



**MURDOCH**  
**UNIVERSITY**  

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**MURDOCH CAMPUS**

**School of Information Technology**

**Honours in Computer Science**

**Honours in Information Systems**

# **Honours Handbook**

**2005**



## Welcome to the 2005 Honours Program

Firstly, congratulations on your results and your acceptance into the Honours Program. The Honours course is only available to a select group of students who have performed well in their previous studies. The course provides an opportunity to take further advanced studies as well as to undertake a major research project. The School of Information Technology offers Honours in Computer Science and Honours in Information Systems.

You should read this booklet carefully as it provides a range of information necessary for your work during the year. There is some very important organisational information that sets out your work programme and the target dates you must meet. There is also some more general information that will help you settle into a new phase in your university studies.

These notes are intended to supplement the University regulations relating to Honours contained in the Murdoch University Handbook (Regulations 52-63 and 65 for the Degree of Bachelor) as well as the Divisional Honours Information booklet. Some instructions in this handbook may be different to that Divisional Honours Information booklet because this handbook is more specifically applicable to students enrolled in the School of Information Technology.

The Divisional Honours Information booklet together with the Honours Program of Study form is available from the Division office. Students are required to complete and submit the Honours Program of Study Form before the end of week 2 of the first semester of their enrolment in Honours. Students should complete this form in consultation with their Thesis Supervisor and the Honours Coordinator.

### Organisation

The Honours Coordinator/Chair is Dr Tanya McGill who can be contacted as follows:

Room: ECL 2.055  
Tel: 9360 2798  
Fax: 9360 2941  
Email: [T.Mcgill@murdoch.edu.au](mailto:T.Mcgill@murdoch.edu.au)  
Honours website: <http://www.it.murdoch.edu.au/teaching/honours/index.html>

If the coordinator is unavailable, please make an appointment by email.

## Some Important Dates

Semester	Week	Activity	Staff Concerned
1	1	Completion of Honours Program of Study Form in consultation with supervisor	Supervisor/Hons Co-ordinator
		Submission of Honours Program of Study Form to the Division Office	Division Office
	2	Approval of individual honours program	Hons Co-ordinator / Head of School
	6	Submission of outline of Honours project	School office
	13	Submission of formal Project (thesis) proposal - 2 copies	School Office
	14	Initial Seminar	all academic staff
	16	All marking complete (proposal, review paper & seminar)	all academic staff
2	13	Thesis submission (3 copies - loose bound)	School Office
	14	Final Seminars	all academic staff
	15	Marking of thesis complete Return of thesis for correction & binding	Supervisors & examiners
	17	Examiners meeting Submission of corrected thesis (4 copies - loose bound) (Postgraduate Scholarship applications considered)	all academic staff School Office

## Structure of Honours

The Honours in Computer Science and the Honours in Information Systems Programs are composed of 50% coursework, comprised of three Honours Topic units, and 50% research thesis. Generally 2 units are taken in first semester together with preliminary work on the research project. In the second semester only one unit is taken, and most effort is spent on the project. Honours may also be taken by part-time study.

The current structure of the Computer Science and Information Systems Honours programs is as follows:

- Advanced (400-level) topics (12 points)
  - which consist of
    - ICT477 IT Research Methodologies 4 points
    - 2 4-points (400 level) Topics 8 points
- Research Project (12 points)
  - which consists of
    - Project Proposal 4 points
    - Thesis 8 points

All students are required to take ICT477 IT Research Methodologies.

## Supervision

The supervision of the student will be the responsibility of the supervisor(s). Supervision arrangements involve either a primary supervisor and co-supervisor (playing a less significant role) or joint supervision (50/50 responsibility), with the arrangement to be agreed by students and supervisors at the start of the student's Honours program.

The supervisors have the prime responsibility to advise and guide the student through their project and research methods. Students should also feel free to consult other members of academic staff to request advice.

## Project Assessment Profile

(a)	Formal proposal (25 – 40 pages), outlining the problem to be studied and including a literature review, methodology to be followed and any progress in the research.  Other than the length of the main text of the proposal, the criteria for layout and presentation of both documents is the same as that shown in sections 8.1 and 8.2 in the Divisional Honours Information booklet.	28%
(b)	Initial Seminar (20min+10min) to staff and research students.	5%
(c)	Thesis (<=80 pages, excluding appendices), including problem statement, literature review, methodology, results and conclusions. The criteria for the layout and presentation of the thesis is given in sections 8.1 and 8.2 of the Divisional Honours Information booklet ( <a href="http://www.arts.murdoch.edu.au/students/honours.html">http://www.arts.murdoch.edu.au/students/honours.html</a> ).	62%
(d)	Final seminar (25min+10min)	5%

## Assessment Aggregation

The examining committee will use the following algorithm as a guide:

Component 1 ( $C_1$ ): average mark from three 4-point value units/topics (out of 100).

