

# Psychology Honours Programs

## University of Tasmania

### Frequently Asked Questions

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#### **Is the Program accredited by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC)?**

Yes, the 1-year Psychological Science Honours program (M4Y) is accredited by APAC as a fourth year in psychology; as part of the requirements for membership of the Australian Psychological Society and for registration as a Psychologist with the Psychology Board of Australia.

#### **Is off-campus or external study available for this program?**

No, however classes for full-time students are confined to two days per week and are taught on both the Hobart (Sandy Bay) and Launceston (Newnham) Campus. In addition, students are expected to attend workshops for some units, plus regular research colloquia.

#### **Can the program be studied on a part-time basis?**

Yes, students unable to undertake full-time study may be allowed to enrol part-time over two years but will require prospective approval from the Honours Coordinator, Dr Jim Sauer, in the Division of Psychology. For part-time study, the coursework components are completed in the first year, and the research thesis in the second year.

#### **Is mid-year entry available?**

No, mid-year entry is not available.

#### **What is the closing date for applications for 2020 entry?**

31 October 2019. You must apply by this date, even if you have not received your final undergraduate degree results by that time. It is important to note that applications will not be accepted after this date and incomplete applications will not be assessed.

#### **What are the program entrance requirements?**

The entrance requirements for Psychology Honours include a Bachelor Degree (BA, BSc, BPsychSc, BBehavSc or equivalent) with a three-year sequence in Psychology **accredited by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC)**, and a **strong academic record**.

Applicants will need to have a substantial background in psychology, including research and statistical methods. Applicants with undergraduate studies from the University of Tasmania will have completed an accredited major in psychology and a major or minor in Behavioural Science or Behavioural Neuroscience.

Students with undergraduate degrees from overseas will require an Australian Psychological Society (APS) assessment of their qualifications to confirm that their international studies are comparable to an APAC three-year sequence of study in psychology. **The student must obtain this assessment prior to submitting their application.** The Division of Psychology cannot assess international applications without an APS assessment.

See <https://www.psychology.org.au/About-Us/What-we-do/Assessing-overseas-qualifications> for further information.

University of Tasmania applicants who are successful in gaining admission to the Psychology Honours program will normally have achieved a Distinction average **across the eight core units at 200 and 300 level** (6 units from the Psychology major at 200 and 300 level + 2 units at 200 level from the Behavioural Science major/minor sequence), see below.

Sequence of **core units** for Psychology Honours entry

- KHA201 Research Methods 2
- KHA207 Social Psychology
- KHA208 Cognition
- KHA258 Behavioural Neuroscience
- KHA350 Research Methods 3
- KHA302 Lifespan Developmental Psychology
- KHA305 Clinical Psychology
- KHA329 Individual Differences and Psychological Assessment

As an average grade is calculated across the eight units, it is not a requirement that a Distinction (or higher) grade be achieved in every unit.

A competitive entry process is followed **based entirely on academic merit.**

NB: Applicants should note that meeting minimum entrance requirements **does not guarantee** entry to the program as the number of applicants each year greatly exceeds the number of available places.

## I am studying for a Bachelor of Psychology degree at UTAS. Will I automatically be enrolled in Psychology Honours or do I need to meet certain entry criteria?

The Bachelor of Psychology with Honours program (M4O) is an integrated four-year specialist degree *which entered teach-out mode in January 2018*. To progress to the fourth year of the program (i.e. Honours), students already enrolled in this degree will need to meet the following specific entry requirements:

1. have completed the 3-year sequence in the Bachelor of Psychology with Honours (53N or M4O) degree
2. have attained at least a 75% average in the 200 and 300 level units in the Psychology major and the 200 level units in the Behavioural Science minor.  
(N.B. You do not need to attain 75% in each unit since an average is calculated across the eight units).

**NB:** Currently enrolled Bachelor of Psychology with Honours students who meet the 75% average entry requirement will automatically progress to the fourth year of the Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) degree (M4O) and do not need to apply for Honours.

