

Honours application and enrolment guide 2021-2022



CREATE CHANGE

Bachelor of Science (Hons) Biomedical Sciences, Bachelor of Biomedical Science (Hons),
Bachelor of Advanced Science (Hons)



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This handbook is intended to give information on how to apply and enrol into the Honours program in the School of Biomedical Sciences. All information provided here is advisory and does not in any way replace The University of Queensland's Academic Calendar and/or the Electronic Course Profile.

ENROLMENT CHECKLIST

1. Check if you meet the entry requirements. **Bachelor of Science graduates** can check their eligibility to enrol in Honours by reading the program rules and requirements [here](#). **Bachelor of Biomedical Science graduates** can check their eligibility to enrol in Honours by reading the program rules and requirements [here](#). Students currently enrolled in the 4-year Bachelor of Advanced Science (Honours) program can check their eligibility to enrol in the final Honours year by reading the program rules and requirements [here](#).
2. Choose a research area you would like to work in and discuss potential projects with a range of possible supervisors. Research profiles of our academics can be found on the SBMS web site (<https://biomedical-sciences.uq.edu.au/research/themes>) and UQ websites.
3. Select supervisor(s) and project and ensure your supervisor has agreed to enrolment. **It is required that at least one of the supervisors, i.e. either the Principal Supervisor or Co-supervisor, be an academic or affiliate of the School of Biomedical Sciences.** For a [SBMS Affiliate](#) to be a supervisor they must be based in south-east Queensland and have access to the suitable biomedical research infrastructure required to complete the project.
4. Upload the completed [School application form](#) to the UQ Online application system when you lodge your application, see step 5 below. If you are a Bachelor of Advanced Science (Honours) student, please email your completed form to sbms@enquire.uq.edu.au.
5. Important: All BSc Honours applicants, BBiomedSc applicants, and also other students who are new to UQ must also complete the [UQ Online application form](#).

Deadline:

- 1 July 2021 for commencement in Semester 2 2021
- 6 December 2021 for commencement in Semester 1 2022

6. Once we have checked the application details and that you meet the GPA requirements, you will receive notification advising which courses you need to add in mySI-net. You need to enroll in these courses before the census date (census dates are indicated on the University calendars). If awaiting results, students are not enrolled until the results are released.
7. Official starting date for Honours (can vary by a week):
 - 1st week in February for commencement in Semester 1
 - 3rd week in July for commencement in Semester 2
8. The Honours calendar of events and deadlines will be finalised before commencement of your Honours program. It will be both emailed to you and posted on the SBMS Honours website (<https://biomedical-sciences.uq.edu.au/study/honours>) as well as the course Blackboard site.

Note: Steps 1-3 should be completed well before the proposed commencement date

GENERAL INFORMATION

After completing your Bachelor of Science or equivalent degree, Honours will be the most intensive – and for many the first – contact with original research. Through Honours you will experience the different facets of research: the excitement of discovering something new, the satisfaction that comes with becoming an expert in your chosen field as well as frustrations when things do not go as planned, troubleshooting and problem-solving around that, and last but not least, communication of your findings. You will be part of a research team, learning from more experienced researchers around you, such as your supervisors and other members of the laboratory.

Whether you consider Honours a stepping stone to a Masters or PhD and then onto a research career, or a vital research experience that gives you credibility for other non-traditional careers in science, you will find that this course will add significantly to your overall training as a Science graduate.

Honours with SBMS

The Honours year with the School of Biomedical Sciences is a hands-on experience in research and associated skills. This includes the development of technical skills in scientific methodology as well as intellectual skills relating to experimental design, problem solving, critical appraisal of the scientific literature, and assessing the contribution and impact of your original work in the chosen field of research. Research projects are selected by negotiation between you and supervisor(s) and reviewed by the Biomedical Sciences Honours Coordinators for overall appropriateness. We encourage you to already seek contact with staff members early in your Level 3 studies.

To find a supervisor and suitable project, we advise you identify research areas that you are interested in and then approach staff working in these areas. Our staff at the School of Biomedical Sciences both research and teach in a wide range of areas, from the genomic level through to the structure and function of intact humans and other organisms. We have a strong focus on molecular and cellular biology. Students interested in physiology can conduct research as to how specific organ systems, tissues, cells and/or molecules function together; those who concentrate on anatomical studies will investigate how structures are created and how they function; pharmacology/toxicology students will research how drugs and toxins modify or affect biological functions.

