



HONOURS IN PHYSICS

Guidelines for choosing a project

In the process of selecting a research topic, begin by investigating offerings from at least two areas of physics projects published on the website. The subthemes broadly reflect the research groupings within Physics. You need to discuss specific projects with at least one of the supervisors named with each project.

It is also possible to undertake a project that is Physics by its nature but is offered outside of the Physics discipline. Such projects are usually not listed in this handbook. If you have a strong interest in such a project, you should discuss this with the Honours Coordinator to see if the project is suitable, and if appropriate supervision is possible.

You are to identify two projects to form your first and second choices. If there is more than one supervisor named, you will need to specify the principal supervisor - of your choice.

Choosing a project is not like an auction, or a fire sale, where the goods go either to the highest bidder or to the first comer. Final decisions on who does which project are not made until all students have indicated their preferences. This is done as early as possible in the academic year.

In several sections, specific projects are not listed, rather broad areas are given, and the actual projects are decided in consultation with your chosen supervisor. In the other sections, the projects are more specific and in the event that more than one student chooses a project, discussions will take place between the students, supervisors and the Honours Coordinator and decisions taken accordingly.

Once you have a project, you need to choose your principal supervisor and discuss with them the possible appointment of a co-supervisor(s). Having a co-supervisor is important, because there may be absences (foreseen or unforeseen) of the principal supervisor during the year, and you will then always have a source of advice. The Honours Coordinator can assist with these discussions.

It occasionally happens that a student discovers, after embarking upon it, that the project is unsuitable for them. Hopefully this realisation will happen (if it does happen) early in the year and a new project found. If you find that you are in this situation you should discuss this with the Honours Coordinator as soon as possible.

As part of your project you will be expected to present a twenty-minute talk to your fellow students and interested staff. This will happen in late August or September. Though compulsory, the talk is not actually assessed - its function is to make you assess your project and, especially, what you need to do to wrap up the project. You will also need to write a report (a short thesis) on what you accomplished in your project. This is assessed and will be due at the end of October. The remaining assessment takes the form of an interview in which you discuss the project with a panel of five academic staff members of Physics.

For more information visit: sciences.adelaide.edu.au/study/honours/honours-projects/physics