Bachelor of Psychology with Honours students who attain an average mark of less than 75% are automatically transferred into the Bachelor of Psychological Science (53Y) degree at the end of November or mid-July (depending on when the course is completed) and will be eligible to graduate with this degree. These students will be able to apply for entry into the Bachelor of Psychological Science with Honours (M4Y) degree, but will need to meet the entry requirements for that degree and must submit an online application. **Late applications i.e. applications received after 31 October, will only be accepted from students who are transferred from the BPsych to BPsychSc degree.**

## Will there be places in Psychology Honours for eligible students applying for entry to the BA(Hons), BSc(Hons) and BPsychSc(Hons) degrees rather than BPsych(Hons)?

Yes, there are places available for students who have completed a 3-year APAC accredited sequence in degrees other than the BPsych (which entered teach-out from 2018). There are more places offered in the Honours program than there are BPsych students progressing to Honours each year. Applications are welcomed from all eligible University of Tasmania, interstate, and international students.

## **Are BBehavSc/BPsychSc applicants viewed more favourably than BA or BSc applicants?**

No, applicants from BBehavSc, BPsychSc, BA and BSc degrees are all considered equally. It is the student's performance in psychology studies that counts, not which degree pathway has been undertaken. Eligible applicants are rank ordered purely on academic merit, and the number of offers made is dependent on the number of places available.

## **Can Psychology Honours be completed overseas?**

Psychology Honours, through the University of Tasmania, can only be completed at the Sandy Bay or Launceston campuses in Tasmania. Students can apply to Psychology Honours programs at overseas institutions. However, any Psychology Honours qualification gained internationally would require assessment by the Australian Psychological Society as being equivalent to a four-year accredited sequence in psychology.

## **GPA Calculations**

Units completed at external institutions are not included in the calculation of your UTAS GPA. However, overseas exchange units are included as they are UTAS 'owned' units. Note that from Semester 2, 2018 any units completed as part of an approved overseas exchange will have a result of an ungraded pass applied ("UP").

## **Can I apply if I completed my bachelor's degree some time ago?**

Yes, but conditions apply. The Honours Coordinator has the discretionary power to accept applications for admission from students **up to ten years** after completing their undergraduate units, provided that in the period since graduation they have had substantial professional involvement in activities which are broadly of relevance to Psychology (e.g., Lifeline counselling, teaching, research work). If a bachelor's degree was completed more than 5 years prior to applying for Honours, the applicant *may* be required to complete some extra study before commencing Honours.

## **If I am not successful in being accepted into a Psychology Honours program, what other training opportunities exist?**

Other available courses include postgraduate courses in counselling, social work, and allied health.

## APPLICATION PROCESS:

### How do I apply for the Psychology Honours Program?

Applications are invited from interstate and international students, as well as from University of Tasmania students.

Honours applicants can apply for **one** of the following Psychology Honours degrees depending on their Bachelor degree:

	Course Codes
BPsychSc(Hons)	M4Y
BA(Hons)	R4A
BSc(Hons)	S4E

Please **do not** apply for multiple Psychology Honours programs at UTAS. Assessment is completed centrally by the Division of Psychology and the determination will apply equally to all courses, i.e. if you are ineligible for M4Y, you will also be ineligible for R4A and S4E.

#### *Domestic Applicants (University of Tasmania and interstate students)*

Information on how to apply can be found at: <http://www.utas.edu.au/admissions>

All applications must be lodged online via the UTAS eApplication system.

#### *Interstate Applicants*

All interstate applicants are required to include a letter from their current tertiary education institution confirming that they have completed, or are completing, an APAC accredited sequence of study in Psychology.

Interstate applicants are also required to contact the Honours coordinator, Dr Jim Sauer **prior** to lodging an online application.

#### *International Applicants*

Information on the University of Tasmania, Tasmania and the application process for international students can be found at: <http://www.international.utas.edu.au/>

International students are required to include various documentation at the time of application, including an APS assessment of any international psychology qualification/s.

Further information can be found at: <https://www.psychology.org.au/About-Us/What-we-do/Assessing-overseas-qualifications>

**All interstate and international students must include an official final and complete transcript of their academic record to the Division of Psychology or, upload a certified copy to the University eApplication system as soon as results are received.**

**All applicants need to be aware that incomplete applications will not be considered.**

### **When will I hear whether my application has been successful?**

The closing date for applications is 31 October annually. Please ensure you submit an official academic transcript, evidence that the degree has been completed, and confirmation that you have completed an APAC accredited three-year sequence of study in psychology as soon as possible after applying. As the program has a competitive entrance policy, the majority of applications are assessed together in November and December. First round offers are usually made in early December. Wherever possible, students will be advised of the outcome of their application no later than early January.

