

FAQs About The Pathology Honours Course Year

- 1) **Who do I contact if I have a GENERAL QUESTIONS about the honours course?**
 - a. Read through this list of frequently asked questions list. Still not solved?
 - b. Read through the honours survival kit carefully. Still not solved?
 - c. Ask your supervisor and see whether they can help. Still not solved?
 - d. If it is a general question about the course then you can contact Alison Chapman who is the administrator for the honours year: alisonlc@unimelb.edu.au or 8344 4383)
 - e. If you have a specific question or you need to contact a committee member, their email addresses are located on page 17 of survival kit).

- 2) **How do I do well during my honours year?**

The honours year is a short year (about 37 weeks) and lots of effort, communication, dedication, and time is required to fulfil all requirements of this course. Complete your tasks on time. Communicate with supervisors when experiments don't work. Show your data to supervisors on a regular basis. Take the time to read as many papers relating to your research as possible. Make sure you understand what you are reading. Ask lots of questions. Attend all compulsory and non compulsory lectures and tutorials. See helpful suggestions from course convenors statement on page 16 of survival kit.

- 3) **Do I get assessed on the submission of initial literature review copy?**

Yes. It is important that an initial copy is provided on the initial due date. This initial submission is not graded but is a hurdle assessment task to ensure that students are fully informed about the science and literature behind their projects before commencing bench work. Assessment is made on the final submitted version attached to the final thesis. Importantly, the Honours Committee has the discretion to deduct marks for late submission of any work undertaken during the course. (See page 4 & 5 of survival kit. See point 4).

- 4) **What happens if we do not hand our final thesis in on the due date?**

Honours Committee has the discretion to deduct marks for late submission of any work undertaken during the course. Marks can be deducted for late submission of any assessment activity. (see page 3 of survival kit)

- 5) **How long does the literature review need to be?**

It should be at least 3000 and NO MORE than 5000 words in length (see pg 4 of survival kit)

- 6) **Can I include lab work that I generated while working as a summer student in the lab?**

NO. The B.Sc. Honours year commences on Monday, 18th February 2008 and only work undertaken during the assessment period of the 531-496 and 531-497 courses can be included in your thesis and other presentations. Your assessment year period starts on the nominated start date and introductory lecture (see page 3 of survival kit).

- 7) **How do I write the literature review?**

This information is provided on page 4 of the survival kit.

- 8) **How many copies of the thesis do I hand in?**

You are required to submit FOUR typed copies (see page 4 of survival kit).

- 9) **How long are the abstracts for the introductory and final seminars need to be?**

Abstract title, lab location, supervisor information and project details using specified formatting procedures MUST be restricted to a single page and no longer (see page 6 of survival kit).

- 10) I don't understand how to do DAE exams! What is critical assessment of papers?**
These examinations are based on your ability to “critically evaluate a published paper”. It does not necessarily mean that we focus on what are the **BAD** or **WRONG** things about the paper. You will learn and begin to understand how papers are written and how a story is put together. You will learn about what important pieces of information should be included when writing a paper that enables a reader to form an interpretation of the manuscript. (See page 7 of survival kit).
- 11) Is it compulsory to attend the DAE tutorials?**
No. But attending these tutorials will help you to better understand how to complete the exam (see page 10 for tutorial timetabling).
- 12) When do I stop working in the lab and start to write up my thesis?**
It is recommended that students cease experimental work 1 month before final submission of research report to allow sufficient time for thesis writing (see page 3 of survival kit).
- 13) Do I need to attend the honours talks of the other students after I have done mine?**
Yes. Attendance to presentations of other students is compulsory (see page 7 of survival kit).
- 14) Do I need to seminars or departmental or institutional talks?**
Yes. (see page 7 of survival kit)
- 15) Is it compulsory to attend safety and animal welfare seminars?**
Yes (see page 8 of survival kit)
- 16) Is it compulsory to attend the honours lecture series?**
Yes. These lectures are found on page 9
- 17) What criteria are used to mark our introductory and final talks?**
See pages 11 and 14 of survival kit.
- 18) A research assistant did some experiments for me and I want to include the data in my thesis so what do I do?**
You need to ensure that you make suitable acknowledgement of the work that was not done by yourself in the final thesis. You need to declare any work that was done by yourself or by other members that has been included in your thesis.
- 19) What do I do if I am sick and can't make it into the lab?**
The honours year is akin to a one year apprenticeship year where you are being trained to work in a lab fulltime. Therefore, it is important that you discuss with your supervisor what you need to do if you are sick, you cannot make it into the lab for some other personal reason, if you need to work at home etc. Communication is essential.
- 20) What do I do if I am sick for a month?**
You need to come and discuss this with an honours course committee member and we will decide what can be done on a case by case basis.
- 21) What do I need to do to get a PhD scholarship?**
PhD scholarship success starts with the results of Year 3. Clearly a high H1 grade is important but contributes only 2/3 of the total score. The other 1/3 comes from the student's performance in Year 3 of their Science degree.