University of New England

Bachelor of Science with Honours




2024 User Manual

CRICOS Provider No: 00003G

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Introduction

The Honours year provides an opportunity for well-qualified graduates to undertake a fourth year of study with a major component involving a research project in one of a suite of disciplines offered by the university. Students are able to develop their own individual research project and conduct either empirical or theoretical research under the guidance of a supervisor. Completion of the Bachelor of Science with Honours provides an avenue into postgraduate study or into a career as a professional researcher or academic. Honours graduates are able to demonstrate to potential employers that they have the ability to produce high quality work with minimal supervision.

The Bachelor of Science with Honours is offered by The School of Science and Technology with the following Schools providing honours in the majors/disciplines indicated:

***School of Science and Technology*:** Biomedical Science (as Biochemistry, Genetics, Microbiology, Physiology majors), Chemistry, Computational Science, Mathematics, Physics, Sports Science and Exercise physiology.

***School of Environmental and Rural Science*:** Agronomy, Animal Science, Botany, Ecology, Environmental Science, Genetics, Geoscience, Zoology, Palaeoscience (as geoscience, ecology or zoology majors).

School of Behavioural, Cognitive and Social Sciences: Geography

School of Humanities: Archaeology

This user manual and processes described herein are relevant to all Honours with majors/disciplines described above.

Honours can be studied internally or online, and in full time or part time modes. Enrolment can be made in Trimester 1, 2 or 3 each year. For students commencing in Trimester 1, the schedule for full-time candidates is a start date at the beginning of T1 and a completion/submission date 39 weeks later (equivalent to 2 semesters because for honours we work to a semester timeline). For T2 commencement or T3 commencement, the timeline is extended to 41 weeks to take into account the university closure over the Christmas/New Year break. For part-time candidature, which generally includes students studying in external mode, candidates have additional time from the commencement date with appropriate

deadlines for assignments (except introductory seminar). See the table below for commencement and completion dates for 2024 enrolment.

Important Dates for students commencing in 2024

	Full time		Part time	
	Commence	Submission	Commence	Submission
T1 commencement (39 weeks)	26 Feb 2024	22 November 2024	26 Feb 2024	22 November 2025
T2 commencement (41 weeks including 2 week Christmas break)	24 June 2024	4 April 2025	24 June 2024	4 April 2026
T3 commencement (41 weeks including 2 week Christmas break)	21 October 2024	1 August 2025	21 October 2024	1 August 2026

Important Contacts

Course Coordinator, Bachelor of Science with Honours, **School Science and Technology,** **School of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences**	Dr Adam Harris	email: aharris5@une.edu.au
Course Coordinator, Bachelor of Science with Honours , **School Environmental and Rural Science**	Dr Eric Nordberg	email: Eric.Nordberg@une.edu.au
Administration, School of Science and Technology	Email: Admin-St@une.edu.au	
Administration, School of Environmental and Rural Science	Email: ers-cam@une.edu.au	

Major/Discipline Contacts:

Major/Discipline	Contact	Contact Details
Animal Science	Dr Sam Clark	email: sam.clark@une.edu.au
Agronomy	Dr Chris Guppy	email: cguppy@une.edu.au
Archaeology	Professor Lloyd Weeks	email: lweeks2@une.edu.au
Biomedical Science – biochemistry, genetics, physiology, microbiology	Dr Gal Winter	email: gwinterz@une.edu.au
Botany	Dr David Perovic	email: David.Perovic@une.edu.au
Chemistry	Dr Brendan Wilkinson	email: Brendan.Wilkinson@une.edu.au
Computational Science	Dr Peter Loxley	email: ploxley@une.edu.au
Ecology	Dr Manu Saunders	email: manu.saunders@une.edu.au;
Environmental Science	Dr Susan Wilson	email: swilso24@une.edu.au
Geography	Dr Raj Rajaratnam	email: rrajarat@une.edu.au
Geoscience	Dr Luke Milan	email: lmilan@une.edu.au
Mathematics	Dr Adam Harris	email: aharris5@@une.edu.au
Palaeoscience	Dr Phil Bell	email: pbell23@une.edu.au
Physics	Dr Stephen Bosi	email: sbosi@une.edu.au
Sports Science and Exercise physiology	Prof Neil Smart	email: Neil.Smart@une.edu.au
Zoology	Dr Tommy Leung	email: tleung6@une.edu.au

Course coordinators are responsible for overseeing enrolment and progression, and guidance related to supervision, progression, resources, and thesis submission and examination.

Major/Discipline contacts can also assist with supervision arrangements and tracking progression. Students experiencing personal problems or having project/supervision concerns may discuss matters with the Honours Course Coordinator or the discipline contact, but the content and research undertaken for each project is the responsibility of the student in consultation with the supervisor.

Enrolling in Honours

Interested students are asked to refer to the course rules for the Bachelor of Science with Honours regarding admission to candidature and course requirements (see course handbook: https://www.une.edu.au/study/courses/bachelor-of-science-with-honours). To be considered for honours, students must

- have completed a Bachelor of Science or an equivalent Bachelor qualification in a relevant discipline *and*
- have achieved a GPA of 5.5 or better in the undergraduate degree; or a credit average in at least 24 credit points at 300-level in Science units from an area related to the Major/Discipline area.

