



THE UNIVERSITY
of ADELAIDE



HONOURS IN SCIENCE 'PROFESSIONAL' PATHWAYS

Boost your employability with honours in science. An honours degree will give you the opportunity to concentrate on a project or area that interests you the most.

COURSEWORK

The new 'Professional' pathways include three core courses designed to explicitly enhance the skills students require for success in their future careers. Students will take the following:

SCIENCE 4025 Professional Communication: Students will enhance their skills to understand and evaluate arguments and apply these skills in professional communication contexts in both oral and written formats.

SCIENCE 4030 Emerging Issues in Science and Society: Students will work in teams to examine a series of emerging science related issues that affect Australian society and make recommendations for action relating to these complex problems. The implications for policy and society, and the challenges of science communication and public misconceptions that relate to the issues concerned will also be considered.

SCIENCE 4035 Preparing for Professional Practice: Students will be equipped with the necessary skills and understanding of professional behaviour in the workplace. Self-reflection is emphasised as an important element of self-management for career planning and future success in a professional career.

ELECTIVE COURSES

Elective courses make up six units and students have a choice of the following:

- SCIENCE 4005 Advanced Science (Hons) (3 units)
- SCIENCE 4015 Introduction to Science Education (3 units)
- SCIENCE 4020 Communicating Science (3 units)
- Courses from other honours or postgraduate programs offered by the University

PROFESSIONAL PROJECT

The project aspect of the 'Professional' pathways is different to that of the traditional 'Research' pathways as it more focussed on the application of scientific skills to address contemporary issues

related to science communication, science education, science innovation, science policy or project management.

Some examples of potential 'Professional' pathway projects are below:

- Does study of mathematics at Year 12 influence student success in Science degrees? [Science Education]
- Factors that influence public engagement with environmental issues [Science Communication or Science Policy]
- Work Integrated Learning and its adoption/effect on career-readiness of graduates [Science Education]
- Effect of outreach programs on student interest in science [Science Communication]
- Attitudes of primary school teacher towards Mathematics and Science [Science Education]

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES

The University of Adelaide, Faculty of Sciences

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CRICOS 00123M

1. OVERVIEW

Welcome to Honours!

This booklet contains information about the Professional Pathways in the Bachelor of Science (Honours) at the University of Adelaide.

The Honours Year is an exciting and rewarding step towards your future career. It provides you with the opportunity to undertake a significant project and opportunities to prepare for future employment. The Professional Pathway can also be used as a stepping stone to a research higher degree. Regardless of your career aspirations, Honours is an opportunity for personal and professional development: it will develop your abilities in clear-thinking, criticism and communication, and test your imagination, self-reliance and self-discipline.

a. Communication and Information Dissemination

It is important that all Honours students maintain active communication with both their project supervisor and the Professional Honours Coordinator throughout the year. The primary communication channel to students will be by e-mail; selected documents may also be distributed as hard copy through project supervisors. Each student should regularly check their University provided email account for information from members of the academic staff concerning course work matters and other announcements as necessary. This is the only address to which communications will be sent. Students are also expected to check *MyUni* regularly for important course-related announcements.

b. First Year Demonstrating

Honours students are often expected to carry out part-time demonstrating in the First Year Laboratories throughout the year. Details will be forwarded to the class when they become available.

c. Expanding your horizon – Seminar attendance

All Professional Honours students are expected to attend research seminars in their 'home' department or as determined by their project supervisor. Details of upcoming seminars are announced by a variety of means (e-mail, via flyers and webpages) that will vary according to each student's 'home' department. Prior apologies for non-attendance at seminars due to unforeseen circumstances should, wherever possible, be made by email to your supervisor AND to the Professional Honours coordinator.

d. Professional Honours administration

The Professional Honours pathways are coordinated by Professor Simon Pyke. Students should feel free to discuss any aspect of the Professional Honours year with their project supervisor or the Professional Honours Coordinator.

Students who feel that personal circumstances or illness affects their performance at any time during the year should discuss this with their project supervisor, or with any other member of the academic staff with whom they feel comfortable, as soon as possible (in the case of illness a medical certificate must be obtained).

2. Overall Structure of the Professional Honours pathways

The 'Professional' pathways consist of both formal courses and project work. The coursework includes three core courses designed to explicitly enhance the skills students require for success in their future careers and two elective courses that give you the opportunity to pursue your own interests (you should discuss your options with your project supervisor). The project aspect of the 'Professional' pathways is different to that of the traditional 'Research' pathways as it is more focused on the application of scientific skills to address contemporary issues related to science communication, science education, science innovation, or science policy. This is quite different to the projects in the traditional 'Research' pathways which are deeply embedded in the relevant disciplinary areas and aim to expand the boundaries of the discipline concerned. The overall structure of Professional Honours is shown below.

Coursework Component	15 Units
<i>Core courses (9 units)</i>	
SCIENCE 4030 Emerging Issues in Science and Society (Sem 1) SCIENCE 4035 Preparing for Professional Practice (Sem 1) SCIENCE 4025 Professional Communication (Sem 2)	
<i>Elective courses (6 units)</i>	
SCIENCE 4005 Advanced Science (Hons) (Sem 1) SCIENCE 4020 Communicating Science (Winter School) SCIENCE 4015 Introduction to Science Education (Sem 2) Or any other courses from other Honours or postgraduate programs offered by the University that are available	
Project Component	9 units
SCIENCE 4110A/B Honours Professional Project (Science Communication) or SCIENCE 4115A/B Honours Professional Project (Science Education) or SCIENCE 4135A/B Honours Professional Project (Science Policy)	

Results for each course will be reported as a mark together with a grade (i.e. the same as used in undergraduate courses). The determination of your overall Honours grade will be based on the accrued weighted percentage assessment for each component course. The assessment ranges used to determine the overall Honours grade are shown below.

Honours Class	Assessment Range
1	≥ 80
2A	70 – 79
2B	60 – 69
3	50 – 59

3. The Project

Each student has been assigned to an academic member of staff, who will supervise their project which is a significant feature of the Honours year. The nature of the project should be discussed with your supervisor as early as possible in the year. This will ensure that appropriate time is allocated to project design, ethics approvals (where required) etc. Your performance in the project will be assessed in four ways through:

- i. preparation of an Interim Honours Report, which includes a literature review and an introduction to the project (this constitutes 25% of the assessment);
- ii. preparation of a Final Honours Report which describes what was done and the outcomes of project (this constitutes 50% of the assessment);
- iii. presentation of a Final Seminar on the outcomes of the project (this constitutes 10% of the assessment); and
- iv. an Oral Examination, in which your understanding and competency in conduct of the project will be assessed (this constitutes 15% of the assessment).

Details of the requirements for each of these tasks will be provided through *MyUni*

4. Grievance Procedures

If you have any concerns about any aspect of the Professional Honours program at any stage of the year, you should approach your project supervisor in the first instance. If the matter cannot be adequately dealt with, you should approach either the Professional Honours Coordinator (Professor Simon Pyke) or the Deputy Dean (Learning & Teaching) (Professor Amanda Able). Grievance matters will be dealt with in confidence by all staff involved using the University's Student Grievance Resolution Process (<https://www.adelaide.edu.au/student/grievance/home>).