

Honours degrees

Macquarie University offers three kinds of honours degrees:

- those which are a one year full-time program following on from a suitable bachelor degree
- those which are an integrated part of a bachelor degree program
- those which are awarded on the basis of outstanding merit in programs of four or more years.

The following information applies to the standard honours year following from a bachelor degree, for information on the other honours programs, students should contact the relevant faculty.

Benefits of the honours program

The standard honours program is designed to extend an undergraduate degree. Although the academic composition of the honours year is discipline specific, programs generally provide an opportunity to expand a student's theoretical and conceptual knowledge as well as to undertake an original piece of research or investigative work. Successful completion of the degree enhances a graduate's ability to pursue a career within their chosen profession or industry, or in fields which require an honours degree, such as research positions with private or public organisations, and academia. The attainment of a high quality honours degree is a requirement for entry to many doctoral programs.

Program structures

Most honours programs commence in March (some departments allow a mid-year intake) and are taken on a full-time basis over a year or a part-time equivalent over two years. Programs normally consist of a number of compulsory units, taken in the first half of the program, plus a piece of research or investigative work completed in the second half of the program. Honours programs are designed to be both academically rigorous and also flexible, in order to meet the needs and develop the talents of individual students.

Entry requirements

Students from Macquarie University are normally only accepted into an honours program if their grade point average is at least 2.5 overall and 2.5 at 300 level (depending on the department). Students will have studied an undergraduate degree in the area they wish to do honours. Similar criteria will be determined for students from other institutions.

University medals for honours graduates

The Academic Senate, on the recommendation of the faculty concerned, may award a medal to a candidate who has obtained the Degree of Bachelor with Honours Class I and shown exceptional academic achievement.

Further information

Students intending to do honours should contact an academic adviser in their faculty of registration for academic and administrative advice. This should occur as soon as possible and at least at the beginning of the semester before planned commencement of honours candidature.

Further information on admissions, commencement and other administrative matters relating to honours can be found at: www.studentadmin.mq.edu.au/honours/