Component 2 ( $C_2$ ): total marks from thesis/project (out of 100).

Rule:

if	$C_1 \geq 80 \ \&\& \ C_2 \geq 80$	$\Rightarrow$	H1
elseif	$(C_1 + C_2)/2 \geq 80 \ \&\& \ C_2 \geq 80$	$\Rightarrow$	H1
elseif	$C_1 \geq 70 \ \&\& \ C_2 \geq 70$	$\Rightarrow$	H2A
elseif	$(C_1 + C_2)/2 \geq 70 \ \&\& \ C_2 \geq 70$	$\Rightarrow$	H2A
elseif	$C_1 \geq 60 \ \&\& \ C_2 \geq 60$	$\Rightarrow$	H2B
elseif	$(C_1 + C_2)/2 \geq 60 \ \&\& \ C_2 \geq 60$	$\Rightarrow$	H2B
elseif	$(C_1 + C_2)/2 \geq 50$	$\Rightarrow$	H3
else		$\Rightarrow$	Fail

H1, H2A, ... etc are level of honours.

## Work Facilities

A workspace (a desk) is provided for you to work at and access to a number of machines with network access will be available. You are entitled to have a user account with all the privileges (and responsibilities) you need.

Generally we cannot provide a dedicated machine for each student, though special projects may require special facilities. Your supervisor will arrange these.

Photocopying is to be done in the library. You need to keep receipts so that you can be reimbursed. Reimbursement is from your research allowance - see below.

The Internet (and WWW) will provide you with a wide range of facilities and resources. It is in your interests to learn how to make effective use of it. You will be able to use the Internet to search for information, retrieve information, and make contacts with other colleagues and others working in the same research area as yourself.

## After Hours Access

You will probably need to have access to your workroom and other laboratories after hours. You can arrange with the School Secretary (in consultation with your supervisor) to obtain the necessary access.

## Funds

A small research allowance is provided (approximately \$200) to help cover such costs as photocopying, interlibrary loans and stationery you will need during the year, and the binding of the thesis at the end of the year. Please see Sue Urbaniak (School of IT Secretary) about how to access this account. It is only permissible to spend these funds on items directly related to your honours project work.

## Submission of Your Final Thesis

There are two deadlines set for the final thesis submission:

- (1) Submission of the complete thesis (3 loosely bound copies) for examination at the end of week 13 of final Semester.
- (2) Submission of revised and corrected thesis (4 loosely bound copies) for binding and then lodging in School, Library and supervisor before the examiners meeting in week 17.

In both cases, the theses are to be lodged with the School Office.

The thesis is assessed on the first submission. Your examiners will have a certain time to mark the thesis. They may add comments and corrections in the thesis as appropriate. The thesis is then returned to you and you will have about 2 weeks to make the corrections and produce the corrected and bound thesis. While no additional marks are obtained from these corrections, it is important that your thesis looks the best it can once lodged in the Library.

You will not be permitted to graduate if the corrected thesis is not submitted.

It is important for these deadlines to be met to ensure that information is available for the consideration of Postgraduate Scholarship applications.

## General Commitments

All Honours students are expected to be involved in the general research activities of the programme. This includes attendance at research seminars, at special seminars given by visitors, and other events that will be announced from time to time.

Being involved in the whole research environment is considered to be an essential element of learning about research, research methods and confronting new ideas that all form a part of the educational process for an Honours graduate.

## Examples of Study Programmes

### Example 1: Fulltime Enrolment

Semester 1		Semester 2	
ICT477 IT Research Methodologies	4 pts	Advanced Hons Topic	4 pts
Advanced Hons Topic	4 pts	Project Thesis	8 pts
Project Proposal	4 pts		
Total	12 pts		12 pts

### Example 2: Part-time Enrolment over 3 semesters

Semester 1		Semester 2		Semester 3	
ICT477 IT Res. Methodologies	4 pts	Adv. Hons Topic	4 pts	Proj. Thesis	8 pts
Adv. Hons Topic	4 pts	Proj. Proposal	4 pts		
Total	8 pts		8 pts		8 pts

### Example 3: Part-time Enrolment over 4 semesters

Semester 1		Semester 2		Semester 3		Semester 4	
ICT477 IT Res. Methodologies	4 pts	Adv. Hons Topic	4 pts	Adv. Hons Topic	4 pts	Proj. Thesis	6 pts
Proj. Proposal	2 pts	Proj. Proposal	2 pts	Proj. Thesis	2 pts		
Total	6 pts		6 pts		6 pts		6 pts