2. Select a supervisor and decide on a research topic. The best plan is to approach a potential supervisor in a field relevant to your topic and discuss together a suitable research project. Some ideas on possible projects and supervisors for different majors are available in the Project Book and Information seminars at: https://www.une.edu.au/about-une/faculty-of-science-agriculture-business-and-law/school-of-environmental-and-rural-science/research/honours-programs; or https://www.une.edu.au/about-une/faculty-of-science-agriculture-business-and-law/school-of-science-and-technology/courses2

You may also take your own ideas to a potential supervisor for discussion. Supervisors and research projects are best organised at least 2 months before the Honours enrolment is due to begin. You can also contact the course coordinators or the discipline contacts listed above for additional help with this.

Projects are supervised by academic staff within the relevant School. For staff and their interests see:

Science and Technology:

http://www.une.edu.au/about-une/academic-schools/school-of-science-and-technology/our-staff

Environmental and Rural Science:

http://www.une.edu.au/about-une/academic-schools/school-of-environmental-and-rural-science/our-people

Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences:

https://www.une.edu.au/about-une/faculty-of-humanities-arts-social-sciences-and-education/hass/our-staff

3. Information for Bachelor of Science with Honours - How to Apply, the on-line application process, the **Thesis Proposal Form** and additional requirement - is available through the **Bachelor of Science with Honours** link at:

https://www.une.edu.au/study/courses/bachelor-of-science-with-honours

Additional information is available at:

School ERS - https://www.une.edu.au/about-une/faculty-of-science-agriculture-business-and-law/school-of-environmental-and-rural-science/research/honours-programs; or

School S&T - https://www.une.edu.au/about-une/faculty-of-science-agriculture-business-and-law/school-of-science-and-technology/courses2

Students, **with input from their proposed supervisor**, are required to complete the **Thesis Proposal Form**. Students are required to provide details of their supervisor(s), their proposed research are, major and enrolment status on the Thesis Proposal Form. **The student and supervisor will need to sign this form**. Applications **will not be processed** if the Thesis Proposal Form has not been completed fully and attached to the on-line admission application. This form indicates that your proposed supervisor(s) agree(s) to supervise the project, the facilities and resources to support your work are available, and that alternative supervisory arrangements are in place if the supervisor plans to be absent for part of your project.

4. To formally enrol in the degree, complete the Bachelor of Science (Honours) - Online Admission Application at https://www.une.edu.au/study/courses/bachelor-of-science-with-honours - using the **green APPLY** link on the page. **Don't forget to attach the completed**

Thesis Proposal Form and a copy of your academic transcript. The application, together with the Thesis Proposal Form, will be forwarded to the relevant School for approval. The School will advise the Student Services of the outcome of the application.

All applications for admission to candidature for the

Bachelor of Science with Honours

MUST be approved by the

Bachelor of Science with Honours Course Coordinator.

5. When an application has been processed and the student has been accepted as a candidate for the degree, Student Services will send an offer of enrolment. Students **must accept** this **AND** they will then be enrolled by our administration into the **BSC** course and **honours unit which is SCI400,** where all information for the Honours course is held, and assigned their relevant Major/discipline. Information on SCI400 honours unit can be found at: https://www.une.edu.au/study/units/honours-in-science-sci400. **NOTE: Students do not need to enrol in this unit** once accepted into the course. This will happen automatically.

For part-time study, students study over 4 semester periods from the commencement date. Consequently, part-time students will be enrolled twice, for example, YLH1 T1 (Year 1) and YLH1 T1 (Year 2). This will happen automatically.

Requirements of the Honours Year

The primary requirement is to perform well in conducting the research project and writing the thesis. You are also required to complete satisfactorily other items of written work and a research final seminar. Students will also be required to prepare a non-assessable introductory seminar close to the start of their project, which will help to plan experimental work and receive feedback.

The structure of the Honours year is slightly different for students in different discipline areas. Students should refer to their relevant Major/Discipline requirements. Regardless of the Major/Discipline chosen for Honours, the Honours year is quite different from undergraduate studies. The Honours year, particularly with respect to the research project, is less structured and ***the student is responsible for time-management*** (for example, developing a timetable for completion of the thesis). Students are also ***responsible for maintaining contact throughout the year*** with their supervisor, the Honours Course Co-ordinator and the School Office, as various matters arise with respect to changes in circumstances, seminar schedules, time-off for medical reasons, etc. The ***most efficient means of contact is via email,*** and it is essential that students check their UNE email account regularly. All students are enrolled into the **Honours Unit Moodle Site** (SCI400) where they will automatically receive all Honours notifications. The General Discussion forum is also a good way to contact Honours coordinators and other students and well as our Facebook group.

