

Important Information on What to Expect in the Bachelor of Arts (Honours)

Course Overview

The Bachelor of Arts (Honours) is a one-year full-time (or part-time equivalent) degree that provides advanced study and research training in a discipline related to your undergraduate Arts major. Through independent research or creative practice, you will deepen your disciplinary knowledge, develop advanced analytical and communication skills, and gain experience in undertaking a substantial research project.

The degree culminates in the completion of a major research thesis or creative practice project plus thesis/exegesis under the guidance of an academic supervisor with expertise in your chosen field. Honours is an opportunity to explore a topic of particular interest in depth while developing the skills required for professional practice, further study, or research pathways.

Before You Begin

Before commencing Honours, you are encouraged to:

- Reflect on potential research interests related to your undergraduate major.
- Review the research interests and expertise of academic staff in your discipline.
- Prepare a brief description of your proposed research topic or area of interest and apply through the course portal. Once you have received your offer, start reading over the summer.
- Seek advice from the Honours Coordinator if you are unsure about project suitability, eligibility, or supervision arrangements.

Starting these conversations early will help ensure a smooth transition into your Honours studies and support the successful development of your research project.

The National School of Arts and Humanities offers Honours research projects in the following disciplines:

- Archaeology
- Drama
- English
- Geography, Environment and Sustainability
- History (Ancient, Medieval and Early Modern History, or Modern History)
- Music
- Politics and International Relations
- Sociology
- Economics and Society
- Visual Arts and Design
- Youth Work

Honours Projects in Studies of Religion, Theological Studies and Philosophy

Students enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) who completed undergraduate majors in Philosophy, Studies of Religion, or Theological Studies may apply to undertake an Honours research project in these areas. Subject to the availability of appropriate supervision, supervision will be provided by the Faculty of Theology and Philosophy.

Honours Units

- **Advanced Coursework Units - 30cp total**

All students study the compulsory units HONS403 and HONS404 in semester 1.

In semester 2, students may take a cross-institutional unit with course coordinator permission. See the **Cross institutional document** in your Course Enrolment Guide for more information.

Theological Studies or Philosophy Students: Please consult your supervisor and course coordinator in relation to your advanced coursework units.

- **Honours Research Project (formerly known as thesis units) - 50cp total**

A central component of the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) is the Honours Research Project, comprising 50 credit points completed across your candidature. During your Honours year, you will work closely with an academic supervisor with expertise in your chosen field of study. Your supervisor may be based at your campus or another ACU campus, with meetings held in person, online, or through a combination of both, depending on location and circumstances. While Honours Research Project A and B units do not include scheduled classes, you will meet regularly with your supervisor by appointment.

The Honours Research Project is designed to enable you to undertake independent scholarly or creative work, develop advanced research skills, and contribute to knowledge or practice within your discipline. Students completing a traditional research thesis in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences submit a written thesis, which is weighted at 100% of the project. Students specialising in Creative Arts complete a Creative Practice component and an Exegesis/Dissertation component, each weighted at 50% of the project. The appropriate Honours Research Project unit codes can be found in the table above.

For more information on the “Characteristics of the Research Component of Coursework Programs”, see: [Assessment of Research in Coursework Programs Guideline](#), Section 4.

Please note that in 2027 all students will enrol in the HONS coded thesis units.

If you need additional assistance, seek course coordinator advice: NSAHons@acu.edu.au

Supervisor Allocation and Topic Approval

Honours supervisors are allocated by the Head of School (or nominee) based on the proposed research topic, disciplinary expertise, and supervisor availability.

As part of the supervisor allocation process, you may be invited to discuss your proposed topic with an academic staff member before a supervisor is assigned. This helps ensure that your project is academically viable, and that appropriate supervision can be provided.

In some cases, students may be asked to refine, narrow, or modify their proposed topic to align with available expertise, ethical requirements, methodological considerations, or the scope of an Honours project.

While students are encouraged to indicate their research interests and may discuss potential topics with academic staff before enrolment, supervision arrangements cannot be guaranteed until they have been formally approved by the School.

Students will normally be advised of their supervisor prior to the commencement of semester