The School and its affiliated centres and companies are heavily involved in cutting-edge biomedical research, and many of our academics have an active research program with projects available for Honours students. More details can be found at <https://biomedical-sciences.uq.edu.au/research/themes>. Our research areas are grouped under the following themes:

- Cell Architecture
- Chronic Diseases: cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes
- Drug Design and Development
- Functional and Comparative Anatomy
- Injury and Repair
- Innovation in Biomedical Education
- Musculoskeletal and Motor Control
- Neurobiology and Brain Function
- Receptors and Signalling
- Reproduction

Collaborative projects may also be available with several University Institutes, including the Queensland Brain Institute (QBI), the Institute for Molecular Bioscience (IMB), the Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (AIBN), the Diamantina Institute, the UQ Centre for Clinical Research and the Mater Research Institute; opportunities may also be on offer with QIMR Berghofer. More information about these institutes and centres can be found on their respective websites.

Lastly, the School of Biomedical Sciences is a part of the Faculty of Medicine and most of our Honours students are enrolled in either the Bachelor of Science (Honours), Bachelor of Biomedical Science (Honours), or the Bachelor of Advanced Science (Honours). There are avenues for interested students enrolled in Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry and other professional courses to undertake research studies with us under the proviso that the project itself is an appropriate fit and aligns with the School's research activities. Students enrolled in professional courses may obtain more detailed information from their relevant Faculty and they should also discuss their interest with the Course Coordinators.

SBMS-Oxford Honours Scholarships *

We have established an exchange program with Oxford University (UK), designed to promote learning in the form of special lectures and Honours scholarships for students in the biomedical sciences. For details on applying for one of these competitive scholarships please see the Honours website: (<https://biomedical-sciences.uq.edu.au/study/honours>).

SBMS-Ludwig Maximilians University Honours Scholarships *

We also have an established exchange program with Ludwig Maximilians University (LMU) in Munich (Germany) that gives students the opportunity to undertake their Honours research project at this world-leading institution. For details on applying for one of these competitive scholarships please see the Honours website: (<https://biomedical-sciences.uq.edu.au/study/honours>).

* *There are currently no international exchange opportunities on offer due to the COVID19 pandemic.*

Careers

An Honours degree is the qualification most often required for employment in research positions in both academia and industry. Numerous career opportunities await students with backgrounds in biomedical science, with universities, research institutions, industry and/or government as example employers. Many students have opted to study biomedical sciences as a prelude to careers in professional disciplines such as medicine. Clinician engagement in research is increasingly encouraged and/or expected, and enrolling into Honours is an excellent first step for high-level research training.

Candidates who obtain Honours I or Honours IIA may proceed directly to studies for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). An Honours IIB is the minimum requirement for entry to the degree of Master of Science (MSc). The pathway for students aspiring to careers as academics and/or research scientists is usually the PhD, which typically is the minimum requirement of employment for such positions.

HONOURS ENROLMENT REQUIREMENTS

Entry Criteria

For entry into Honours, the School of Biomedical Sciences requires a satisfactory background in relevant Level 2 and 3 courses, and for the project to be an appropriate fit. For BSc and BBiomedSc graduates, the minimum requirement is a GPA of at least 4.5 in the “most relevant 8 units of third level (or advanced) study”; an overall GPA of 4 (minimum) across all years of undergraduate study is required. In some circumstances, and subject to the approval of the Head of School and Executive Dean, students who do not fulfil the above requirements may be permitted to enter the Honours program if they have a high GPA in other science courses and where their proposed project fits well with both their background and the research mission of the School.

Commencement of Study

Studies may commence on the following dates (slight variations are possible if there is any change in the UQ Academic Year):

1st Semester enrolments (can vary by a week)

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Application Due: | Monday 6 December 2021 |
| Start Date: | First week in February 2022 (check the eCP for confirmed date) |

2nd Semester enrolments (can vary by a week)

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Application Due: | Thursday 1 July 2021 |
| Start Date: | Third week in July 2021 (check the eCP for confirmed date) |

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

General Information

- The Honours program consists of a research project with associated research proposal, research report, seminars, journal clubs and evaluation of laboratory performance.
- **It is required that at least one of the supervisors, i.e. either the Principal Supervisor or Co-supervisor, be an academic or affiliate of the School of Biomedical Sciences.** For a [SBMS Affiliate](#) to be a supervisor they must be based in south-east Queensland and have access to the suitable biomedical research infrastructure required to complete the project.
- It is very important for both students and supervisors to be aware that the research report represents the bulk of the year's work and is therefore the primary indicator of the level of the student's research performance and communication skills.
- On receiving the application, the Honours coordinators will evaluate the candidate and the project descriptions. Any questions or concerns over suitability will be discussed with the supervisor or candidate before approval is given. Any subsequent major changes to the research project throughout the Honours year will require approval from the Honours coordinators.

