Starting a BEES honours year in Session One 2014?

Welcome

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Why do Honours?

• Begin to specialise
  (what you really wanted to do at Uni)

• Beginnings of true self-directed work
  (master of your own destiny)

• Increased employment opportunities
  (job satisfaction and $$$)

• Sets stage for PhD study (& scholarship)
  (even longer at uni avoiding the real world)
Can you handle Honours?

- can be very stressful:
  - steep learning curve
  - logistical dilemmas
- tight timeline: Jan 2014 – Nov 2014
  July 2014 – May 2015
  (double if Part time)
- importance of thesis - pressure cooker
  - help from supervisor but basically
    showcases your work
  - one chance to get it right
- results determine scholarship grade / job prospects

BEES previously offered various Honours Programs

- BSc.
- Env Science
- Arts
- Combined Arts/Science etc

- Range of plans and specializations within these programs
- These programs still exist but in 2014 we will migrate MOST students to the new program
2014 – A single BEES Honours Program

• 4500 Bachelor of Science (Honours)
• Various Streams:
  Biology
  Climate science
  Ecology
  Environmental Management
  Geography
  Geology
  Marine Science
  Palaeoscience

Entry Requirements

• From your study plan
  - 144 UOC
  - incl. 12 UOC Gen Ed
  - any other requirements
• Credit average WAM (ie >65)
  Most supervisors look for more than credit avg.
  Applicants with a WAM <65 may be considered
• Experience/interest in the proposed research area
• Acceptance by a supervisor
Finding a possible project

• Your first, real, independent science?
• Modest research goals
• Ideal project should be:
  - data rich
  - carefully planned to test a hypothesis
  - potential & TIME for thought & analysis
• Examiners rarely ask for more data
• Just more: planning,
  thought,
  analysis

Finding a Supervisor & Project

• Projects
  www.bees.unsw.edu.au/honours/potential-projects
• Supervisor
  - BEES Academics
    www.bees.unsw.edu.au/academic-staff
• Co-Supervisor
  - BEES Research Staff and PostDocs
    www.bees.unsw.edu.au/research-staff
  - Academics from other Schools: BABS
  - External: Aust Museum, NSW Fisheries, DECC, etc etc etc.
• Also see
  www.bees.unsw.edu.au/research
Unsure about a project?

- Attend Final Honours Seminars (Nov 11-12)
- Or the PGRF (Nov 4-7)
- Meet current honours, P/G students
- Think about:
  - your interests
  - employment and life after graduating
  - potential supervisors
  - your abilities and skills
  - limitations/commitments (work, family etc)

Lock it in Eddie

- Meet with several academics and discuss options
- Best to email/make appointment
- May like to include
  a brief CV: - paragraph on interests / goals
- Best to get a commitment from both sides (preferably e-mail) by mid end of November
- BUT don’t panic if not sorted until later
- Get application form from BEES website/ office
Get the paperwork done!

- ALL STUDENTS lodge a completed Honours Application Form to BEES Student Office by **Friday 6th Dec.**
- Notified of success by your UNSW email by **Monday 16th Dec.**
- Then enrol in person (with approval letter) at BEES School Office in early February 2014 (before start of S1)
- What about Enviro Science and Advanced Science?
  - Your enrolment is continuing for a 4 year degree but still need to complete Hons Application Form

The “new” BEES Honours Program

- Major changes starting in 2014
- approved by BEES in Dec 2012 and Faculty in May 2013
- Emphasis on research project
- Fairer and more appropriate weighting of components
“NEW” BEES Honours Structure

Session One 2014

BEES 4522 Literature and Research Proposal 12 uoc
(5000 words due Wk 10 of S1)

BEES 4516 Research Project 12 uoc

Session Two 2014

BEES 4514 Research Project 24 uoc
(9000 words due Wk 13 of S2 plus Wk 15 seminar)

Honours Assessment

%  
Professional Skills (Part of BEES 4516) Sat/Unsat
BEES4522 Lit. Review & Research Proposal 25
Thesis (BEES 4514 and BEES 4516) 70
Final seminar 5

AIMING FOR:
Postgrad scholarship ~ 88%
1st class ≥85%
2nd class, Div.1 75-84%
2nd class, Div.2 65-74%
**Generic Timetable (subject to change)**

Based on typical S1- S2 enrolment for 2014

**Session One**

- **O - week**: First Meeting of BEES 4516 and Prof. Skills Workshops
- **W1**: Project Information sheet due
- **W4**: Health and Safety Assessment due
- **W10**: Literature Review / Project Proposal due

**Lock these dates in now!**

**Session Two**

- **W13**: Thesis due
- **W “15”**: Final Seminar

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**Professional Skills**

**Component of BEES4516**

**STARTS IN O - WEEK**

Intensive workshops run mostly during O-week and Week 1

- **Module A**: Library and Research skills
- **Module B**: Health and Safety
- **Module C**: Presentation skills (Intro. Seminar)
- **Module D**: Writing Skills
- **Module E**: Professional Ethics (typically offered S1 Only)
- **Module F**: Professional Development (Wks 11 and 12)
- **Module G**: School Seminars
Professional Skills Ethics Module

• Offered in S1 Only!
• If starting Hons in S2 then attend Modules in S1 of that year
  eg starting S2 / 2014
  - attend Modules in S1 / 2014 (Week One)
  - NOT S1 / 2015
• Satisfactory performance grade will be recorded
  and carried over for you
• Avoids: NC grade
  Extra work load in final session
  (want to devote 110% to writing thesis)

Starting your Thesis Work Over the Christmas Break?

• Getting started early always important for fieldwork etc
• Many students classed as continuing and therefore covered by UNSW insurance
• BUT BEST to assume not covered
• Complete a volunteer form (?)
  – needs to be signed by HOS and Dean
• Make sure Risk Assessments and Fieldwork Notifications completed
What if I decide not to do Honours?

- eg 4 year degree in Adv Sci or Env Sci
- Can apply for transfer to BSc. Program and graduate
- MPhil? - UNSW Graduate Research School
  - minimum entry requirement is Bachelor degree in relevant discipline from UNSW
  - students complete a component of coursework including research methodology relevant to field of study and a research project of at least 66% of the degree
  - minimum 1 year and maximum 2 years (FTE)
  - see Jonathan Russell for more info.

So what do you need to do?

- Decide if Honours is for you
- Think about potential projects etc
- Meet with potential supervisors
- Lodge application
- Enrol in person when notified
- Be ready to start in O-week 2014
- Get Health and Safety status sorted if starting earlier
FAQs

- Part – time (50%)? YES
- What is “full time” in honours? > 18 uoc per session
- Workload? Heavy / intense
- External co-supervisors? YES
- Financial Assistance ? SOME (via Supervisor)
- Additional costs? PERHAPS
- Time off? One year max. Generally OK for ENVS/ADV Sci BUT can be problems for others. Check with Faculty.

FAQs

- Can I complete under the old Env Science or Advanced Science Program rather than the new program?
  
  YES (but we strongly discourage it)
  
  Your assessment and required tasks will essentially be the same as new program
  
  BUT this will be determined in consultation with BEES Staff and Science Faculty at time of your enrolment
THANKS and any questions??

Staff meet and greet
plus
refreshments in the foyer