



MONASH
University

PHARMACY AND
PHARMACEUTICAL
SCIENCES

BACHELOR OF PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES (HONOURS)

MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THE
WORLD AND YOUR CAREER



GROUP
OF EIGHT
AUSTRALIA

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OUR FACULTY

Australia's leading pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences faculty, and one of the world's best, the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences offers innovative education and delivers high impact research. It is Australia's oldest pharmacy school and the most innovative.

The Faculty offers research programs in areas involved with the design, development, and evaluation and testing of new drugs and drug formulations, as well as the study of the safety and use of medicines in large populations and the education of pharmacy & pharmaceutical sciences. Our themes of research are:

- Drug Discovery Biology
- Medicinal Chemistry
- Drug Candidate Optimisation
- Drug Delivery, Disposition and Dynamics
- Medicine Use and Safety
- Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Education

Research students are supervised by leading international experts in the field, and the research conducted by research graduates is highly regarded within Australia and internationally. The Faculty has established a strong reputation with industry, both nationally and internationally, and acts as a resource for industry and research institutes involved in the pharmaceutical and biomedical sciences.

The Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences is located at 381 Royal Parade, Monash University (Parkville Campus) and is home to the Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences (MIPS).

HONOURS CONTACT DETAILS

Academic Contact Details

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Dr Ian Larson	Course Director, Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Science	ian.larson@monash.edu	03 9903 9570
Professor Paul White	Associate Dean (Education)	paul.white@monash.edu	03 9903 9074

Academic Honours Representatives

Contact Name	Research Area	Email	Telephone
Dr Kristian Kempe	Drug Delivery, Disposition and Dynamics	kristian.kempe@monash.edu	03 9905 1406
Dr Sab Ventura	Drug Discovery Biology	sab.ventura@monash.edu	03 9903 9566
Professor Philip Thompson	Medicinal Chemistry	philip.thompson@monash.edu	03 9903 9672
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Faculty Research Office Contact Details

Contact Name	Position	Email	Telephone
Ms Ramya Ramanathan/ (after Oct 25th 2025, Ms Karen Drakatos)	Graduate Research Programs Coordinator	ramya.ramanathan@monash.edu karen.drakatos@monash.edu	03 9903 9203
Ms Gaby Bright	Manager, Research & Graduate Research	gaby.bright@monash.edu	03 9903 9516
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Professor Peter Scammells	Associate Dean (Research)	peter.scammells@monash.edu	03 9903 9542

RESEARCH AREAS

We have expertise and infrastructure to support research in the following areas:

Drug Discovery Biology (DDB)

The DDB research teams within MIPS comprise a critical mass of scientists with broad expertise in receptor-molecular and cellular biology, whole-animal studies and translational discovery research.

<https://www.monash.edu/pharm/research/themes/drug-discovery-biology>

Medicinal Chemistry

The Medicinal Chemistry research teams within MIPS focus on drug discovery—applying chemical principles and techniques to discover and develop compounds to prevent, treat or cure disease.

<https://www.monash.edu/pharm/research/themes/medicinal-chemistry>

Centre for Drug Candidate Optimisation

The Centre for Drug Candidate Optimisation specialises in identifying the optimal physiochemical and biopharmaceutical properties of drugs and translating drug candidates from discovery into clinical development.

<https://www.monash.edu/pharm/research/themes/optimisation>

Drug Delivery, Disposition and Dynamics (D4)

The D4 research teams within MIPS are designing and developing the next generation of drug delivery systems and anti-infective agents to enhance medicine effectiveness and patient treatment.

<https://www.monash.edu/pharm/research/themes/drug-delivery-disposition-and-dynamics>

Centre for Medicine Use and Safety

The Centre for Medicine Use and Safety conducts multidisciplinary research into preventive, acute and chronic care, optimising medication management and patient safety.

<https://www.monash.edu/pharm/research/themes/medicine-safety>

Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Education

The PPSEd research teams within MIPS aim to optimise educational processes to be transformative to the next generation of health care and pharmaceutical science experts.

<https://www.monash.edu/pharm/research/educational-research>

COURSE INFORMATION

Course title and course code:

Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Science (Honours) P3701

Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Science Advanced (Honours) P3002

Structure

Both courses consist of a combination of coursework and research. In the Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Science Advanced (Honours) this applies to the fourth year of the course. In the coursework component you will develop advanced theoretical and/or technical knowledge of the area of research focus within Pharmaceutical Science, that is, medicinal chemistry, drug discovery biology, formulation science and medicine use and safety. In the research component you will develop research methodologies appropriate to your focus and plan and execute a research project under the guidance of at least one academic supervisor.

