Psychology

The School of Psychology combines research excellence with practical application teaching to produce future leaders in the industry.

Our students benefit from an ongoing investment to develop world-class facilities, including a $7 million upgrade to our laboratories. To take our teaching beyond the classroom we partner with industry, including a number of on-campus clinics open to the public that provide supervised training opportunities.

With close links to many leading organisations, such as Westpac Group, Macquarie Bank and AAMI, students benefit from exposure to the practical application of psychology in the workplace.

Undergraduate Studies in Psychology

Psychology is the scientific study of human behaviour. It is a diverse discipline that covers:

- the relationship between the brain and behaviour
- the processes of perceiving, learning and memory
- the assessment of abilities and attitudes
- the origins of personality and emotional states
- the nature and effects of social interactions
- the causes of abnormal behaviour

To become a registered NSW psychologist and a member of the Australian Psychological Society, students must complete four years of Australian psychology accredited undergraduate study followed by two years of APAC approved postgraduate study.

Bachelor of Psychology

Your first year focuses on introductory psychology courses, with plenty of space for free elective courses from Science and across the University. In your second year you will focus more on psychological science with courses in social and developmental psychology; perception and cognition; learning and physiological psychology; and assessment, personality and psychopathology. In your third year you take advanced courses on earlier topics combined with courses on organisational contexts and forensic issues. The final year sees you embark on your Honours year conducting a research project in your chosen area of psychology.

Bachelor of Science (Advanced)

The degree program is designed to challenge talented students, providing an early window into the thinking and practice of research. This program differs from the Bachelor of Science by the inclusion of advanced level courses, an Honours year, and options tailored to an individual’s attitude and interests. Students will develop a working knowledge in an area of scientific investigation and gain practical experience in research and discovery techniques.

Admissions Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>UAC code</th>
<th>UNSW program code</th>
<th>Length of study</th>
<th>Cut-off</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Psychology</td>
<td>429850</td>
<td>3432</td>
<td>4 years full-time</td>
<td>ATAR 99.10 IB 40 Or equivalent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Science (Advanced)</td>
<td>429510</td>
<td>3972</td>
<td>4 years full-time</td>
<td>ATAR 95.00 IB 37 Or equivalent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Psychological Science</td>
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<td>3435</td>
<td>3 years full-time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Life Sciences</td>
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<td>3966</td>
<td>3 years full-time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Science</td>
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<td>3 years full-time</td>
<td>ATAR 84.00 IB 31 Or equivalent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Science (International)*</td>
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<td>3987</td>
<td>4 years full-time</td>
<td>ATAR 87.00 IB 32 Or equivalent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Science and Business</td>
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<td>3 years full-time</td>
<td>ATAR 90.00 IB 34 Or equivalent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Economics</td>
<td>424400</td>
<td>3543</td>
<td>3 years full-time</td>
<td>ATAR 93.00 IB 35 Or equivalent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bachelor of Psychological Science

The Bachelor of Psychological Science degree allows you to complete an accredited psychology degree in three years, or if you’re interested in becoming a professional psychologist you can complete an additional fourth year Honours. This degree also allows you to combine your interest in psychology with other interest areas across the University – in Commerce, Arts and Social Science and also from within Science.

Bachelor of Life Sciences

The Bachelor of Life Sciences brings together the biological, environmental and medical sciences into a fun-reaching and fascinating field of study. The life sciences domain will satisfy your innate curiosity about life, from the way things work at the molecular level, to the study of entire ecosystems.

Bachelor of Science

This degree program provides the widest range of options for study in more than 20 majors of science, providing flexibility and choice as well as insights into different scientific fields.

Bachelor of Science (International)*

The Bachelor of Science (International) degree offers flexibility and choice, with more than 20 fields of study combined with a study exchange to an overseas partner institution. The program comprises a science-based major, a minor in a language; electives that cover cultural studies, international business, development studies and globalisation; and an overseas exchange for 2 sessions at an approved partner university. The Faculty of Science provides students with a contribution towards the expenses of the overseas exchange.

* This program is 4-years in length but only contain 3-years of APAC approved Psychology study.

Bachelor of Science and Business

The Bachelor of Science and Business degree allows students to follow their passion for science and, at the same time, gain vitally important business knowledge to expand their career options. In addition to completing a science major, students select business courses in marketing, business law and/or management.

Dual Degrees

Dual degrees enable students to combine a Science program with a program from another faculty offering greater flexibility to explore individual interests, expand skill bases and broaden career prospects.

At UNSW, the following Psychology study options are our APAC approved programs:

Bachelor of Psychological Science

The Bachelor of Psychological Science (Hons) program offers a solid preparation in the core areas of Economics and Economics, and is ideal for an economics career or for further studies. Psychology can be pursued as an external major in addition to the main BEc major.

Bachelor of Economics

The Bachelor of Economics (BEc) provides a solid preparation in the core areas of Economics and Economics, and is ideal for an economics career or for further studies. Psychology can be pursued as an external major in addition to the main BEc major.

Four year Science degrees

At UNSW, the following Psychology study options are our APAC approved programs:
Career Opportunities

Psychology is a discipline of both scientific research and applied practice. As a science, psychology is concerned with the study of behaviour and its underlying mental and neural processes.

Psychology has many areas of application, especially in clinical, correctional, counselling, educational, and organisational settings. In addition, people with training in psychology pursue careers in academic research, health research, developmental disabilities and rehabilitation, ergonomics, occupational health and safety, personnel selection, training, and management, vocational guidance, and marketing.

Student Testimonial

“I chose UNSW because it is a well-recognised university and a university consistently rated with high quality teaching. I appreciated UNSW’s forward thinking, demonstrated by the numerous construction projects for new buildings. With a significant proportion of international students, UNSW also provides an opportunity to build friendships with people from a variety of backgrounds. To this day, I still remember the phenomenal atmosphere I experienced when I first visited UNSW on Info Day. I chose the Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Laws dual program because I have always wanted to complete some sort of scientific training. The analytical and research skills developed in a science degree are invaluable no matter what you might end up doing. Having done chemistry, physics and biology in High School, Psychology was like the last frontier. As a relatively young science, major discoveries in many areas are yet to be made. Pursuing a dual degree is probably the best choice I have ever taken. It has enabled me to develop skills and knowledge in different areas, keeping every uni day interesting.”

Thomas Liang
Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Laws
Major in Psychology

“Studying Psychology at UNSW over the past 4 years has been a highly rewarding experience. Initially I chose psychology because I was interested in understanding the “whys” that underlie human behaviour. Throughout my degree not only have I been able to learn much about the psychological, social and biological underpinnings of behaviour, but I have also gained hands on experience in research discovering some of these “whys” for myself. UNSW has a vibrant research community, and within the school of Psychology there are plenty of opportunities for students to get involved in research. For me, the highlights include working in a Developmental Laboratory examining how infant children understand emotion, and working in an animal lab to understand the biological processes that lead to psychopathology.

Studying at UNSW was also made enjoyable by the extremely welcoming, friendly and vibrant student community. From the first day of class to the day of submitting my honours thesis I have been surrounded by great people that I have met from all walks of life. There are numerous clubs, societies and volunteering causes to try-out, and there’s always someone new to meet or something new to do.”

Sarah Altmann
Bachelor of Psychology

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