

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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