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## COURSE DETAILS

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subject and will be completed under the guidance and supervision of a member of the School's academic staff.

Online Handbook description is available at MyUNSW:

## **WHY WRITE AN HONOURS RESEARCH THESIS?**

- ***Satisfy your intellectual curiosity***

This is the most compelling reason to write a research thesis. You have studied courses during your degree that perhaps really piqued your interest. Now's your chance to follow your passions, explore further, and contribute some original ideas and research in your field.

- ***Develop transferable research skills***

Whether you choose to pursue further research (e.g. complete a Ph.D) or not, the process of developing and crafting a feasible research project will polish skills that will serve you well in almost any future job. After all, most jobs require some form of problem solving and oral and written communication. Writing an honours thesis requires that you:

- ask smart questions
- acquire the investigative instincts needed to find answers
- navigate libraries, laboratories, archives, databases, and other research venues
- develop the flexibility to redirect your research if your initial plan flops
- master the art of time management
- sharpen your argumentation skills
- organize a lengthy piece of writing
- polish your oral communication skills by presenting and defending your research to academic staff and students

- ***Work closely with academic staff***

At large research universities like UNSW, you have likely taken classes where you barely got to know your lecturer. Writing a thesis offers the opportunity to work one-on-one with an academic supervisor. Such relationships can enrich your intellectual development and later serve as invaluable references for postgraduate degree and employment.

- ***Open windows into future professions***

An honours research thesis will give you a taste of what it's like to do rese138 0 Td( )TjEM3Tw 18.467 0 Td( )Tj (v)-.0



**Research Thesis A:** covers the planning/preparing and completion of the initial work on the project, including undertaking a comprehensive literature review related to their specific area of research.

**Research Thesis B:** continue to progress the research and commence the writing of methodology and results chapters of the thesis.

**Research Thesis C:** Thesis C complete any outstanding lab/field/modelling research and analyses; complete and submit the keystone deliverable Research Thesis; and present findings to staff and peers at a research seminar/video presentation.

The following course assessments relate to the student's research planning (A), conducting the research project and writing the thesis document (A, B & C), and disseminating the results in different forms (A, B & C).

In the event of an unsatisfactory assessment in Research Thesis A or Research Thesis B, a student must submit a show cause. A plan of future action to improve student performance must be prepared and agreed upon by both the supervisor and course coordinator before progress to Research Thesis B or Research Thesis C is allowed. Failure to receive the progress assessment by the due date will result in the student results being withheld and/or failure.

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### **RESEARCH THESIS A SUBMISSIONS**

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- **Component A1 submission** should include: Statement of the Problem and draft Literature Review.
- **Component A2 submission** should include: More detailed, revised and improved Introduction (Statement of the Problem); and an enhanced Literature Review, incorporating Supervisor feedback.

NOTE: If students are seeking to apply for permission to enrol concurrently in Research Thesis B + C in the following Trimester, then the additional requirements are that the A2 submission must also include a Thesis Outline (Chapters and indicative sub-headings) plus a 1 – 2 page description of Research Methodology, sufficient to indicate clear understanding of the nature and extent of the work required.

- **Lunchtime Workshops:**
  - Course Orientation (week 1)
  - Literature Review Workshop (week 2)

1. **Component A1 submission** should include: Statement of the Problem and draft Literature Review.

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***SUMMARY OF ALL RESEARCH THESIS MARKED ASSESSMENTS***

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**Research Thesis A:**

1.

**Late Procedure** – In all cases, applications for late submission can be applied for BEFORE the due date. This is at the discretion of the Thesis Coordinator, but should only be granted in exceptional circumstances. As per normal, students can also apply through myUNSW for special consideration.

- For all other assignments beside thesis – zero (0) mark is awarded
- For thesis – 5 marks off the \_\_\_\_\_ for every day late. Penalty applies until the marks for the \_\_\_\_\_ decrease to 50, and further lateness does not result in failure of the \_\_\_\_\_, but might be a failure of the thesis (weekends count as days).
- Any thesis not turned in within 6 weeks after the deadline will be finalised at zero (0) marks.

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**RELEVANT RESOURCES**

Honours Thesis Writing for





9		<p>Expand on literature review and prepare draft project skeleton.</p> <p>Consult on your proposed Research Methodology with supervisor.</p>	
10	<p>Submit Component A2 – more detailed, revised and improved Introduction (Statement of Problem) &amp; Literature Review.</p> <p>If seeking to apply for permission to enrol concurrently in Research Thesis B + C next Term, refer to the Course Profile for further information on the additional content for A2 that is required, and the online application process.</p>	<p>Agree on your proposed Research Methodology with supervisor.</p>	<p><b><i>Component A2 Due – submit to your supervisor by 4pm Friday</i></b></p>

**HONOURS RESEARCH THESIS B COURSE PROGRAM**

**Week    Milestones**

**Suggested Activities**

**HONOURS RESEARCH THESIS C COURSE PROGRAM**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Suggested Activities</b>	<b>Assessments</b>
1		Complete remaining thesis research with Supervisor(s) guidance.	