



BEES Honours Information Session 2024



Highlights of the Night



- 4:00-4:30 Introductory presentation to BEES Honours
- 4:30-5:00 Parade of Academics
- 5:00-5:30 Panel of Past and Current Honours Students
- 5:30-6:00 Refreshments and mingling

Who are we?

Honours Coordinators

Dr Mariana Mayer-Pinto

m.mayerpinto@unsw.edu.au



Dr. David Hutchinson

david.hutchinson@unsw.edu.au



Student Enquiries

Faye Mo

beesinfo@unsw.edu.au



Who to contact?



- **ALL RELEVANT INFO** – BEES Honours website
 - <https://www.bees.unsw.edu.au/honours>

Biological, Earth & Environmental Sciences

[Home](#)

[About us](#)

[Study areas](#)

[Our research](#)

[Student life & resources](#)

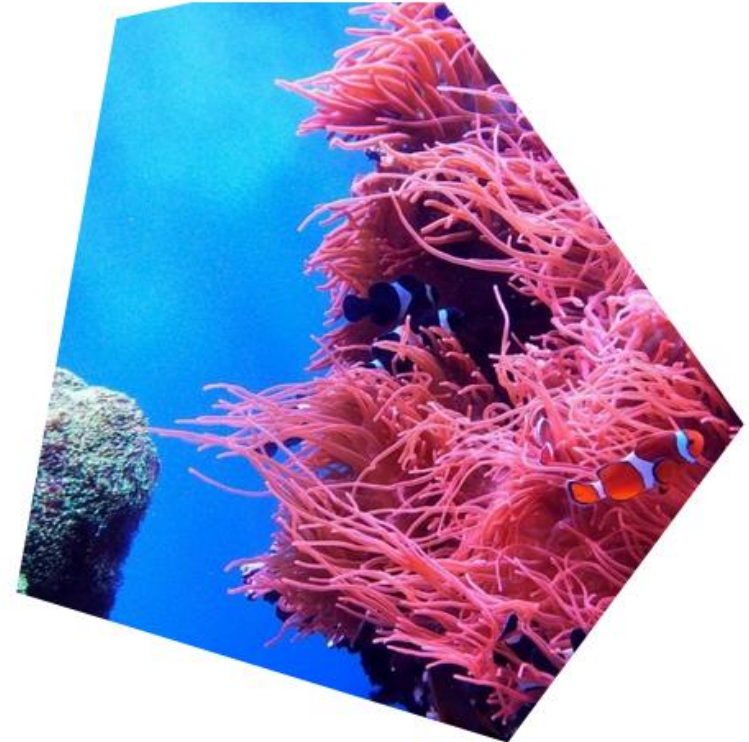
[Engage with us](#)

[News & events](#)

[Contact us](#)

Honours

[Honours contacts](#) 



Studying honours gives you the chance to develop your research and professional skills in a specialised area. It represents the highest level of training in an undergraduate degree within the Australian tertiary education system. Honours is an extra year of study that combines aspects of undergraduate study with those of postgraduate research.

Who to contact?



- **LOGISTICS** – requirements, enrolment
 - Faye Mo, Student Enquiries
- **PROJECT** – potential research ideas
 - Potential supervisors
 - We have introduced a 1-3 preference system for requesting supervisors. Highly recommended to contact them first.

What is the Honours year about?



- Highest level of training in an undergraduate degree
- Specialised and advanced research
- Produce an original piece of research (your thesis)



Why do Honours?



- To learn from passionate scientists through one-on-one supervisory arrangements
- To develop your research and professional skills
 - Project management
 - Creative thinking – it's your own project
 - Technical and analytical skills
 - Written and oral communication
- To improve your employment opportunities and earning potential

Why do Honours?



- To pursue your intellectual curiosity
- To challenge yourself and direct your own research
- To do something really fun
(diving, animal trapping, hanging out in the desert, getting those assays to run, finding meaning in computer code)
- To decide whether to pursue a career in research

How to find a supervisor and project



- Select a research area of interest –
 - What classes / teachers have you liked?
 - What skills do you want to learn?
 - Do you have a favourite subject or taxon?

- Use our staff website to see who's working in that general area of research



How to find a supervisor and project

- **ADVERTISED**

<https://www.unsw.edu.au/science/our-schools/bees/student-life-resources/honours/honours-projects>



Animal Ecology & Evolution

Animal ecology and evolution looks at the ecological causes and evolutionary consequences of changes within species. It can be broadly defined as the relationship and interactions between animals and their environment.