A significant part of the learning process is via informal contacts with fellow graduates and with academic staff other than the immediate supervisor. Students are encouraged to participate in the various activities organised by their Discipline or School whether it be going to morning and afternoon tea in the appropriate common rooms, where the relaxed atmosphere is conducive to informal discussions, or to more formal academic activities. It is an expectation ***that Honours students attend the School/Discipline seminars*** (not just those in areas relevant to your Honours project) **and also all Honours seminars**. The Honours course co-ordinator and supervisor will advise on seminars and dates. Ensure that you check posted schedules on Moodle (SCI400) and your email for details.

On-campus Requirements for Off-campus Students

There is a requirement for online enrolled students to be on campus for a certain period in each semester, although this will depend on the research topic. As a guide, this would be at least the equivalent of intensive schools in that discipline for the 48cp of study over equivalent study time period. Experience has shown that the success of the project is often positively correlated with the amount of contact between the supervisor and student. The frequency and timing of visits or online calls will depend on the nature of the project. Students must discuss and agree the on-campus requirements with their supervisor(s).

Assessment

The assessment for Honours incorporates a **research thesis** that represents the main body of your work. Additional components are required and include a seminar, as well as discipline determined assessment such as a literature review. A summary of the assessment requirements is provided in the table on p15. This information is also available in the Course Online Handbook: https://handbook.une.edu.au/units/2024/SCI400

Submission of the research thesis will be 39 weeks from the commencement of the trimester in which a candidate was enrolled for full time students and pro-rata equivalent for part-time students.

Seminars

Most Honours students are required to present a seminar and the following information is provided:

Introductory seminar will be required for most disciplines/majors and is presented early in the project. This will consist of a Powerpoint outline of the background, aims and methodology of the proposed research project. This will be **10 minutes and five minutes for questions**. The aim of this initial seminar is to ensure research progress and engender comments from staff (other than your supervisor) and other students with time to consider comments before data collection commences. **This is not assessed**, but should include

- context and background (with references),
- significance,
- aims,
- hypothesis,
- any piloting,
- project plan (including required methods and analyses)
- anticipated outcomes and outputs
- timeline
- budget

Final seminar. This is a mandatory part of Assessment 2 for all candidates (except Mathematics major). This is assessed and is presented towards the end of the project. The presentation should consist of a PowerPoint outline of the project and its outcomes. This is expected to include at least:

- Context and background,
- Aims and Hypothesis,
- Methods,
- Results,
- Discussion,
- Conclusions and Significance,
- Limitations and Future work.

As a guide an assessment form for the final seminar is provided in Appendix 3. The seminar will be **15 minutes and then five minutes for questions**. Dates will be provided on the **Honours Moodle Site (SCI400)**. The supervisor is expected to have input in one trial presentation but the final presentation is the responsibility of the student. We can manage final seminars by zoom but encourage students to attend on campus to present their final seminar.

Viva Voce (Oral Examination)

A *viva voce* is required by some disciplines. This is an oral defence of thesis. This may or may not carry an assessment weighting depending on discipline.

Where a *viva voce* is required this may be scheduled at the same time as the final seminar or shortly after submission of the thesis. The student will take part in the oral discussion with a panel, chaired by the Honours Coordinator, and consisting of at least three academics, one of whom shall be the supervisor. Other academic staff may be present and participate in the oral discussion, if approved by the supervisor and Honours Coordinator.

Students should consult their supervisor for details of specific requirements if required to attend a *viva voce*.

Honours Assessment Summary

For candidates with a Major in Agronomy, Animal Science, Archaeology, Biochemistry, Botany, Chemistry, Computational Science, Ecology, Environmental Science, Genetics, Geography, Geoscience, Mathematics, Physics, Physiology, Sport Science and Exercise Physiology, Zoology

	cps	Assessment	Weight
SCI400	48	***For candidates with a Major other than Mathematics*** Assessment 1: This may be in the form of a literature review/coursework units/seminar/reading, as directed by discipline and supervisor. Assessment 2: **A thesis based on a research project**. A viva voce examination, as directed by the discipline and supervisor, may be required after submission of the thesis. The outcome of the viva voce may be used in determining the final Honours grade. ***Only for candidates with a Major in Mathematics*** Assessment 1: This will comprise advanced-level coursework units to be determined in consultation with the candidate's supervisor. Assessment 2: **A research project requiring the submission of a thesis** - a viva voce examination, as directed by the discipline and supervisor, may be required after submission of the thesis. The outcome of the viva voce will be used in determining the final Honours grade.	 30% 70% 70% 30%

All candidates (except Mathematics major) **will be** required to give a final seminar weighted at 10% of the final honours grade. The research project is weighted 70%. The remaining 20% assessment will be determined by discipline and supervisor.

The Research Project/Thesis

The aim of the research project is to introduce the student to original scientific work. The student, in conjunction with their supervisor, should develop a realistic research project and plan, given the restraints of time, funding and availability of infrastructure. It is important that individuals develop skills in keeping up-to-date with the relevant scientific papers and related published materials (reviews, textbooks etc). In addition to the resources of the Dixson Library, the Internet is an important resource, with many journals/reviews available in full text. Your supervisor, colleagues and relevant School Librarian can advise as to the availability of on-line journals, related materials and your document delivery entitlement.

