

## School of Arts Honours

Honours is a one-year (for full-time students) or two-year (for part-time students) degree program. It is offered in the School in all discipline areas, and is offered both on-campus and off-campus.

The program in each discipline involves a combination of a coursework unit, and a dissertation unit. The coursework provides training in advanced research methods and selected focus areas of study (according to each discipline), while the dissertation offers students the opportunity to pursue in-depth research in an area of interest.

In the dissertation, you work with a supervisor from the staff in the relevant discipline: because of the wide range of expertise offered by staff, you have considerable choice in framing a topic.

Dissertation topics can explore far beyond topics taught in undergraduate units.

Recent successful dissertation topics have been on a range of subjects, including:

'Strategies for Performance: A Clarinetist's Guide to Richard Vella's Tango and Duet from *Tales of Love*'

'Interpreting Chopin: Using Historically Informed Performance Practice Methodologies and Recordings'

'Twins in Australian Children's Television'

'From Fiend to Friend: The Vampire in Literature and Culture'

'Margaret Hale's story, in *North and South*.'

'Orphans in the novels of Jane Austen.'

'Feminism and the media in the fantasy novels of Robin Hobb.'

'A Lacanian reading of Neil Gaiman's children's fantasy novel, *Coraline*'

'Australian schoolgirl fiction 1896-1945.'

## **What does undertaking an Honours Degree do for me?**

Some of the advantages of Honours study include:

The opportunity to devise your own, advanced project of research, in consultation with a supervisor in the relevant field.

Honours is the traditional pathway to further higher study. As the UNE Course and Unit Catalogue explains:

Completion of the degree to the standard of Honours Class II Division 2 or better is the normal mode of entry to the research degree of Master of Arts with Honours. Completion to the standard of Honours Class II Division 1 or better is the normal mode of entry to candidature for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

If you want to go on to a PhD, completion of a good Honours degree (1<sup>st</sup> Class) will make you competitive in applications for scholarships funding (such as Australian Postgraduate Awards, and University of New England Research Awards).

If you want to go on to postgraduate study in the United States, an Honours degree makes you competitive with American students (who generally do a 4 year undergraduate degree).

A degree that gives you an edge with prospective employers (most large corporations look favourably on Honours students, regardless of their subject of study) Simply by completing Honours, students demonstrate superior skills in writing, research, advanced thinking, management of time and resources, and of course a broader, and deeper knowledge of their chosen subject.

Teachers with Honours degrees can command a higher pay rate than those without.

Study of Honours is supported by Centrelink.

## Applying for Honours

Application forms for Honours Study can be found on the UNE Course and Unit Catalogue website:

Bachelor of Arts with Honours:

<http://www.une.edu.au/courses/2011/courses/HBA>

Bachelor of Media and Communications with Honours:

<http://www.une.edu.au/courses/2011/courses/HBMC>

Bachelor of Music with Honours:

<http://www.une.edu.au:80/courses/2011/courses/HBMUS>

## Contacts in the School of Arts

### School Honours Coordinator:

Elizabeth Hale ([ehale@une.edu.au](mailto:ehale@une.edu.au))

If you are interested in taking Honours, you first contact the Honours Coordinator for the School, Dr Elizabeth Hale ([ehale@une.edu.au](mailto:ehale@une.edu.au); (02) 6773-2356), either by email or phone, to discuss your ideas for a thesis topic.

We also suggest that if there are staff members you have particularly enjoyed working with in previous units, you contact them and explore the idea of working on an Honours dissertation with them as supervisor.

### Contact the Honours convenor in your discipline, or the overall Honours Coordinator.

Chinese	Li Shi ( <a href="mailto:shi.li@une.edu.au">shi.li@une.edu.au</a> )
Communication Studies	Dugald Williams ( <a href="mailto:dwillia7@une.edu.au">dwillia7@une.edu.au</a> )
English	Stephen Harris ( <a href="mailto:sharris9@une.edu.au">sharris9@une.edu.au</a> )
French	Jane Southwood ( <a href="mailto:jsouthw5@une.edu.au">jsouthw5@une.edu.au</a> )
German	Julia Petzl-Berney ( <a href="mailto:jpetzl@une.edu.au">jpetzl@une.edu.au</a> )
Italian	Brennan Wales ( <a href="mailto:bwales@une.edu.au">bwales@une.edu.au</a> )
Indonesian	Zi Adnan ( <a href="mailto:zadnan@une.edu.au">zadnan@une.edu.au</a> )
Japanese	Kiyomi Yamada ( <a href="mailto:kyamada@une.edu.au">kyamada@une.edu.au</a> )
Music	Jenny Game-Lopata ( <a href="mailto:jgamelop@une.edu.au">jgamelop@une.edu.au</a> )
Theatre Studies	Anne Pender ( <a href="mailto:anne.pender@une.edu.au">anne.pender@une.edu.au</a> )
Writing	Jeremy Fisher ( <a href="mailto:jfishe23@une.edu.au">jfishe23@une.edu.au</a> )

## **How do I prepare myself for Honours?**

Apart from trying to do as well as possible in your studies, make sure you have the following prerequisites:

### BA Honours prerequisites:

The normal admission requirement for admission is a Bachelor of Arts degree from a recognised university or tertiary institution with at least 60 credit points (or equivalent) in the subject of the chosen field of study with grades of Distinction or better in units to the value of at least 18 credit points at 300 level. Students completing the Bachelor of Languages, Bachelor of International Studies, Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Theatre Studies and arts combined degrees (eg Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Laws) are also eligible to apply for the BA(Hons.), as long as they meet this entry requirement.

### Bachelor of Media and Communications with Honours prerequisites:

A candidate for admission to the final honours course shall have:  
(a) satisfied all requirements for admission to the degree of Bachelor of Media and Communications in The University of New England or equivalent (eg the Bachelor of Communication Studies); *and*  
(b) attained at least Distinction standard in 18 credit points at 300 level in the major in which the candidate wishes to proceed.

**In other words, you will need to complete your undergraduate degree, including at least 10 units in the relevant major (12 in the case of entry into the Bachelor of Media and Communications), and achieve Distinction in at least three units at 300 level in order to enter Honours. In some cases if you do not have the 10 units you can substitute 2-3 units in a related discipline, but this must be approved by the Head of School.**

### **Try out advanced independent study: enrol in ARTS301 for 2011.**

If you are not finishing your course in 2010, you can try out independent study at an advanced level by enrolling in ARTS301. This unit encourages students to pursue independent projects in any discipline offered in the School (you can also count it towards your Honours prerequisites for a discipline in the School).

Prerequisites for enrolment in this unit are: 36 credit points, and at least 24 credit points passed at Credit level or better, and 12 credit points at 300 level (all in the relevant subject), and permission of the Head of School.

<http://www.une.edu.au/arts/units/arts301.php>

**We will consider applications over the summer, and up until the start of Semester 1, 2011**