Biogeography, Geography & Spatial Analysis

Honours projects involving biogeography, geography and spatial awareness seek to understand human activity, species and their sense of spatial configuration, and how technology can help us analyse the environment.



Climate Science

The Climate Change Research Centre offers a wide range of thesis-driven honours projects in many climate-related research areas.



Environmental Science & Conservation

Research within Environmental Conservation looks to protect the world's environments and provide solutions for their long-term sustainability.



Genetics

Genetic research is used widely across the fields of evolution, ecology and wildlife management.



Marine Science

From oceanography to geology, Marine Science explores all aspects of the marine environment and how they interact with one another.



Palaeo, Earth, Water & Geoscience

The study of Earth history opens



Plant Ecology & Evolution

At UNSW, you'll have the chance to

How to find a supervisor and project



- **NOT ADVERTISED** – Many do not advertise, but will discuss options
 - BEES Academics
 - BEES Research Staff and PostDocs
 - External: Aust Museum, NSW Government, Royal Botanical Gardens, etc.

- BEES Research Centres

Research Centres



Centre for Ecosystem Science [↗](#)

We focus on the key uncertainties, risks and threats that face biodiversity in rivers and wetlands. We provide rigorous advice to government and communicate our research broadly in the community.



Centre for Marine Science & Innovation [↗](#)

We focus on the functions, processes and interactions that shape the marine environment. We find innovative solutions for management, conservation and economic developments.



Climate Change Research Centre [↗](#)

We're one of the largest university research facilities of our kind in Australia. We house research expertise in the key areas of Earth's climate: atmospheric, oceanic and terrestrial processes.



Earth and Sustainability Science Research Centre [↗](#)

UNSW ESSRC is a multidisciplinary research group that investigates the drivers and impacts of a changing Earth, and advises policy and decision makers about creating a more sustainable future.



Evolution & Ecology Research Centre [↗](#)

Evolution and Ecology underpin all biological diversity. We research how organisms adapt to the environment now and in the past. We draw together the diverse strengths of academic staff, research fellows and postgraduate students to build capacity for this research.



Australian Centre for Astrobiology [↗](#)

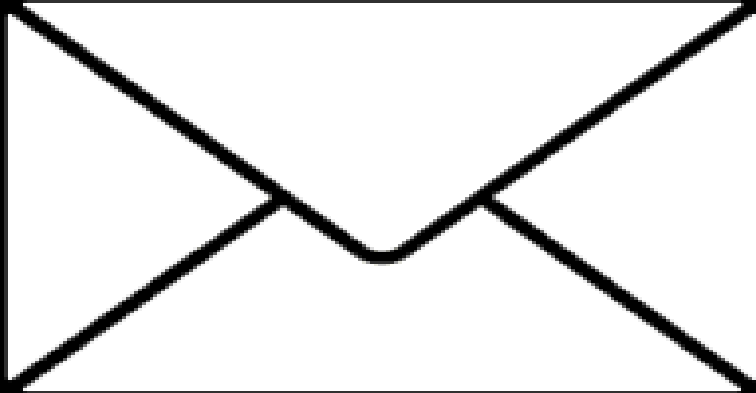
We're an interdisciplinary organisation seeking to understand the origin of life on Earth. We aim to set an Australian life-seeking instrument on the surface of Mars. We're also associated with NASA and ESA.



How to find a supervisor and project



- ☕ Coffee with Supervisors 2024 (starting tomorrow)
- Faye will email the Google Spreadsheet with video links to supervisors



- what interests you
- your transcript
- ask for an appt

- Set projects vs. student input – be open to both options

How to find a supervisor and project



- Ideal project should be:
 - AWESOME!!
 - data rich
 - clear objective
 - potential & TIME for thought & analysis
- Think about:
 - interests, supervisor, skills, employment
 - your abilities and skills
 - limitations/commitments (work, family, etc.)



