

Honours Degree Application Guidelines

These guidelines are designed to assist you in completing the application process required for admission into the Bachelor of Health Science (*Specialisation*) (Honours). Read these guidelines carefully before submitting your application. It is important that you have made contact with your potential supervisor before you submit your application. You will need to complete all sections of the [Honours Degree Application Form for Students](#) and attach the relevant documentation to prove you meet the eligibility requirements before your entire application can be assessed.

Who can apply for Honours?

In order to be considered for admission to an Honours degree at the College, applicants must have completed the requirements of a specialist undergraduate Bachelor of Health Science degree or equivalent at the College or another approved tertiary institution, and meet further requirements as outlined in the eligibility criteria in this document.

Students in their final semester of a relevant specialised Bachelor of Health Science degree may apply for the Honours Degree in advance of completing their studies. However, they may not enrol into the Honours Degree until successful completion of an accredited undergraduate degree. Honours students generally undertake an Honours degree and project in their undergraduate modality or a related area.

International students may apply for this Degree to study online from their own country only. No onshore study options are available.

Honours admission

Admission into the Honours Degree is highly competitive and successful applicants will be selected on a case-by-case basis based on their performance in their undergraduate course (and other eligibility criteria, if relevant). A place in the Honours Degree will be subject to fulfilling the admission requirements and to the availability of supervisors and research projects.

Applicants must demonstrate a GPA of 5.5 or higher in their undergraduate study **OR** be able to provide proof of research experience and potential equivalent to a score of 25 points from within the eligibility criteria. International applicants must also supply current evidence of the following English competencies:

- IELTS 7.0 (overall score)
- Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE 185-190)
- Pearson (PTE) Academic Score of 66 (overall score)
- Paper based (PBT) TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) score of 587
- Internet based (iBT) TOEFL score of 95

Limited credit transfer may be available for one subject (RESW511 Advanced Academic Writing) if the applicant has undertaken this subject as a non-award subject at the College. Students who receive credit transfer for this subject will still be expected to undertake the required literature reviews as part of their Honours thesis but will not be required to repeat the subject itself. Applicants may use the non-award study option to gain further eligibility points through publishing literature review papers; however study of this subject under non-award conditions does **NOT** guarantee entry into the Honours Degree.