### **How many places are offered each year?**

The number of places in the Psychology Honours program is limited by the availability of resources. On average 35-40 offers are made each year.

*NB: Admission to the Psychology Honours program is based solely on academic merit and is a competitive entry process.*

### **Can I defer my offer of a place on the Psychology Honours program?**

No. Offers for admission to the Psychology Honours program are made on a year-by-year basis and cannot be deferred. Students who do not accept an offer for any given year must make a new application for admission and will be considered on the same basis as other applicants in that year. It is important to be aware that successful applicants who choose not to accept their place in one year cannot be guaranteed a place in any subsequent year.

*NB: Students currently enrolled in a four-year BPsych degree (M4O) may apply for Leave of Absence for up to one year during the course of the degree.*

### **Can I reapply in a subsequent year if I did not get offered a place but meet the entry requirements?**

Yes, students can reapply for the Psychology Honours program in subsequent years if they continue to meet the entry requirements. The competitive entry process will still apply, and applicants should note that there is no guarantee of obtaining a place on the program in subsequent years.

### **Can I apply to enter the BPsych(Hons) M4O degree at fourth year level?**

BPsych(Hons) M4O entered teach-out in 2018 and no new enrolments will be taken. Students wishing to enter Honours at 4<sup>th</sup> year level will be directed to the 1-year Honours program BPsychSc(Hons) M4Y.

## If I have applied to Psychology Honours programs at several universities and get offered a first round place, but UTAS is my first preference, should I accept the other offer before I hear from UTAS?

Yes, students who have made multiple applications should accept any offer they receive in the first round, as they may not be made an offer by UTAS. It should be noted that no second round offers will be made if the course is fully subscribed from first round offers.

## Are there scholarships available?

Students studying Psychology Honours degrees at the University of Tasmania are eligible for a range of scholarships. For more information go to <https://www.utas.edu.au/scholarships>

## PROGRAM STRUCTURE:

### When does the Psychology Honours program commence?

The Psychology Honours program commences with an Orientation Day during Orientation Week (17-21 February 2020 *tb*). **Attendance at the Orientation Day is mandatory.**

A program for the Orientation Day will be emailed to students at the end of January 2020. Classes commence on Monday 24 February 2020.

### Program Structure

The academic year is divided into two semesters of 13 weeks each. The course is made up of four compulsory coursework units based on lectures, seminars and tutorials, and a research project worth 50% of the total marks. Please note that the information below is accurate for the current year but may be updated in future to reflect any changes in course and unit delivery.

<i>Unit Code and Title</i>	<i>Semester</i>	<i>Weight</i>
KHA451 Research Design and Ethics	1	12.5%
KHA452 Theoretical Controversies in Psychology	1	12.5%
KHA457 Research Project A	1	25%
KHA453 Assessment, Professional Roles & Ethics	2	12.5%
KHA459 Advanced Topics in Psychology Practice	2	12.5%
KHA458 Research Project B	2	25%
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>

Further details of the Honours Units for 2020, including teaching pattern and assessment, will be available on the Courses and Units website <http://www.utas.edu.au/courses/> from August 2019.

### **Do I need to organise my research topic before commencing the program?**

No, staff will give advice on available topics at the Orientation Day in February. Students will then be given a list of available research topics and asked to rank their research supervision preferences. Students will be allocated to a research topic and supervisor according to these preferences. Resources in some areas, especially financial ones, are limited, therefore thesis topics must be practicable in terms of time, equipment, and the need for supervision. It is possible, with negotiation, for students to propose their own research project.

The research thesis embodies the results of an original investigation, carried out under the direction of a supervisor from the Division of Psychology. The research thesis is often viewed as the most demanding part of the fourth year program, as well as the most rewarding, as it brings the student to a personal involvement with answerable but unanswered questions on the cutting edge of Psychology as a scientific discipline. Students will plan their research, in conjunction with their assigned supervisor, as early in Semester 1 as possible. Students are required to complete a written and oral proposal of their research to the Division for approval, usually in Weeks 6 & 7 of Semester 1.

