



How to apply: Bachelor of Arts (Honours)

Entry requirements

To apply for BA Honours you must be able to demonstrate high achievement with a course weighted average of 65 per cent or higher in an appropriate humanities undergraduate degree.

Credit for Recognised Learning (CRL) applications are assessed on an individual basis.

You must also submit a two page research proposal outlining your intended research focus. Details of how to do this are outlined below.

How to approach your research proposal

Your research proposal will be used to assess your capacity and also whether the Faculty of Humanities are able to provide appropriate supervision.

The two page research proposal should demonstrate:

- A clearly defined, relevant and achievable research project (Honours Project);
- Strong academic writing skills;
- Applicant's capacity to undertake Honours level study in the proposed topic.

Choosing your project

The Honours Project can take the form of either a written dissertation or a creative production thesis. Consider which stream is most appropriate for you:

- **A thesis by written dissertation** is a single study which provides you with the scope to undertake in-depth investigation of a key issue or question that you have identified and pursued through your research. The dissertation is 15,000 words in length.
- **A creative practice thesis** consists of two components: a body of creative production (such as a screenplay, series of artworks, theatre production, short film etc.) and a written exegesis of 5,000 words. Both components address the same research focus.

Supervisor allocation will not be confirmed until the beginning of the academic year. You may however approach a potential supervisor to gauge their interest in your proposed topic or research focus.

If you have a preferred supervisor in mind please name them in your research proposal. Please note this request is not guaranteed.

How to prepare your research proposal

Identify a specific research topic that interests you that you would like to explore. Then search for existing scholarly studies or papers on the topic.

It is recommended you align your research to the same discipline area as your undergraduate degree to ensure that you have the appropriate skills and experience to deliver the research project.

Your project proposal should be no more than two pages in length and follow the below format.

1. The title of study

The title of the study should clearly communicate the topic and focus of the proposed research. It should be no more than 10-20 words. This is a working title only—it is likely to change many times as your project develops and grows.



2. Draft research question

Your project will be guided by at least one research question. This question helps to keep the investigation focused, relevant and achievable.

- Name your topic:
I am studying _____,
- Imply your question:
because I want to find out who/how/why _____,
- State the rationale for the question and the project:
in order to understand how/why/what _____”.

3. Research objectives

Identify two or three broad research objectives that will assist you in addressing your research question.

Objectives usually involve verbs like examine, analyse, develop and evaluate, for example:

- Critically analyse discourses on relational aesthetics to support the development of a body of creative work;
- Examine the representation of gender in videogames to identify dominant trends;
- Evaluate strategies for combatting educational disadvantage in rural populations.

4. Introduction and background

Explain your research focus and identify the topic of the study. It would be helpful to indicate briefly what you know about any research or existing work undertaken in this area. How does your proposed research build on this existing work?

5. Research methods

Indicate how you might set about investigating the research question. What needs to be done, how will you do it, and why do you plan to do it that way?

- Why are these the most appropriate methods to investigate the research question?
- What other techniques or strategies are required in order to apply these methods?
- Will you require special permissions, protocols or clearances? Are there ethical considerations?

6. Significance of the research

In this paragraph, you should briefly describe the relevance of your study; why it matters. You might talk about the following:

- How does this research contribute to a particular discipline and/or community?
- How might practice in your area be improved/changed because of your study?
- What is the broader significance of your research?

7. References

Your research proposal does not need to have an extensive bibliography, but it will be helpful if you include a very short bibliography that lists any works you cite, plus any texts that you think are central to your proposed project.