Assessment Items

- Research Proposal: Submitted as a document of 4000 words (maximum), outlining and justifying the proposed project, and introducing the background literature.
- Research Proposal Seminar: Students will give a 10-minute oral presentation (with 5 minutes of questions) on the background and rationale for their study. This will include a statement of aims and hypotheses along with research methods to be used.
- Research Report: Submitted as a document of 8000 words, describing and critically appraising the research work that was undertaken during the Honours year.
- Seminar Diary: Students will attend Honours student presentations and at least 12 seminars (these can be external to SBMS) given by academic/research staff or invited speakers.
- Supervisor's Report: Supervisors will provide a report on the student's performance over the course of the Honours year.
- Research Outcomes Seminar: This component includes the final seminar presented at the end of the Honours year (15 minute talk & 10 minutes for questions).

Assessment Marking

- Two examiners are invited by the SBMS Honours Coordinators to assess the research proposal and research report and Research Outcomes seminar. Their feedback will be made available to the students, although examiners have the option of remaining anonymous. If appropriate, examiners may be from another school or institution.
- Research proposal seminars will be examined by a supervisor of the students presenting within that session. Each supervisor will examine all speakers within that session. A suitable proxy can be recruited provided they have > 3 years post-PhD research experience.

- Templates of marking sheets used by examiners for the assessment of items of work can be found in the learning resources section of the Blackboard site.
- Students will be informed of the grading of any item's assessment at the end of each semester. Students should direct any queries in relation to their marks to the Honours Coordinators.
- Final results are recommended by the SBMS Honours Coordinators to the Head of School, who advises the Executive Dean. The award of various classes of Honours is also made by the Head of School and relevant Executive Dean.

Assessment Summary BSc, BBiomedSc and BAdvSc Honours

| Subject Code | Subject Title | Credit Unit |
|----------------------|---|-------------|
| BIOM6191 or BIOM6192 | Research Project in Biomedical Sciences | 16 |
| BIOM6501 or BIOM6502 | Research Project in Biomedical Sciences | 16 |

| Assessment Task | Weighting |
|---|--------------------|
| <i>Seminar</i> Research Proposal Seminar | 5% |
| <i>Report</i> Research Proposal | 10%* |
| <i>Diary</i> Seminar Diary | 5% |
| <i>Report</i> Research Report | 55%*, ^h |
| <i>Report</i> Supervisor's Report | 5% |
| <i>Seminar</i> Research Outcomes Seminar | 20% |

* submission of final version via Turnitin, ^h indicates a hurdle on the assessment task

HOW TO FIND AN HONOURS SUPERVISOR/PROJECT

- Decide what broad research field you are interested in
 - Also consider what techniques you would like to learn
- Find a supervisor in that field
 - Consider Lecturer's from relevant courses or search for research academics associated with UQ.
 - Are they actively publishing?
 - Do they have other students/staff (to provide you with extra support)?
- Contact your potential supervisor
 - Don't send a generic email
 - Be familiar with the Supervisor's work
 - Tell them why you want to do an Honours project in their lab
 - Contact them EARLY!!
 - Meet with them in person – will they be supervising you day-to-day or will it be a post- doc? If it is the latter, then ask to meet the post-doc.
 -
- It is required that at least one of the supervisors, i.e. either the Principal Supervisor or Co-supervisor, be an academic or affiliate of the School of Biomedical Sciences. For a [SBMS Affiliate](#) to be a supervisor they must be based in south-east Queensland and have access to the suitable biomedical research infrastructure required to complete the project.

WHERE DO I LOOK FOR A SUPERVISOR/PROJECT?

Information and contact details for researchers can typically be found on School and Institute websites, some of which are listed below:

School of Biomedical Science - <https://biomedical-sciences.uq.edu.au/research/themes>

School of Clinical Medicine - <https://medicine-program.uq.edu.au/school-of-clinical-medicine/research>

Diamantina Institute - <http://www.di.uq.edu.au/study/honours>

Mater Research Institute – <http://www.materresearch.org.au/students.aspx>

UQ Centre for Clinical Research - <https://clinical-research.centre.uq.edu.au/honours>

UQ Child Health Research Centre - <https://child-health-research.centre.uq.edu.au/study-chrc>

Queensland Brain Institute - <https://qbi.uq.edu.au/study/honours>

Institute for Molecular Biosciences - <http://postgraduate.imb.uq.edu.au/>

QIMR-Berghofer Medical Research Institute - http://www.qimrberghofer.edu.au/student_projects/