Students are expected to use a reference management program such as Endnote for referencing. Endnote is a personal reference database program. The main functions of such programs are to:

- maintain a personal library of references
- download references from journal databases and Google Scholar
- insert references into word-processed documents
- generate a bibliography in the correct style for publication

Information on Endnote can be found at https://une.au.libguides.com/endnote20/. **Students are expected to attend a training session on Endnote**

Honours students can obtain Endnote through the UNE IT Service Desk on the Ground Floor of Dixson Library. The IT Service Desk email is: servicedesk@une.edu.au

The thesis must be produced by a suitable word processing software package and care taken in the presentation and grammar. Your supervisor is expected to comment on the first draft and sufficient time (at least three weeks before the due date of thesis submission) should be given for appropriate feedback from the supervisor. Remember that a first draft, particularly the Results and Discussion, should be in such a form that the supervisor has all the necessary information to make constructive suggestions.

The final version of the research thesis is the individual's responsibility. A pdf copy of the thesis must be submitted *through the University's e-submission system via the thesis*

submission portal on the SCI400 Moodle site **before 5 pm on the thesis submission date.** In addition, the student must submit a pdf copy and the source files **to the supervisor before 5pm. The supervisor may also request a softbound hardcopy of the thesis and this should be communicated to the student at least 2 weeks prior to submission date.**

The following is **a suggested structure** for your thesis but you should refer to the requirements of the relevant Discipline and also consult copies of previous Honours theses in the relevant Discipline for further guidance on the thesis layout.

Length:

Length is a maximum of 20,000 words (including figures and tables). References and Appendices are not included in word limit. Figures and tables are considered at approx. 300 words each.

Format:

Times New Roman, 12 font – 1.5 spacing – normal margin setting (not less than 2cm)

Suggested Structure:

Title page

Signed declaration by student (example provided in Appendix 1)

Table of Contents

List of Figures and Tables

Summary/Abstract, (1 page A4 page maximum)

Introduction

Literature Review

Methods

Results, including relevant figures, tables and graphs

Discussion and Conclusions

List of References/Bibliography (style APA or as directed by supervisor)

Appendices (e.g. supplementary data not included in the Results)

Students are strongly advised to ensure on-time submission of their thesis.

School Policy on Late Submissions will be enforced.

It is permissible to produce a thesis with self-contained data chapters in the format of peer reviewed journal publications but the thesis must have a general introduction and literature review (that can be combined in one chapter depending on discipline norm) and a unifying conclusion or synthesis and the whole document must be sequentially ordered and linked together. Please refer to the Higher Degree Research Thesis by Publication Guideline for equivalent direction with this - https://policies.une.edu.au/view.current.php?id=00284

Thesis Examination and Other Assessment Marking

The thesis will be examined by at least two examiners with expertise in the area of study neither of whom will be the candidate's supervisor or have been involved/have a potential conflict of interest with the thesis work. One of the examiners should be external to the University of New England. The supervisor will nominate examiners who will be ratified by the discipline representatives. In case of dispute, the supervisor and Honours Course Coordinator, generally in consultation with appropriate academic staff, will determine the appointment of the examiners.

Examiners will be required to submit a written report along with a completed 'Examiners Assessment Form'. If marks vary by more than 10% for the thesis, and examiners cannot reach agreement after consultation, then a third examiner may be appointed. In all matters relating to examiners, the Head of School (or nominee) shall have the final decision.

The assessment criteria used when grading Honours theses are found in Appendix 2

Two internal markers assess other written work and this can include the supervisor(s).

Assessment of the final Honours seminar is based on marks awarded by academic staff in the audience; this can include the supervisor but must not include family members or others with a conflict of interest.

Honours Grades

The grades Honours are:

- ≥85% H1 Honours Class I
- 75 to 84% H2A Honours Class II, Division 1
- 65 to 74% H2B Honours Class II, Division 2
- 50 to 64% H3 Honours Class III
- <50% Fail

Honours Class I (H1) – equivalent to a High Distinction, 7 on the GPA scale

Excellent performance indicating complete and comprehensive understanding and/or application of the subject matter; achieves all basic and higher order intended unit objectives and graduate attributes linked to the assessment tasks; minimal or no errors of fact, omission and/or application present; clear and unambiguous evidence of possession of a very high level of required skills; demonstrated very high level of interpretive and/or analytical ability and intellectual initiative; very high level of competence. (Numerical conversion: scores and/or aggregate marks of 85% or above.)

A First Class Honours degree demonstrates that the student has excellent potential for independent research and would be strongly supported in an application for a higher degree and for a scholarship application. A first-class thesis would be free of major faults, demonstrate originality and skills in planning, analysis and execution of a logical research plan, and would be written clearly and succinctly. It would also illustrate the scientific and/or applied relevance of the project work.

Honours Class II, Division 1 (H2A) – equivalent to a Distinction, 6 on the GPA scale

Very good performance indicating reasonably complete and comprehensive understanding and/or application of the subject matter; achieves all basic and most higher-order unit objectives and graduate attributes linked to the assessment tasks; some minor flaws; clear and unambiguous evidence of possession of a high level of required skills; demonstrated high level of interpretive and/or analytical ability and intellectual initiative; high level of competence. (Numerical conversion: scores and/or aggregate marks between 75% and 84%.)