Important people in your Honours



- **Honours coordinators** – oversee program, schedule Professional skills, manage assessments
- **Supervisor(s)** – guide you through research, provide training on techniques, provide feedback on proposal/ thesis drafts
- **Examiners (x2)** – Mark proposal/ thesis and provide constructive feedback
- **Your peers** – Support and advice network

The actual Honours year



The Breakdown

- Professional Skills, Week 1
- Research Proposal (12.5%) 4500 words
- Thesis (82.5%) 8000 words, scientific paper
- Final Seminar and Interview (5%)

Honours grading



Honours 1st class: 85 or greater
= Solid science, expert knowledge of the field, in depth interpretation and synthesis of results, publication-quality

Honours Class 2 Division 1: 75 to 84
= short-comings of science, limited interpretation and synthesis, poor writing

Honours Class 2 Division 2: 65 to 74
= large errors in data collection, analysis or interpretation

Honours Class 3 or Pass: below 65
= severe inadequacies in understanding / critical skills, organisation and presentation

Planning your year



- PLANNING, PLANNING, PLANNING
- Fieldwork: when, how much, constraints, ethics, people, cost, paperwork
- Analysis:
 - lab based → equipment, time frames for sample analyses, training
 - Desk based → computer programs, training
- Writing: how long will it take, how many drafts, feedback

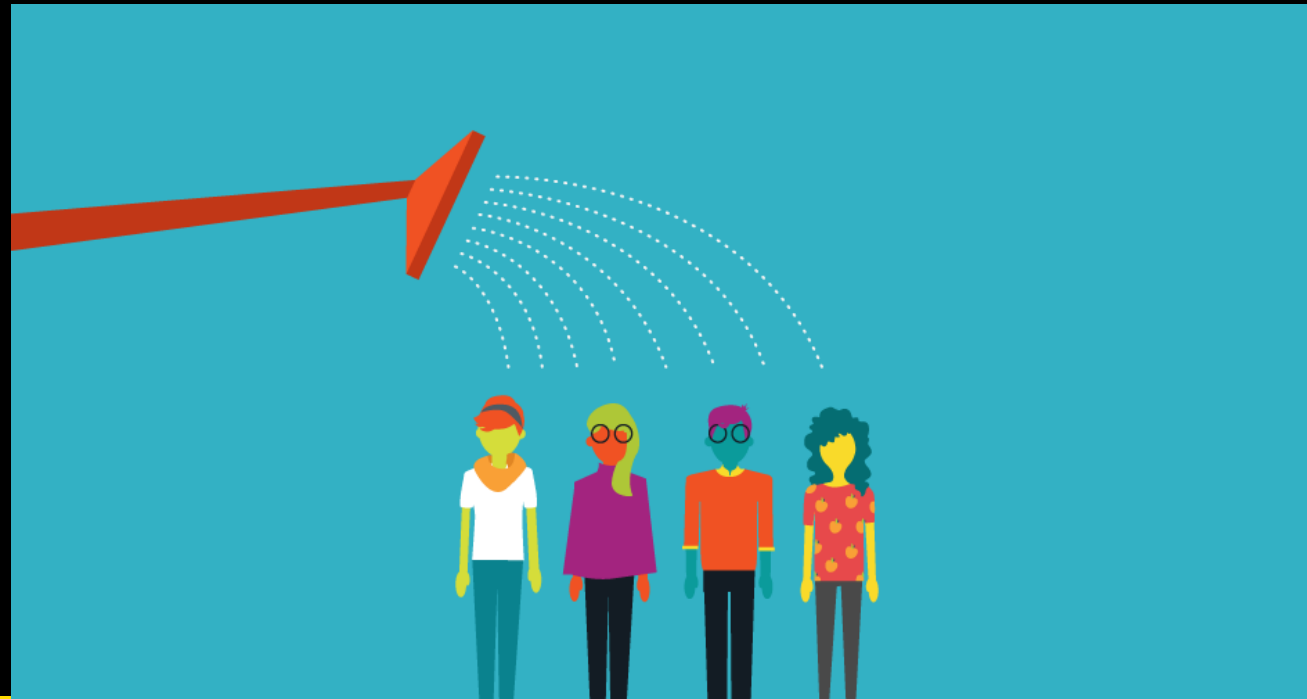
Planning your year



- YOUR RESPONSIBILITY
 - Self-directed, self-motivated study
- MANAGE YOUR SUPERVISOR
 - Expectations **FROM** your supervisor
 - Expectations **OF** your supervisor
 - Things to consider: frequency of meetings, deadlines of drafts and feedback

Where to from Honours?

- Further research – scholarship application for PhD
- Workforce
 - Professional Development Opportunities



Next steps



This all sounds great! How do I get started?

1. Go to the BEES honours website → Science website
2. Check you meet the requirements (student office)
3. Think about what you want to research - look at advertised projects and supervisor websites
4. Coffee with Supervisors or individual meetings
5. Find a supervisor / project and make 3-preference list
6. Apply! DEADLINE for
 - T1 2025 start : Thursday 31st October 2024



PARADE OF ACADEMICS