Have you considered an Honours Degree?

What is an Honours Degree?

The B. Soc Science Honours program has been designed for students who are making outstanding academic progress in their degree studies. The focus of the year’s study is research. Honours provides you with the unique opportunity to undertake a research project that you have designed and which is supervised by an experienced academic in the School of Social Sciences. The year consists of three parts – (1) a unit called Honours Pathways, held over three days during Orientation Week before the start of the Autumn semester and for two days during the winter break; (2) a unit called Researching the Social World, offered weekly during the Autumn semester at Bankstown (this is a series of weekly seminars that introduces you to ideas about and approaches to researching the social world) and (3) the research thesis, completed in early October. It is also possible to do Honours part-time over two years.

Why Do Honours?

The addition of the letters ‘Hons’ after your degree means that you have undertaken research training and that you have successfully completed an independent research project that resulted in the writing of a thesis. In many professions this is a highly sought after graduate attribute because of the research skills graduates with an Honours Degree have attained.

Equally important, an Honours Degree qualifies you for entry into a postgraduate research degree like the Masters Degree by research or the Doctor of Philosophy Degree (PhD). Currently, an Honours Degree also makes you eligible for an Australian Postgraduate Award. This is an Australian Government scholarship that fully funds a postgraduate research degree (including HECS and a generous tax-exempt living allowance for 3 years). So if you have even a vague idea that you may like to pursue a postgraduate research degree in the future, an Honours Degree is the way to go.

Who Can Do Honours?

Any student who completes a degree and is eligible to graduate with a grade point average (GPA) of 5.00 and above can apply for Honours.

Further Information?

Contact the School of Social Sciences Honours Convenor, Dr Heather MacDonald from your UWS student email account:- h.macdonald@uws.edu.au

Dr MacDonald is based on the Kingswood Campus, Penrith.