This identifies a very competent student who has potential to proceed to a higher degree but would need appreciable guidance to meet the required standards. A H2A thesis would exhibit a thorough understanding of the research issue and a professional or original approach to its resolution. Research design and analyses would be good, presentation clear, and errors of fact and style minimal.

Honours Class II, Division 2 (H2B) – equivalent to a Credit, 5 on the GPA scale

Good performance indicating reasonable and well-rounded understanding and/or application of the subject matter; achieves all basic but only a few higher-order intended unit objectives and graduate attributes linked to the tasks; a few more serious flaws or several minor ones; clear and unambiguous evidence of possession of a reasonable level of most required skills; demonstrated reasonable level of interpretive and/or analytical ability and intellectual initiative; reasonable level of competence. (Numerical conversion: scores and/or aggregate marks between 65% and 74%.)

This implies the student is capable of proceeding to a Master by research degree but would need considerable further development before commencing a PhD. Such a thesis is competently written but contains some inadequacies in scope, content, presentation, data analysis or understanding of the topic.

Honours Class III (H3) – equivalent to a Pass, 4 on the GPA scale

Satisfactory performance indicating adequate but incomplete or less well- rounded understanding and/or application of the subject matter; achieves many basic but very few or none of the higher-order intended unit objectives and graduate attributes linked to the assessment tasks; several serious flaws or many minor ones; clear and unambiguous evidence of possession of an adequate level of an acceptable number of required skills; demonstrated adequate level of interpretive and/or analytical ability and intellectual initiative; adequate level of competence. (Numerical conversion: scores and/or aggregate marks between 50% to 64%.)

A student awarded this grade would not be encouraged to seek a higher degree. Thesis work may indicate much effort but suffer inadequacies in scope, content, presentation, data analysis or understanding of the topic.

If the overall mark is <50%, the student has failed the degree and the thesis contains serious inadequacies in some or all areas.

Deadlines and Extensions

Early in the Honours year, the supervisor in conjunction with the discipline representative and Honours Coordinator will discuss the expectations and requirements with the student and develop a research assessment plan – a program of assessable tasks, their deadlines and the percentage of the final assessment. A template for this **Honours Agreement** is available on the Honours Moodle site (SCI400) and at Appendix 4. The completed form must be forwarded to the Honours course-coordinator within 2 weeks of commencement.

Extensions of time for thesis submission will be granted only because of circumstances beyond the student's control (e.g., medical problems evidenced by production of a medical certificate, equipment failures, disasters in the field). Due dates for the thesis are outlined at the beginning of this document. Due dates for other assessment items are agreed with the supervisor in consultation with the discipline representative and Honours course coordinator.

Penalties for late submission will follow the UNE assessment policy as per https://policies.une.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=290. Requests for extensions must be made to the Honours course co-ordinator in consultation with the supervisor, in writing before the relevant deadline. Failure to hand in any of the assignments without prior notification will result in the Honours degree being classified as a "Failed Incomplete". Students seeking additional time for submission may also seek a Special Extension of Time through ASKUNE.

Special Extensions of Time

Requests for special extensions of time have to be made ***in writing through ASKUNE***, with supporting documentation (e.g. medical certificate, record of delays) as per the University Assessment policy: https://policies.une.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=290. Students must request for Special Extension of Time for thesis submission, if this will be submitted **after 7 calendar days past the original submission** date.

Responsibilities of the Student

It is the student's responsibility to confirm a research project and a willing supervisor **prior to enrolment in the degree**. The student is expected to develop the project from an idea or an outline discussed with the supervisor. After enrolment he supervisor will ask the student to write a research plan and develop a timetable for the work. Regular communication between the student and supervisor about the progress of the research is essential. Although the student is responsible for the day-to-day running of their project, the experience of the supervisor is invaluable when deciding on study sites, methods and appropriate analyses of results. It is the student's responsibility to regularly consult with their supervisor and organise suitable times for meetings.

Students are also responsible for administration of the project and the program of study. For example, the student must ensure that all work is handed in by the due deadline, and that drafts of the thesis are submitted to the supervisor allowing adequate time for comment.

Similarly, if the research project requires a student to undertake any travel for fieldwork, it is the student's responsibility, in consultation with the supervisor, to ensure that all paperwork (SmartBook/fieldwork forms/Approval to use UNE vehicles) required is completed in due time before such fieldwork is undertaken.

The student is also responsible, in consultation with the supervisor, for ensuring relevant ethics approval and permits are obtained where necessary before work commences.

Students should not be reticent about organising meetings to discuss their work, concerns, or future plans with the supervisor.

As previously mentioned, there is a requirement for off-campus students to attend on campus for a certain period in each trimester as agreed with supervisor. Experience has shown that the success of the project is positively correlated with the amount of contact between the supervisor and student. The frequency and timing of visits and catch ups will depend on the nature of the project and the discipline in which study is being completed. Students should consult with their supervisor to organise appropriate dates for on-campus attendance.

