Overview

The School of Optometry and Vision Science offers an honours stream in Vision Science. The school's approach to honours is to provide initial training for future leaders in vision science. Honours in Vision Science provides students the opportunity to engage in sustained research in order to develop advanced disciplinary knowledge in Vision Science, the use of specialised techniques relevant to their chosen research area, critical thinking, evaluation and synthesis of information for scientific research communication in both oral and written forms. These skills and the learning objectives will form the basis for future pursuits in vision research and research and development in the ophthalmic industry.

Students will also have the opportunity to:

- Use effective communication skills to present information in a convincing manner
- Show Strong information literacy skills by conducting an analytical literature review
- Work effectively to explore a research topic

By the end of the program, students will be able to:

- Conduct a thorough literature review
- Design and implement a research plan
- Collect and analyse data
- Present an oral presentation at a research seminar
- Write a scientific paper
Faculty
Faculty of Science

School
School of Optometry and Vision Science

Study Level
Undergraduate

Minimum Units of Credit
48

Specialisation Type
Honours
Available in Program(s)

Program(s) in which this honours is available

**Bachelor of Advanced Science (Honours) - BAdvSci(Hons)**

**3962 Advanced Science (Honours)**
Faculty: Faculty of Science  
Campus: Kensington  
Units of Credit: 192  
Typical Duration: 4 Years

**Bachelor of Science (Honours) - BSc(Hons)**

**4500 Science (Honours)**
Faculty: Faculty of Science  
Campus: Kensington  
Units of Credit: 48  
Typical Duration: 1 Years
**Specialisation Structure**

Students must complete 48 UOC.

**Core Course**

Students must take 48 UOC of the following course.

Students must enrol full-time in VISN4016 for three trimesters.

Note: VISN4016 includes the honours research project component AND tutorials, seminars and workshop assessments.

**VISN4016 | 16 UOC**

**Vision Science Honours**

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**Enrolment Disclaimer**

Unless advised otherwise by your program authority, you should follow the rules for the handbook for the year you commenced your program. You are also responsible for ensuring you enrol in courses according to your program requirements. myUNSW enrolment checks that you have met enrolment requirements such as pre-requisites for individual courses but not that a course will count towards your program requirements.
Additional Information

Assessment

Assessments are completed in the 24 UOC (per semester) course VISN4003 Vision Science Honours.

1) The Vaegan Memorial Seminar series and journal club attendance

Fortnightly research seminar presentations (1 hr) by postgraduate students, staff members and visiting academics. In addition weekly journal clubs are held by staff members in the school in which research articles are presented and informally reviewed. Students are required to present at journal club. No assessment is given, but 75% attendance for both components is required for successful completion of the honours program in the School of Optometry and Vision Science.

2) Tutorials or Workshops - 10% to the final honours grade

Fortnightly workshops (2-3hrs) which covers topics such as ethics, research design, statistics and data analysis, thesis writing and synthesis, presentation skills and professional development. Fornightly exercises (e.g., quizzes, problem based learning examples and case studies) will be given and students will be required to submit them for assessment.

3) Literature review and Research proposal - 20% to the final honours grade

The literature review will be marked by the supervisor based on:

- Demonstrated knowledge of topic area
- Content and organisation, coverage of key issues
- Depth and breadth of analysis and discussion

4) Seminar Presentation - 10% to the final honours grade

Presentation of project results and conclusions. Assessed on scientific content and communication clarity and style

5) Written Research Report - 60% to the final honours grade

This report will be marked by two independent assessors in the school or elsewhere when expertise is needed. This assessment is based on:

- Depth and breadth of discussion
- Content of report, coverage of key issues
Honours Calculation

The school will use the following guide as grade to honours

*Honors Class I* (>85%)
Work of superior quality in all aspects of research, scientific writing, and oral presentation, demonstrating the ability to organise information in a clear and concise manner, the integration of information from a wide range of sources and containing clear examples of excellent critical evaluation.

*Honors Class II, Division I* (75% to 84%)
Work of very good quality in all aspects of research, scientific writing and oral presentation, but showing lesser ability to organise information in a clear and concise manner, integrate information from a range of sources and critically evaluate the literature and research data.

*Honors Class II, Division 2* (64% to 74%)
Good quality in all aspects of research, scientific writing, and oral presentation, but with inadequacies in understanding, critical skills, organisation and presentation.

*Honors Class III* (50% to 64%)
Adequate quality work with significant deficiencies in understanding, critical skills, organisation and presentation.

Admissions Requirement and Process

An undergraduate bachelor degree (AQF level 7, from UNSW, or at other institutions) with content and specialisation in Vision Science (e.g., a Bachelor of Vision Science, or a Bachelor degree with a major in Vision Science) and an indicative average mark of credit (equivalent to a 65 WAM).

Students must enrol full-time in VISN4003 in two consecutive semesters of study. Students must make contact with potential supervisors and gain approval from the Honours Coordinator. Following this, students should contact student admissions and complete an honours application form before the due date (typically February for S1 and June for S2).

Pathways

After the completion of honours, students may be qualified to enrol in higher degree research such as postgraduate level studies Master of Science (MSc) by research or Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). Students demonstrating outstanding performance in
their honours year may apply for an Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) to support their studies. Further information regarding postgraduate studies and research in the School of Optometry and Vision Science can be viewed at: http://www.optometry.unsw.edu.au/current/general-information-0

Students graduating with honours in vision science are well suited to find employment in the vision science industry. Employment opportunities exist in a wide range of public and private sector areas that specialise in primary eye care, orthoptics, optical devices and technologies, teaching, and scientific research and development in the ophthalmic industry. Career opportunities are available in industrial and commercial businesses that focus on: The development and application of visual therapeutics – such as devices that correct refractive errors (e.g., contact lenses and spectacles), drug development, medical devices (e.g., ocular implants) and imaging; The entertainment industry – developing visual simulators, visual design and graphics, and video games; Government sectors – particularly in teaching, defence technology (e.g., lasers and optical equipment), and contributing to the development of health and occupational policies regarding the importance of vision to quality-of-life and in the workplace.
Pre-2019 Handbook Editions

Access past handbook editions (2018 and prior)

Pre-2019 Handbook Editions