

Honours coordinator, Dr David Stroud (david.stroud@unimelb.edu.au)

What is Honours? Honours is a one-year course of advanced study. It involves an intensive research-based project where you learn to solve problems, analyse data, think critically and communicate your research.

Why should I do Honours? Honours provides high level research training. It enables you to develop skills that include problem solving, critical thinking, project management and oral communication. These are skills that are highly sought after by employers in biological, medical and industrial areas. Completion of Honours is the major route of entry into the PhD program.

Are scholarships available? Yes! All students that achieve > 85 average for 3rd year subjects (not including Breadth) will receive a Biochemistry and Molecular Biology scholarship worth \$5000. The student that achieves the highest mark will be awarded with the Grimwade Honours Prize of \$2500.

When does Honours start and finish? Projects start at the beginning of Semester One and finish in November. Mid-year entry is also possible, where projects start in Semester Two and finish in June the following year.

Do I need to do course-work? Yes. All students will undertake modules designed to teach you professional skills in Biochemical Research, Communicating Science: Writing, Communicating Science: Oral Presentations, Reading Scientific Literature and Experimental Design and Statistics. Coursework material will be taught using online content and in class activity-based tutorials.

How is Honours assessed? The course-work modules are worth 25 points and are assessed by essays, oral presentations and journal club. The Research project is worth 75 points and is assessed by a written thesis and a seminar presentation.

What are the entry requirements? Entry usually requires three years of a B-SCI or B-BMED degree. The Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry & Health Sciences requires a Weighted Average Mark (WAM) of 65 or better. However, nearly all students entering Honours in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology obtain a WAM of >73, so meeting the minimum Faculty level is not a guarantee of admission.

How do I find a project? You can find out about specific Research projects on offer using the various tools on offer on the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology website, including the Honours Project booklet. Make sure you discuss your preferred research project with potential supervisors before completing an application form – they are able to give you a provisional offer!

Where will my project be located? Honours projects in Biochemistry can be conducted in different locations all of which are affiliated with The University of Melbourne. These are Bio21 Molecular Science and Biotechnology Institute, Cell Signalling Research Laboratories, The Centre for Systems Genomics, The Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity and St Vincent's Institute. The location of the research projects are listed for each project.