Responsibilities of the Supervisor

The supervisor will ensure that the project has sufficient scope for Honours and will provide guidance on research approaches. He/she will advise on methods and field sites and ensure that the student knows how to use equipment properly and safely. The supervisor will ensure that the student is aware of correct procedures in the particular discipline area.

The supervisor will endeavour to ensure that the student maintains satisfactory progress on the research and should encourage that the student works to a timetable or research plan to assist this progress. Progress reports and drafts should be read and annotated within reasonable time, usually within 2 weeks of submission. Importantly, the supervisor will consult with the student early in the Honours year to produce the **Honours Agreement** - a program of assessable tasks, their deadlines and their percentage of the final assessment. A template document is available on the Honours Moodle Site (SCI400) and at Appendix 4.

Supervisors must ensure that alternative supervisory arrangements are in place should they be absent for part of the student's project. Students must also be notified in advance where the supervisor has a planned absence on SSP or Long Service Leave.

The supervisor is responsible for nominating examiners for the thesis and advising the Honours Coordinator on the Examiner Nomination Form (this can be found on the SCI400 Moodle site) at least four to six weeks before the thesis is due for submission. The supervisor cannot act as an examiner but may discuss the nomination of examiners with the student. The student must not be advised of the final nominated as examiners.

The supervisor with discipline representative will organise marking of the other assessment tasks, except Final Seminars (which are organised by Honours coordinator). Marks for the various assessment tasks should be recorded within **21 days of item submission** to the submission link in SCI400 moodle site, collated by the supervisor and uploaded to the SCI400 site with any feedback, and Honours course coordinator notified.

Responsibilities of the Honours Coordinator

The Honours coordinator will oversee the smooth progression of students and the cohort program of Honours seminars and activities. The Honours Coordinator will confirm the appointment of the thesis examiners (with ratification by discipline representatives and

noting to SEC) several weeks before the thesis submission date and ensure through School administrative coordinator timely marking of thesis. The Honours Coordinator will organise the Introductory and Final Seminars within the plan provided for the year. It is the responsibility of the supervisor to organise seminars when these have to occur outside the program plan for any reason. The Honours Coordinator will ensure all marks for the various assessment tasks are recorded for ratification by the relevant School Education Committee.

Additional Information

Assignments (other than thesis)

All written work should be formatted to A4 page size, Times New Roman, 1.5 spaced with 12-point font. All assessed work **must be submitted *through the University's e-submission system via the assignment submission portal on the SCI400 Moodle site***. Feedback and an allocated mark (uploaded to SCI400 Moodle) will be provided to the student on the SCI400 Moodle site. (For thesis requirements see p17-18)

Plagiarism

Plagiarism in any work handed in for assessment will be managed under the rules and policies of the University. Ensure you acknowledge all sources and assistance with any work completed. The Student Coursework Academic Misconduct Rule states that students have a responsibility to complete the Academic Integrity Module (AIM), which covers the rules of academic integrity, essential for successful and ethical study practices at UNE. Please visit the following website for all information related to Academic Misconduct:
http://www.une.edu.au/current-students/resources/academic-skills/plagiarism

Induction

Schools run Induction Days for their Higher Degree Research (HDR) students. Depending on the nature of the project, supervisors may ask Honours students to attend the relevant HDR Induction Days run by the Schools. These days provide general advice about University and School procedures such as fieldwork safety procedures, University vehicles, library services etc. All on-campus students are encouraged to attend regardless of their project. In addition there will be an induction and a series of training opportunities for Honours students throughout their program which is announced on the Honours Moodle Site.

Equipment, Travel, University Vehicles

Detailed information relevant to particular areas is available in the relevant Discipline requirements.

Students must consult their supervisor(s) in all matters relating to the use of equipment, travel and University vehicles if required for completion of their project.

Appropriate travel forms (SmartBook) and Fieldwork Safety forms need to be completed for any field trips. A link to forms is provided on the SCI400 Moodle page. Forms need to be signed by student and supervisor before submission to the School Resource Office for approval. Travel should not be undertaken unless these forms have been completed and approved.

If funding allows, University vehicles may be used for research, and your supervisor should be consulted for full details. Use of 4WD vehicles requires the user to pass the relevant driving test. Please refer to the University Travel Policy that is available on the following UNE website. Please find forms and information at http://www.une.edu.au/staff-current/staff-services/campus-services/vms

Ethics

Students whose project involves animal or humans must be aware of the University's guidelines and policies in relation to human and animal ethics.