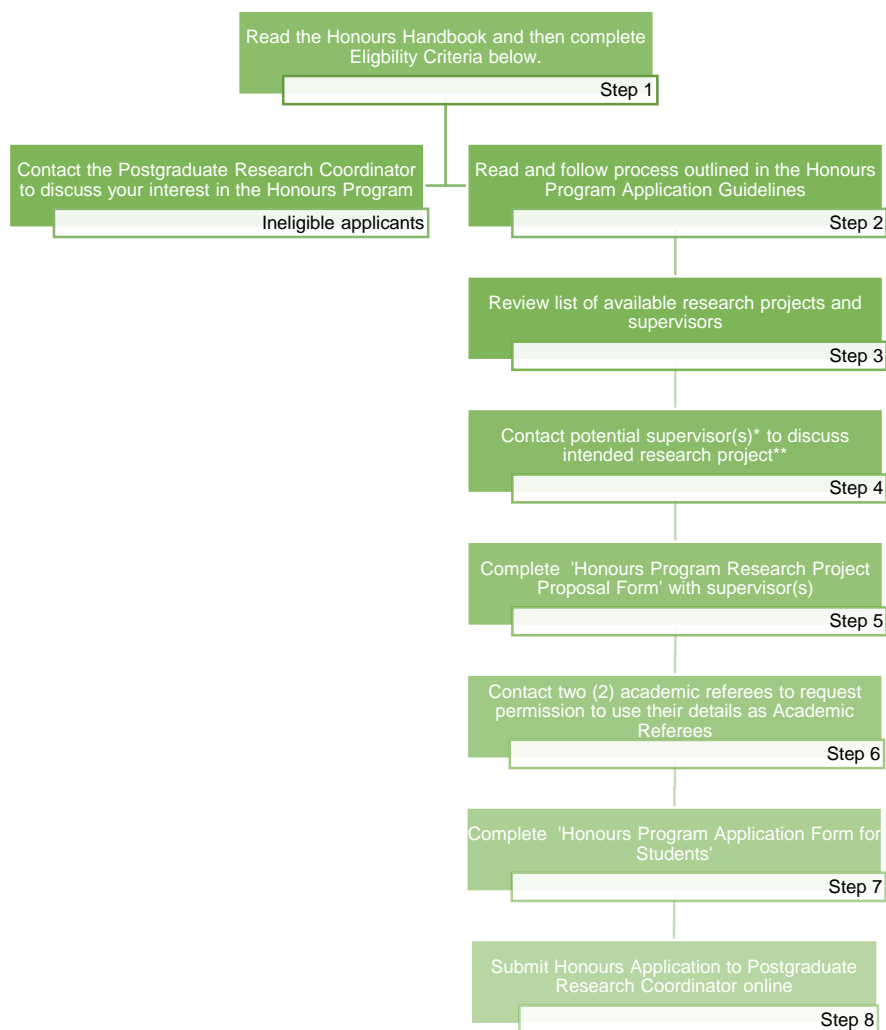
Admissions process

There is a process to being admitted into the Honours Degree, some of which is the student’s responsibility and some of which is not. The first step is to express interest in the course by contacting the Admissions team at the College. The Admissions team will then provide the applicant with the relevant documentation to commence the application process.

Submitting the Application

Application for entry to the Honours Degree is direct via the Postgraduate Research Coordinator. The [application form](#) is available from the [Endeavour website](#).

The following steps must be taken to fulfil the application process:



*If a student's intended supervisor is not listed as an approved supervisor for the Honours Degree, then the intended supervisor must contact the Postgraduate Research Coordinator to apply for approval.

**If an intended research project is already under discussion with a supervisor and another student, the supervisor will notify any subsequent students who enquire about the same project and discuss other research options and opportunities with the enquiring student.

After the application has been submitted to the Postgraduate Research Coordinator, it is then forwarded to the Research Degree Board for review (see the [Bachelor of Health Science \(Specialisation\) \(Honours\) Handbook](#) for information on this Board). After the review, the student will be notified by email regarding the outcome of their application.

Evaluation of applications

Applications will be reviewed by the Honours Admissions Committee and scored for the Honours Degree according to the eligibility criteria.

The table below describes the three areas of eligibility upon which applications are evaluated which include:

1. academic merit
2. experience and research potential
3. supporting material

Each eligibility criteria applicable to any given applicant must equate to at least 25 points in order to qualify for admission into the Honours Degree. The number of points earned by various criteria will be totalled and determine the applicant's overall score.

Supporting materials are not scored but should be included in the application and are compulsory in order for the application to be considered for evaluation and admission into the Honours Degree.

Eligibility criteria

Academic Merit	Possible points	Applicant points
Bachelor* of Health Science with GPA greater than 5.5 – Endeavour College of Natural Health / Australian College of Natural Medicine completed in any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Acupuncture – Myotherapy – Naturopathy – Nutritional Medicine / Nutritional and Dietetic Medicine** – Western Herbal Medicine 	25	
Bachelor* of Health Science accredited by TEQSA with GPA greater than 5.5 – other TEQSA-registered educational institution completed in any of the following:	25	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acupuncture - Myotherapy - Naturopathy - Nutritional Medicine / Nutritional and Dietetic Medicine** - Western Herbal Medicine 		
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If you have a GPA of 5.49 or less, you must score 25 points from the following to be eligible to apply:

