC348 | 77   | 8  | 616          |
| 2015 | PSYC236 | 75   |  | 2016         | PSYC354 | 79   | 8  | 632          |
| 2015 | PSYC250 | 72   |  | 2016         | PSYC345 | 85   | 8  | 680          |
| 2015 | PSYC241 | 69   |  | 2015         | PSYC251 | 80   | 6  | 480          |
| 2015 | PSYC251 | 80   |  | 2016         | PSYC347 | 80   | 8  | 640          |
| 2015 | PSYC234 | 68   |  | 2015         | PSYC236 | 75   | 6  | 450          |
| 2016 | PSYC347 | 80   |  | 2016         | PSYC356 | 74   | 8  | 592          |
| 2016 | PSYC356 | 74   |  | 2015         | PSYC250 | 72   | 6  | 432          |
| 2016 | PSYC345 | 85   |  | 2015         | PSYC231 | 70   | 6  | 420          |
| 2016 | PSYC348 | 77   |  | 2015         | PSYC241 | 69   | 6  | 414          |
| 2016 | PSYC354 | 79   |  | 2015         | PSYC234 | 68   | 6  | 408          |
| 2016 | PSYC350 | 65   |  | 2016         | PSYC350 | 65   |    |              |
|      |         |      |  | <b>Total</b> |         |      |    | <b>76</b>    |
|      |         |      |  |              |         |      |    | <b>5764</b>  |
|      |         |      |  | <b>WAM</b>   |         |      |    | <b>75.84</b> |

Rearrange  
in  
descending  
order of  
marks

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## Example 2:

More than one attempt in some subjects

| Year | Subject | Mark | Year | Subject | Mark | CP    | Mark x CP |
|------|---------|------|------|---------|------|-------|-----------|
| 2014 | PSYC231 | 58   | 2016 | PSYC348 | 70   | 8     | 560       |
| 2014 | PSYC250 | 70   | 2016 | PSYC354 | 82   | 8     | 656       |
| 2015 | PSYC231 | 70   | 2015 | PSYC234 | 82   | 6     | 492       |
| 2015 | PSYC250 | 80   | 2015 | PSYC250 | 80   | 6     | 480       |
| 2015 | PSYC241 | 72   | 2015 | PSYC241 | 72   | 6     | 432       |
| 2015 | PSYC236 | 68   | 2016 | PSYC347 | 72   | 8     | 576       |
| 2015 | PSYC251 | 70   | 2015 | PSYC231 | 70   | 6     | 420       |
| 2015 | PSYC234 | 82   | 2015 | PSYC251 | 70   | 6     | 420       |
| 2016 | PSYC347 | 72   | 2014 | PSYC250 | 70   |       |           |
| 2016 | PSYC355 | 69   | 2016 | PSYC355 | 69   | 8     | 552       |
| 2016 | PSYC349 | 68   | 2015 | PSYC236 | 68   | 6     | 408       |
| 2016 | PSYC348 | 70   | 2016 | PSYC349 | 68   | 8     | 544       |
| 2016 | PSYC354 | 82   | 2016 | PSYC350 | 64   |       |           |
| 2016 | PSYC350 | 64   | 2016 | PSYC352 | 63   |       |           |
| 2016 | PSYC352 | 63   | 2014 | PSYC231 | 58   |       |           |
|      |         |      |      |         |      | Total | 76 5540   |
|      |         |      |      |         |      | WAM   | 72.89     |

Compare against  
WAM without  
repeating the  
2014 subjects:  
71.44%

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## 4<sup>th</sup> Year Entry - Myth Busters

- **Myth #1:** Bpsych (Hons) students are favoured over BA, BSc and BPsycSc students for 4<sup>th</sup> year entry - **TRUE or FALSE?**
  - Note that the BPsych (Hons) is a 4-year course
- **Myth #2:** Non-BPsych students require a much higher average mark than BPsych students for 4<sup>th</sup> year entry - **TRUE or FALSE?**
  - Note issue with quota for the overall honours intake

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## Who gets a place in 4<sup>th</sup> year?

### Some inconvenient truth

1. Approximately **20%** of undergraduate psychology students at UOW\* will get into 4<sup>th</sup> year
  - **BUT...** Compare against % and selection criteria at other universities
2. Entry into BPsychSc (Hons) is based on **academic merit** in 200- and 300-level psychology subjects only
  - **BUT...** Allowance is made to accommodate students with setbacks (by allowing more than one attempt in a subject)
3. **Repeating subjects** at 200- and 300-levels does not guarantee a place in 4<sup>th</sup> year

\* Based on no. of students commencing 100-level psychology subjects

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## Other things to be aware of...

- Extra-curricular activities and work experience are **not** considered when determining course entry or honours grade
- 4<sup>th</sup> year as a “full-time job”
  - Considering a gap year before 4<sup>th</sup> year?
  - Full-time vs. part-time studies?
- Other institutions that offer 4<sup>th</sup> Year Psychology programs
  - “Group of 8” (Go8) universities?
  - Universities that offer 4<sup>th</sup> year in distance education mode?

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## FOURTH YEAR HONOURS PROGRAM IN PSYCHOLOGY

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## The 4<sup>th</sup> Year Program

- Unified coursework structure
  - No internal choices for electives
- Each student has an individual honours thesis project

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## The Honours Program comprises:

| Autumn Session  | Spring Session  |
|---|---|
| <b>PSYC407</b> Theory and Methods (8 CP)                                    |   |
| <b>PSYC408</b> Psychological Assessment: Principles and Applications (8 CP) | <b>PSYC409</b> Psychological Intervention: Principles and Applications (8 CP) |
| <b>PSYC410</b> Honours Empirical Thesis (24 CP Annual Subject)              |   |

### Implications for study modes:

- Full-time vs. part-time
- Starting in Autumn Session (default) vs. Spring Session (not recommended)

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## Key Dates for Applicants for Honours Entry

| Date                      | Description  |
|---------------------------|--|
| 31 October                | Deadline for applications/expressions of interest  |
| By mid November           | List of Psychology Honours Project Supervisors and project topic areas available from 4 <sup>th</sup> year webpage |
| Early December            | All applicants notified of outcome via email   |
| Early to mid December     | Due date for successful honours applicants to submit on-line nomination of thesis supervisor preferences           |
| Mid December              | Meeting of new Honours intake and staff;<br>First honours seminar on research planning and ethics                  |
| By third week of December | Honours supervision allocations finalised  |

(**Note:** See 4<sup>th</sup> Year website for specific dates for 2018 applicants)

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## Student Fees

- Domestic students
  - HECS
- International students
  - Refer to UOW Future Students website  
<http://www.uow.edu.au/future/international/apply/fees/index.html>
  - Psychology graduates from the UOW-SIM program are entitled reduced international tuition fee

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## Some final considerations

- BA, BSc and BPsycSc students
  - Applying to graduate?
  - What if your 2018 honours application is unsuccessful?
  - Enrolling in subjects as a non-award student
- Consider your career goals, strengths, weaknesses, values
  - Do you need a psychology honours degree?
    - Look beyond 4<sup>th</sup> year
  - What skills and knowledge have you gained from your studies and experience to date?

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