Standard operating procedures and other relevant issues in relation to animal ethics can be found on the web at:

http://www.une.edu.au/research/research-services/research-development-and-integrity/ethics/animal-ethics

Information in relation to human ethics can be found at:

http://www.une.edu.au/research/research-services/research-development-and-integrity/ethics/human-research-ethics

Students must consult their supervisor(s) in any proposed use of humans and/or animals for research purposes

Financial Support for Honours Students

The Faculty provides financial project operating support for SCI400 Honours students. Students should consult their supervisor and the Honours course coordinator about financial support and approved use of funds. The Faculty Resource Office manages the grant, and the student and supervisor decide on how the funds are to be used. Your supervisor will advise on correct procedures for the purchase of necessary items. Any overspend of the Faculty

operating grant is the responsibility of the supervisor. Access to photocopying facilities will be made available via an individual access code. The preparation of the thesis is the responsibility of the student, but the operating support provided by Faculty may be used to help with publication if funds are available. Students may use the UNE Document Service Centre for thesis production (https://apply.une.edu.au/app/answers/detail/a_id/2454/~/information-about-ordering-printing-jobs#loaded); email printroom@iinet.com.au or UNEDSC@aus.fujixerox.com

Office space and computing resources will be made available where possible by the supervisor.

Occasionally, Honours scholarships or additional funding may be available for specific projects. Supervisors also may know where additional funds can be sought, and applying for such funds is a valuable experience for Honours students.

Library services

For information on what the Dixson Library at UNE may be able to assist with in the course of your Honours year, please see the web page https://www.une.edu.au/library

Books, journals, completed theses, etc. may be borrowed from the School libraries. Students should consult their School Office.

Where essential journal articles are not available via the UNE library Honours students are eligible for a limited number of Interlibrary document requests. Please see the link for further information and access to request form https://www.une.edu.au/library/researchers/borrow-and-request

Lodgment of Plant and Animal Vouchers

Depending on the research being undertaken, it may be necessary for the student to lodge plant and animal vouchers arising from their Honours work. The vouchers must be correctly prepared and accompanied by appropriate collecting information.

In the case of plant vouchers (even for a primarily non-botanical study), students and supervisors should discuss this aspect of the project with the Director of the N.C.W. Beadle Herbarium (NE). Students will generally be provided with necessary equipment and materials

and guides to facilitate collection and preparation of useful and appropriate vouchers to maximise outcomes. Access to the NE database of the herbarium collection can also be provided to students for planning fieldwork or for other purposes. If a permit is needed only to collect voucher specimens in NSW, then the Director may be able to endorse you on his N.C.W. Beadle Herbarium permit.

Students must consult their supervisor(s) in all matters relating to the lodgement of plant and animal vouchers very early in the project.

Permits and Permissions

Some projects may involve the collection of material from, or working in, National Parks and State Forests. This type of work usually requires a permit. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that where permits are required these are arranged as soon as possible with the assistance of the supervisor.

Permission to work on private property must also be obtained in writing. Ensure that the supervisor is aware of all such arrangements and retains a photocopy of all permit applications, permits granted and written permission.

Students must consult their supervisor(s) beforehand in relation to any permits or permissions required.

Safety and Security

All buildings have Safety Officers and have first aid kits, fire extinguishers, designated meeting points for evacuations of buildings, etc. All buildings have good signage in relation to safety issues. Students should become familiar with the various facilities in their building(s).

Each School/Discipline has guidelines on providing access to buildings after hours and at weekends. Students should consult their supervisor(s) in the first instance.

All accidents must be reported immediately. Students undertaking fieldwork can access first aid kits, EPIRBs, Satellite phones from the School Office, as well as 4WD recovery gear from the Motor Pool.

Honours students will often need access to buildings and laboratories at nights and weekends. This access should be requested through supervisor. If this is the case, students should ensure that "After hours Registers" are filled out correctly. Any suspicious activity after hours in buildings should be immediately reported to UNE Security on ext 2099. Notify the Administrative Assistant or Technical staff of any failures of essential services or faults. In the case of emergency requiring police, fire, or ambulance services, dial 0 for an outside line then 000.

Student Support

The University is committed to providing all students with a high quality learning experience. Effective support services are available to assist you throughout the course of your studies. These services include information on academic, administrative, financial, IT, personal and resource needs. To access the information relating to these resources, go to

http://www.une.edu.au/study/why-study-at-une/student-support/personal-support and follow the links.

Appendix 1: Signed Declaration by Student

The following is a guide for your thesis as you are required to complete such a statement and include it in each copy of your thesis/research report and it must preface the thesis/research report:

I certify that the substance of this thesis (or research report) has not already been submitted for any degree and is not currently being submitted for any other degree or qualification.

I certify that any help received in preparing this thesis (or research report) and all sources used, have been acknowledged in this thesis/research report.

.....
Signature

.....
Date

Appendix 2: Thesis Assessment Form

Bachelor of Science with Honours
THESIS ASSESSMENT

Student: _____

Thesis Title: _____

_____

Examiner: _____

(Note: The thesis constitutes ____% of the assessment for the level of Honours to be awarded)

Examiners may allocate weightings to the following sections according to discipline norm.
General

Abstract and introduction	
Originality of approach to and analysis of subject	
Accuracy in use of logic and facts	
Thesis presentation, proofreading and referencing	

Literature review

Adequacy of coverage of literature	
Critical assessment of material cited	
Identification of gaps in knowledge	
Clear statement of aims and/or hypothesis	

Experimental

Experimental design	
Clear accurate presentation of methods	
Clear presentations of results and statistical/other analysis	
Critical discussion of results	
Conclusion and justification	
Significance and suggestions for future work	

My mark for the thesis is: _____%
(Advice on the levels/classes of Honours is provided on page 3 of this form)

Justification *(add additional pages if necessary)*:

Signature: …….. Date: ……..