Academic Merit GPA 5.49 >	Possible points	Applicant points
Bachelor of Health Science from Endeavour College of Natural Health / Australian College of Natural Medicine or other education institution accredited by TEQSA with GPA of 5.49-5.25 completed in any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acupuncture - Myotherapy - Naturopathy - Nutritional Medicine / Nutritional and Dietetic Medicine** - Western Herbal Medicine 	23	
...of GPA of 5.24-5.0	20	
...of GPA of 4.99-4.25	15	
...of GPA of 4.24-4.0	10	
Experience and research potential	Possible points	Applicant points
Author of a published book (peer-reviewed)	8	
Editor of peer-reviewed book	6	
Current or previous employment in a research role	5	
Authorship of a peer-reviewed publication as a primary author	5	
Author of a book chapter (peer-reviewed)	5	
Plenary presentation at a peer-reviewed conference	5	
Authorship of a peer-reviewed publication as a collaborating author	3	
Published abstract (peer-reviewed)	3	
Oral/Workshop presentation at a peer-reviewed conferences	3	
Member of an expert panel	3	
Current or previous membership of the board of an association	2	
Total:		

The following are required for you to be eligible to apply for admission into the Honours Degree and are not allotted a score:

Supporting material	Mandatory	Provided
Honours Degree Research Project Proposal Form	✓	
Honours Degree Application Form for Students	✓	
Honours Degree Student Curriculum Vitae	✓	
Certified copy of the academic transcript (if a non-Endeavour graduate)	✓	
Certified copy of First Aid certificate	✓	
Evidence of current Working with Children Check	✓	

IELTS 7.0 (overall score) Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE 185-190) Pearson (PTE) Academic Score of 66 (overall score) Paper based (PBT) TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) score of 587 Internet based (iBT) TOEFL score of 95. †International students only	✓ (see below [†])	
Application complete:		Yes/No

*potential applicants with an Advanced Diploma or Bachelor degree issued prior to accreditation standards being in place with a specialisation in Acupuncture, Myotherapy (or similar), Naturopathy or Nutritional and Dietetic Medicine who wish to apply are encouraged to contact the Postgraduate Research Coordinator to discuss their interest in the Honours Degree.

**Please note that the Bachelor of Health Science (Nutritional and Dietetic Medicine) (Honours) does not meet the professional accreditation requirements for graduates to practice as a Dietician.

The College reserves the right to reject an application for any reason deemed appropriate.

Identification of research project and supervisor(s) prior to application

Applicants to the Honours Degree must identify their intended research project prior to submitting an application to the Honours Degree. An Honours student may enter into an existing research project or may propose a new research project. In the case of entering into an existing research project, the student will still be required to fulfil all aspects of preparing a research proposal and ethics application and will need to submit an amended ethics application. There may be additional criteria as required by the modality in which the student intends to undertake Honours. Please contact the Postgraduate Research Coordinator for more information.

Research project proposal

At the application stage, your research proposal is intended to provide the Research Degrees Board with a detailed plan for your proposed area of research.

The proposal is an outline of the research project the student intends to undertake for their research degree. As the research project and the resulting thesis are the major components of the degree, it is important that the intended research be well thought-out and planned, in conjunction with the student's potential supervisor. While the smaller details of the intended research will be clarified as the project proceeds, the student is expected to have developed a research question or topic, which they have identified through review of the relevant literature and discussion with their potential supervisor. Students will need to address how they intend to approach, answer or address the question (study design, methodology, etc). Students are also encouraged to consider the practical aspects of the project, including budgeting and a realistic timeline that fits within the time allocated for the degree.

How to write a research proposal

There is no set format or length for a research proposal although it should cover the main headings listed below and be at most two pages in length in Arial font size 11. Background, Significance and Research Question should make up 50-60% of the total proposal. In this section the student needs to clearly state the research question which they are seeking to answer by undertaking the research. Students should include the aims of the research project and identify potential outcomes. Students will need to provide a synthesis of the literature in this area and a summary of what research has been done to date on this research topic. Students will need to outline the significance of this study and what contribution it makes within the research area and more broadly.

Research design and methodology should make up to 40-50% of the total proposal. In this section students will need to outline how they intend to approach, address or answer the research question. They will need to give details of the research design and explain how that will allow the student to answer the research question, what kind of data is expected to be obtained and how it will be analysed (the methodology). It should include a brief outline of the methodology/ies intended for use and their appropriateness for the study. Where possible, the student should consider potential limitations and difficulties of the design and methodology, and how the student will address these, for example, ensuring a sufficient response rate to a survey to be able to obtain a meaningful and valid result. See the Glossary at the end of these Application Guidelines to clarify these and other research-related terms.

