



MONASH University

Arts

School of Political and Social Inquiry

Honours Information Session

Wednesday 5 October 2011





Today's session

- Why do Honours in PSI?
- Overview of the Honours program
- Eligibility and the application process
- Disciplines/programs in PSI
- Questions?

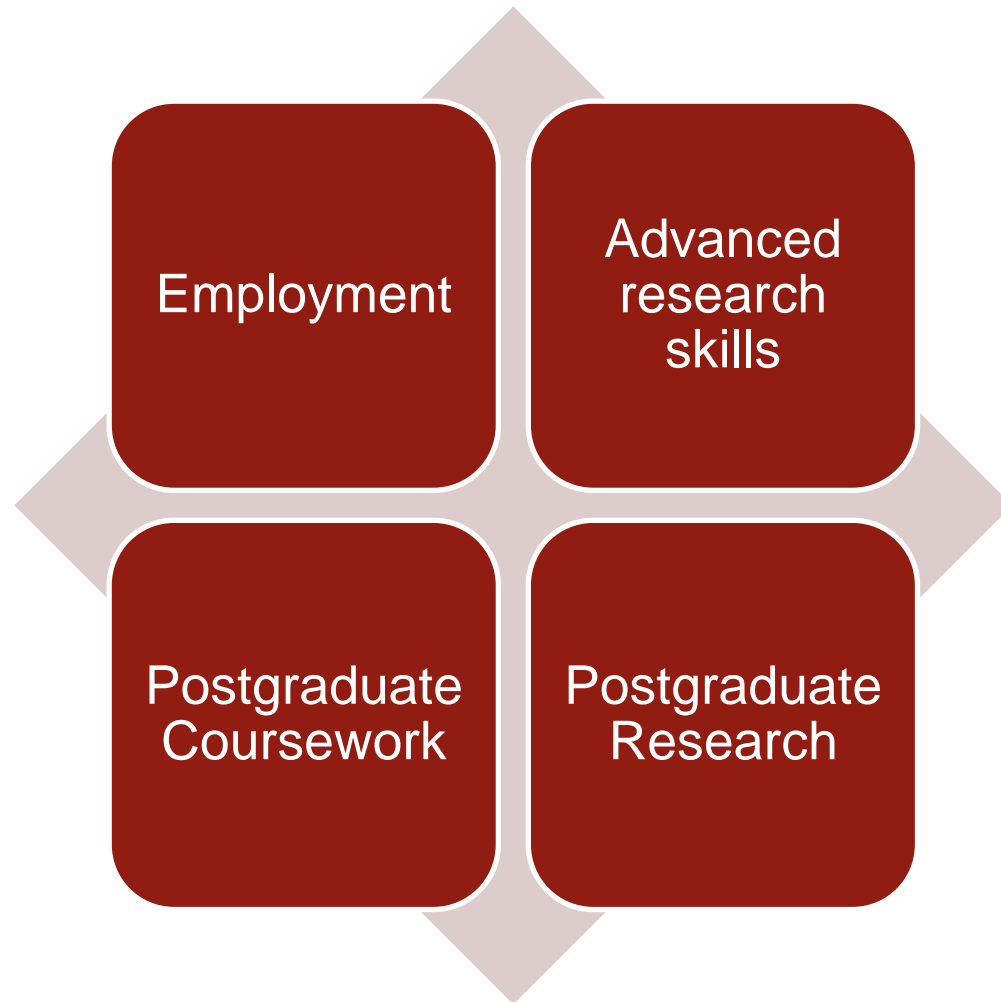
A stack of four books is shown, viewed from a slightly elevated angle. The books have dark blue covers and bright red spines. The spines of the books are visible, showing some wear and the texture of the paper. The text is centered over the middle book.

Why do Honours in PSI?


Honours in PSI

- Opportunity to:
 - Do more **specialised, advanced work** in your chosen discipline/s
 - **Work with a small cohort of high achieving students** in your discipline
 - **Work with an academic** within the School
 - Be a part of a **scholarly community** that involves academics, Honours, Masters and PhD students.

Why do Honours in PSI?




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- PSI specialises in **social science** and is one of the largest social science schools in Australia.
 - Social science skills are applicable in a range of fields
 - government, research, social and community sector, private industry.

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- Honours is highly valued in the employment market:
 - Evidence of ability to work independently and write reports
 - Shows capacity to analyse problems, understand concepts and communicate ideas.
 - Prerequisite for entry to postgraduate research degrees.