Levels/Classes of Honours

(Refer to UNE Assessment Policy Grading System http://www.une.edu.au/study/why-study-at-une/student-support/personal-support *)*

Honours Class I (H1) – equivalent to a High Distinction, 7 on the GPA scale

Excellent performance indicating complete and comprehensive understanding and/or application of the subject matter; achieves all basic and higher order intended unit objectives and graduate attributes linked to the assessment tasks; minimal or no errors of fact, omission and/or application present; clear and unambiguous evidence of possession of a very high level of required skills; demonstrated very high level of interpretive and/or analytical ability and intellectual initiative; very high level of competence. (Numerical conversion: scores and/or aggregate marks of 85% or above.)

Honours Class II, Division 1 (H2A) – equivalent to a Distinction, 6 on the GPA scale

Very good performance indicating reasonably complete and comprehensive understanding and/or application of the subject matter; achieves all basic and most higher-order unit objectives and graduate attributes linked to the assessment tasks; some minor flaws; clear and unambiguous evidence of possession of a high level of required skills; demonstrated high level of interpretive and/or analytical ability and intellectual initiative; high level of competence. (Numerical conversion: scores and/or aggregate marks between 75% and 84%.)

Honours Class II, Division 2 (H2B) – equivalent to a Credit, 5 on the GPA scale

Good performance indicating reasonable and well-rounded understanding and/or application of the subject matter; achieves all basic but only a few higher-order intended unit objectives and graduate attributes linked to the tasks; a few more serious flaws or several minor ones; clear and unambiguous evidence of possession of a reasonable level of most required skills; demonstrated reasonable level of interpretive and/or analytical ability and intellectual initiative; reasonable level of competence. (Numerical conversion: scores and/or aggregate marks between 65% and 74%.)

Honours Class III (H3) – equivalent to a Pass, 4 on the GPA scale

Satisfactory performance indicating adequate but incomplete or less well- rounded understanding and/or application of the subject matter; achieves many basic but very few or none of the higher-order intended unit objectives and graduate attributes linked to the assessment tasks; several serious flaws or many minor ones; clear and unambiguous evidence of possession of an adequate level of an acceptable number of required skills; demonstrated adequate level of interpretive and/or analytical ability and intellectual initiative; adequate level of competence. (Numerical conversion: scores and/or aggregate marks between 50% to 64%.)

If the overall mark is <50%, the student has failed the degree and the thesis contains serious inadequacies in some or all areas.

Appendix 3: Final Seminar Assessment Form

Bachelor of Science Honours
Final Seminar Assessment

Date:_____ Student:_____ Marker:_____

- Please fill out sheet during or immediately after seminar.
- Circle one grade for each item.
- Convert your rankings into a mark out of 100 and an overall grade.
- Provide specific comments in appropriate section.

Introduction:					
Clear context of study	N	P	C	D	HD
Clear presentation of aims	N	P	C	D	HD
Content:					
Relevant literature cited	N	P	C	D	HD
Clearly described methods	N	P	C	D	HD
Clearly explained results	N	P	C	D	HD
Results discussed & placed in context	N	P	C	D	HD
Limitations outlined	N	P	C	D	HD
Direction of future work	N	P	C	D	HD
Organisation:					
Logical sequence of information	N	P	C	D	HD
Clear summary and conclusion	N	P	C	D	HD
Presentation:					
Clear audible speaking	N	P	C	D	HD
Effective use of visual aids	N	P	C	D	HD
Clear explanation of graphs and tables	N	P	C	D	HD
Response to questions	N	P	C	D	HD
Timing	N	P	C	D	HD

Comments:_____

_____

_____

Mark (%): _____

Anonymous feedback and the average mark from Academic staff will be provided to students

Appendix 4: Honours supervisor-student agreement

Student name:

Student number:

Student email contact:

Principal supervisor:

Major:

The period of your candidature for Honours is from _____ until _____ 202_.

Your program of work will comprise the following:

1. **Introductory seminar**
    - In this 10 min seminar, you should present your project outline, background, aims, methodology, and expected outcomes
    - Due date: _____
    - This presentation will not count towards your assessment.
2. **Literature Review** (xxxx words)
    - Topic:
    - Due date: _____
    - Assessment = 10 %
3. **Other assessment** (xxxx words)
    - Title:
    - Due date:
    - Assessment = 10 %
4. **Final seminar**
    - The seminar should present the findings of your project to a joint multidisciplinary Honours Seminar Forum.
    - Due date: _____
    - *Assessment = 10%*

- **Project thesis**

Thesis Title:

- Due date: _____
- Assessment = 70%
- You may be asked to make an oral defence of your thesis.

Candidate signature

Supervisor(s) signature with % allocation

Date

Please email signed form to Honours coordinator for your major

Dr Adam Harris S&T: aharris5@une.edu.au
Dr Susan Wilson ERS: swilso24@une.edu.au