The headings and layout below should be used as a guide for the proposal which should be submitted using the [Honours Degree Research Project Proposal Form](#).

- **Title of Project:** This should be a clear description of your proposed research project.
- **Background and Context of Project:** This section should explain the background and context of the proposed research work with an indication of the main contribution to knowledge which you wish to make. Indicate why this area is an important area for research.
- **Aims and Objectives:** You should spell out three or four aims/objectives for your research to show what you want to achieve.
- **Literature Review:** This section is a review of the literature which should outline the most important research that has already been carried out in your research area. It is not intended for this to be a comprehensive review but rather a demonstration of student awareness of seminal papers and knowledge in the selected topic area.
- **Research Methodology:** This section is a broad outline of the methodology you plan to use including:
 - the broad approach — qualitative, quantitative etc.
 - how data/information will be generated and gathered and how you expect to deal with and analyse that data.

- indication of any broad theoretical framework you may be using.
- ethical considerations where the research involves interaction with humans or animals and where applicable, how consent would be obtained.
- **Resources Required:** This section outlines the resources required for the project such as analysis software.
- **Research Plan and Timetable:** This section should summarise the steps and approximate timing appropriate to your enrolment which is 14 week schedule fulltime (or part time equivalent) over the candidature of your Honours degree.
- **References:** This section is a list of all the references that have been referred to in the proposal.

It is recommended that you discuss and align your research proposal with suggested projects listed on the Office of Research [webpage](#) and discuss this with your potential supervisor prior to submission of your application.

Potential supervisors

The applicant must contact a potential supervisor and have their support before applying to the Honours Degree. Submission of two (2) of the [Honours Degree Academic Referee Form](#) is also required from two separate academic referees (e.g. an academic, researcher) who can comment specifically on your past academic performance and research potential at the time of application. Those who agree to be the applicant's referee cannot also be a potential supervisor on the Honours application for which the referee reports are being sought. For a list of potential approved supervisors, visit the [Endeavour website](#) or contact the Postgraduate Research Coordinator.

If the project requires a supervisor outside of the scope of the listed approved supervisors, the student is able to identify an appropriate supervisor who can go through the supervisory approval process. Please contact the Postgraduate Research Coordinator for more information.

Supervisors of the Honours Degree are happy to discuss any aspect of Honours projects. The contact details for current approved supervisors can be found on the [Endeavour website](#).

Application deadlines

Please note that late applications will not be accepted.

Applications should be submitted to the Postgraduate Research Coordinator at the Office of Research online, by email or by mail by the following deadlines:

Semester 1 February intake: November the preceding year – see website for details

Semester 2 August intake: Preceding June of the current year – see website for details

Need help?

To express your interest in applying for the Degree, contact the National Admissions Centre on (07) 3253 9517. If you have any questions about the application process please feel free to contact the Postgraduate Research Coordinator at the Office of Research by phone on (07) 3253 9316 or by email at pgr@endeavour.edu.au.

Glossary

The following are terms and concepts you may come across during your readings for preparation of your research proposal and discussions with your supervisor(s).

Anonymity: the protection of respondents from the identification as participants in the data collection

Benchmarks: data that is collected at a particular point in time and in relation to which future comparisons are made

Convenience sampling: making up your sample of respondents from people who are easy to locate such as friends, family, students, classmates or colleagues.

Data: information collect and analyse to answer a question and can come in all manner of forms e.g., survey, documents, secondary data etc.

Variable: a characteristic of data that has more than one category and can vary between values and be measured e.g. the variable gender can have two categories: male & female.