### **Does the Psychology Honours research topic affect what can be researched at Masters or PhD level?**

The research topic chosen at Psychology Honours level has no effect on any future research at Masters or PhD level.

### **Can a student undertake a Psychology Honours research project with a supervisor from the Menzies Institute?**

Yes, it is possible to undertake a Psychology Honours research project with a co-supervisor from another Division or School within the University of Tasmania. However, such projects must be co-supervised by a member of staff from the Division of Psychology, who will be considered the primary supervisor.

### **LIFE AFTER HONOURS:**

#### **What can I do with a Psychology Honours degree?**

There are many career pathways available for students who have completed a Psychology Honours degree, including:

- Human Resource Management
- Marketing and market research
- Employment and training services
- Teaching
- Community health and welfare

- Health services support, e.g., drug and alcohol, cancer, disability, rehabilitation
- Probation and parole services
- Aged, family and child services
- Policy and planning
- Counselling

For students aspiring to become a **registered psychologist**, there are currently three options available following completion of a Psychology Honours degree:

Option 1: 4 + 2 Internship Pathway

Option 2: APAC accredited 5 + 1 Internship Pathway, e.g. Master of Professional Psychology

Option 3: Two-year APAC accredited professional postgraduate degree, e.g. Master of Psychology (Clinical)

Further information about these options can be found on the Australian Psychological Society website: <https://www.psychology.org.au/Training-and-careers/Careers-and-studying-psychology/studying-psychology/Study-pathways>

The University of Tasmania currently offers training via Option 2 (Master of Professional Psychology) and Option 3 (Master of Psychology (Clinical)).

The Master of Professional Psychology program follows the 5+1 pathway. To be eligible for entry to the course applicants must have attained an average of 70% across their psychology subjects in years 3 and 4 of their undergraduate training. Entry to the Master of Professional Psychology program is competitive and academic merit is only one factor in the selection process. Applicants are also reviewed on interview performance, academic and/or professional referee reports, and work or volunteering experience. The University-based first year of the program is generalist training including coursework and 300 hours of supervised placement activities. To complete the internship year the student is required to independently secure a Psychology Board of Australia (PsyBA) approved one-year supervised internship. Graduates of the program will be able to register with the Psychology Board of Australia as “Registered Psychologists”.

To be eligible to apply for the Master of Psychology (Clinical), applicants must have a minimum of an upper second class honours degree (2.1 or 2A). Entry to the Master of Psychology (Clinical) program is highly competitive and academic merit is only one factor in the selection process. Applicants will also be reviewed on interview performance, academic and/or professional referee reports, and work or volunteering experience. Graduates of the program will be able to register with the Psychology Board of Australia as General Psychologists until such time as they complete an approved clinical registrar program which leads to clinical endorsement and registration as a Clinical Psychologist.

Many of the coursework units are common to both Masters programs and lectures are attended by students from both programs.

Students interested in furthering a career in psychological research after completing a Psychology Honours degree can apply for a research higher degree: Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), which provides training as a research psychologist.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION:**

### **Who do I contact for further information or assistance?**

For further information on the Psychology Honours program, please contact the Honours Program Coordinator, Dr Jim Sauer at [jim.sauer@utas.edu.au](mailto:jim.sauer@utas.edu.au) or the Program Delivery Officer, Daniel Purton at [daniel.purton@utas.edu.au](mailto:daniel.purton@utas.edu.au)

If you have any queries about the University's admission procedures, please contact the Admissions Office on 1300 361 928 or via email at [Admissions@utas.edu.au](mailto:Admissions@utas.edu.au)

### **Useful Links for Further Information**

Australian Psychological Society

<http://www.psychology.org.au/>

Australian Psychological Society – Student Resources and FAQ

<https://www.psychology.org.au/for-members/member-services/StudentHQ/Students-and-the-APS/Student-resources>

Psychology Board of Australia

<http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/>

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency Board

<https://www.ahpra.gov.au/>