Pathways to postgraduate degrees

- **Masters** coursework programs
 - 1.5 years FT
 - mostly coursework
- **Master in Arts (MA) by research and coursework**
 - 2 years FT
 - 66% thesis, two 12pt coursework units

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- **Master in Arts (MA) by research**
 - 2 years FT
 - 100% research
 - can apply to upgrade to a PhD

 - **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)**
 - 3 years FT
 - 100% research

A stack of four books is shown, viewed from a slightly elevated angle. The books have dark blue covers and bright red spines. The top book is slightly offset to the left, revealing the white pages underneath. The second book from the top has a red spine with a gold-colored decorative border near the top and bottom edges. The text "The Honours Year" is printed in white, bold, sans-serif font across the red spine of the second book from the top.

The Honours Year

Structure

- Two coursework units
 - *ATS4924: PSI Honours Research Methodology (Semester 1)*
 - A 4th year elective
 - most electives run in first semester.

- A research project and thesis
 - bulk of work done in Semester 2 but project begins in Semester 1
 - topic that's of particular interest to you
 - supervised by an academic in your discipline
 - 15,000 – 18,000 words.

Thesis Supervisor

- allocated according to staff availability and workload
- doesn't need to be a specialist in your area
- is there to guide you, but *you* drive the thesis
- one-on-one meetings every 2 weeks
- supervisors are allocated in first few weeks of semester by the program Honours coordinator



Honours Grades

- **One overall grade for the program** made up of coursework units and aggregate thesis mark
- First Class (H1) 80-100
- Second Class, Division A (H2A) 70-79
- Second Class, Division B (H2B) 60-69
- Third Class (H3) 50-59



The Honours year is different to previous years...

- It's hard work
- Time flies - you need to start early
- Honours needs to be your top priority
- Support networks are vital
 - Friends, family and fellow Honours students

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Eligibility and the Application Process

Eligibility

- **Major** in your discipline
- At least a **distinction average** (70%+) in 24 points of units in your chosen Honours discipline(s)
 - 18 points from third year level
 - the next highest second or third year subject.
- Combined/Double Honours available (double majors only)

Application process

1. Download and complete Honours Application Form:
<http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/future/honours/apply.php>
2. Make an appointment to see your Program Honours coordinator to discuss your thesis topic, potential supervisor, unit enrolment, and get their signature.

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3. Drop in to see Kirsten McLean, PSI Honours coordinator, to have the form signed off.
 4. Take the completed form to the Arts Faculty Coursework office on Level 1 of the Menzies Building (Clayton) or H5.102 (Caulfield).
 - Once results are released in December, and your eligibility has been confirmed, Faculty will contact you with an offer.

School Honours signature – drop in times

- Kirsten is generally available

Mondays/Thursdays from **11.30am-1pm** in
W1114, Menzies, Clayton

to sign Honours applications forms.

- *Signatures outside these times require an appointment.*

Money matters

- Places in the Honours program are Commonwealth supported for domestic students.
- Scholarships of up to \$5,000 are available on the basis of merit and need:
www.arts.monash.edu.au/future/honours/scholarships.php

Scholarships

- **University scholarships**

Jubilee Honours Scholarship

Vice Chancellor's Honours PhD Scholarship

- **Faculty scholarships**

Arts Honours Merit Scholarship

Arts Honours Study Assistance Scholarship

Arts Disadvantaged Student Study Assistance Bursary

Honours Prizes in PSI

- PSI awards a number of prizes for the highest thesis mark in percentage terms in the 2012 academic year, including:
 - PSI Honours Prize
 - Politics - *The Rufus Davis Memorial Prize in Honours*
 - Sociology - *The Anne Edwards Prize*
 - Anthropology – *The Sally White Anthropology Honours Prize*
 - Gender Studies – *Dissertation Prize*
- These are conferred at an awards ceremony in December.



When to apply

- **Apply now** if you are in the last semester of your degree.
- Scholarship applicants: due **31 October**
- Non-scholarship applicants: due **30 November**
 - Last day for PSI signatures is **Friday 25 November**

Further information

- Program Honours coordinators – listed in PSI Honours Handbook
- PSI School Honours coordinator: Dr Kirsten McLean, 9905 2418 or email kirsten.mclean@monash.edu
- PSI Honours admin: Jenny Williams, 9905 2443 or email jenny.r.williams@monash.edu
- Arts Faculty contacts are listed in PSI Honours Handbook

- Faculty of Arts Honours website:
<http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/future/honours/>
- PSI Honours website:
<http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/psi/honours/>