Discrete: categorical or separate set of information or data regarding a respondent or sample

Dependent variable: the variable that is dependent on or affected by another variable; what is treated as a quality to be explained

Independent variable: a variable that has an effect on another variable; a quality hypothesised to account for variation in a dependent variable

Empirical data: pieces of information that are the results of observing and/or measuring social phenomenon

Experimental: a method in which pre-test measurements are taken of a target

Explanatory research: data collection that seeks to provide or develop explanation of the social world or social phenomenon

Exploratory research: data collection undertaken to explore or open up new areas of social enquiry

Generalisation: quantitative data collection will usually seek to generate a sample that will enable them to extrapolate survey results with a good level of certainty to a population of concern.

Instrument: The survey questionnaire or booklet.

Large representative national samples: a kind of sample that allows the researcher to produce findings that enable them to more confidently make claims about the condition of any particular phenomenon within the confines of a specific national population

Limitations: limits or weaknesses of a project or a particular form of data collection that ought to be acknowledged in the undertaking of data collection and in interpreting the findings.

Method: the research technique or practice used to gather and analyse the research data

Mixed methods research: approaches are far more comprehensive than attacking a problem from only one point of view and, with the emergence of strategies and tools for blending these different types of data, allow for the crossing of disciplinary boundaries like never before.

Mode: The combination of how sample members/participants are contacted, questions are administered, and responses are recorded.

Non-probability sampling: a sampling process that does not use probability sampling techniques to select a sample e.g. convenience sampling, snowball sampling and self-selected sampling.

Phenomenon: an observable fact or event

Population: a collection of all the units that intended for study

Probability sampling: samples selected in accordance with probability theory which relies on 1) there is a list of all elements or cases in the population under study and 2) there is the ability to randomly select elements or cases from this list and that all cases or elements have an equal chance of being selected.

Purposive sampling: selecting a sample in a systematic or purposive way based on what is known about our target population and the purpose of the data collection.

Qualitative data collection: data collection concerned with the views and understandings of actors and the observation of people and events

Qualitative information: takes the form of direct quotations or descriptions of social phenomenon

Qualitative research: concerned with exploring the understandings, meanings and interpretations that people or other groups attribute to their social world including participant observation studies and in-depth interviews

Quantitative data: set of observations of the world recorded in numeric form

Quantitative data collection: data collection concerned with counting and measurement; data expressed in numbers, rates and trends.

Quantitative information: takes the form of statistical profiles of phenomenon

Quantitative research: research that studies social processes through the collection of data that is amenable to statistical analysis and is often used to identify and establish relationships between research variables e.g. surveys, structured interviewing, secondary data analysis

Quantitative/qualitative debate: debate in which sides are taken by researchers as to whether quantitative methods or qualitative methods are 'superior'.

Quasi-panel study: study designed to repeatedly survey samples of a target population on the same phenomenon over time which is different from a panel study in that the survey respondents are not from the same sample group each time

Questionnaire/survey: structured set of questions administered to a group of respondents

Reductionism: reducing complex arguments to simplistic assertions

Reliability: the consistency of our data or results that refers to the ability to repeat the data collection of analysis and consistently get the same results

Representativeness: "representative" is regarded as meaning "selected by some process which gives all samples an equal chance of appearing to represent the population"; or, alternatively, whether it means "typical in respect of certain characteristics, however chosen.

Research project: Research comprises systematic experimental and theoretical work, application and/or development that results in an increase in the dimensions of knowledge.

Respondent: An individual providing answers to survey questions.

Sample: A list of set cases, elements or people drawn from the population or group from which information is needed. It's usually attempted to select a sample (target population) representative of a larger population to whom results will be generalised or transferred.

Sample size: this is critical to representativeness and as a rule, the larger the number in the sample, the greater the probability of a representative distribution of the population.

Self-administered survey/questionnaire: A paper or web-based survey that collects data without the use of a telephone or in-person interviewer.

Snowball sampling: typically used to access respondents from a 'hard to reach' groups by asking respondents to suggest other prospective respondents to the researcher

Target population: The group of people whose activities, beliefs or attitudes are being studied.

Thesis: A thesis is the presentation of results of a research project in a written format.

Validity: the extent our data or results measures what they are intended to measure