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## Honours versus Masters

Making the decision to undertake a BSc/BBioMedSci Honours year or a Master in Biomedical Science can be difficult. Listed below are some of the positives and negatives to think about for each of the different programs.

### Master in Biomedical Science:

#### **The Positives**

1. Incorporates Masters level coursework which can include professional skills based subjects in addition to any discipline-specific subjects.
2. Extended time period in the lab. The time spent on your research project is 1.5 x that of an Honours student.
3. For Masters students only the marks from your Masters degrees are considered for PhD scholarships, which may be advantageous for some students.

#### **The Negatives**

1. Completion of a Masters takes 2 years versus 1 year for Honours
2. Due to a quota on government support many 'local' Masters students must pay up front tuition fees.
3. There are often only a few Masters students per year and because each student plans his own subject plan it means you don't have a student "cohort".

### Honours:

#### **The Positives**

1. Honours degrees require only one additional year of study.
2. The coursework component is small (25/100 points), the rest of the course is research project.
3. Australian Honours students can defer the payment of their tuition fees.
4. The coursework is designed to give you a suite of useful professional skills.
5. There is a cohort of approximately 15-20 students completing their Honours year at the same time.

#### **The Negatives**

1. Not many overseas institutions have Honours degrees and so may not recognize an Australian Honours degree.
2. There is less time to develop your research project.
3. At University of Melbourne, third year marks are used for graduate research scholarship assessment if your highest qualification is a Bachelor degree with Honours, which may disadvantage some students.

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