Requirements

The courses comprise 48 credit points:

BPS4001 - Advanced Pharmaceutical Science (Coursework) (12 credit points)

BPS4002 – Advanced Pharmaceutical Science (Research) (36 credit points)

Course outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course it is expected that you will be able to:

- work independently to undertake a scientific literature review and work collaboratively to design, develop and implement a research project;
- collect, organise, manipulate, analyse and interpret data meaningfully using experimental and computational approaches;
- develop, apply, integrate and generate knowledge in professional contexts to analyse challenges and to develop effective solutions;
- demonstrate technical competence to use analytical instrumentation, conduct experimental procedures and methodologies in laboratory-based disciplines; and
- communicate ideas and results effectively to diverse audiences and in a variety of formats.

Progression to further studies

Satisfactory completion of the course may provide credit toward a Monash Master's by coursework degree and provides the preparation necessary to undertake a MPhil degree or a Doctoral (PhD) degree, although admission depends upon results.

Degree awarded

Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Science (Honours) or Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Science Advanced (Honours)

Australian Higher Education Graduation Statement (AHEGS)

The Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Science (Honours) and the Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Science Advanced (Honours) are undergraduate qualifications. The course is taught in English. Students who have completed the course have demonstrated advanced theoretical knowledge and techniques in an area of Pharmaceutical Science and relevant research skills including the capacity to undertake an independent research project and to communicate their findings to a high standard. The course takes one year of full-time study and comprises a fourth year of study following the completion of the normal requirements of the Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Science pass degree or equivalent. The Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Science (Honours) is a level 8 Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) qualification.

WHAT DO OUR HONOURS GRADUATES SAY?

Meet Jennifer (Uyen) Le (BPharmSci Honours student perspective)



I am currently a second year PhD candidate in the Drug Delivery, Disposition and Dynamics theme, supervised by Prof Darren Creek and Dr Carlo Giannangelo. My current project aims to elucidate the mechanism of action for a promising new class of antimalarials through a range of proteomic and metabolomic approaches. As part of the Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Science Advanced course, I completed my honours year in 2023 which actually became my most favourite and memorable year of the whole degree!

Why did you choose the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Monash University?

I chose the faculty initially due to familiarity. Having already studied here for three years, I knew there would be plenty of support and student services available to me here at Parkville. I also knew from completing an 8-week research placement during 3rd year and after talking to my supervisor as well as getting to know the other students in the lab, I knew I wanted to complete my honours year with the same lab group.

What do you see as the benefits of doing honours here?

Whilst small, our Parkville campus has a great environment for fostering a tightknit student community. You will naturally get to know a lot of your cohort (especially if you have to use the honours corridor hot desks) and I personally think having support from fellow students was what helped me most throughout the year. The honours program at MIPS also provided plenty of opportunities to develop important research skills that aren't laboratory based such as critiquing articles, reviewing literature and writing a journal manuscript as opposed to a traditional thesis.

Have there been any highlights? What were the challenges?

There were many highlights, one was the experience of having my very own research project. The level of independence an honours project allows is unlike any lab from undergrad and it felt very rewarding to start from an experimental plan to generating results to writing my final draft. A bonus was knowing that my research was contributing to finding solutions for real-world issues.

I think the most challenging aspect is the time crunch. An honours project is still a full research project and a lot of the time, things don't go exactly as planned so whilst a year sounds like plenty of time, it really flies by. As a result, I was in the lab every weekend and struggled to find a work-life balance.

What was the subject of your honours research or what is your project?

I was interested in looking into artemisinin-based combination therapies which are the current first-line treatments for malaria and seeing how the partner drugs of these combinations affected artemisinin's antimalarial activity. My final manuscript was titled "Artemisinin-based combination therapy partner drugs antagonise artemisinin activation and potentiate resistance in *P. falciparum*".

What does a typical working day involve?

It wasn't always a 9-5 day. I always liked to check my parasites first thing in the morning to see if they can be used for an experiment. If they looked good for an experiment, it would usually mean I would be in the lab all day and sometimes until late at night. Otherwise, it would be a free day to prepare for future experiments, analyse any data I have, prepare for my weekly supervisor meetings and read papers. If I had a particularly long lab day, I tried to give myself a late start or early finish the day after to recover.

What did you or what are you hoping to do after you completed your Honours year?

At the start of my Honours year, I was very uncertain about pursuing a PhD but around half-way through the year, I realised how much I enjoyed the work and research I was doing and decided to just go for it.

PROJECTS AVAILABLE IN 2026

A list of student projects for 2026 is available online from August 2025. To view the types of projects currently offer, please go to:

<https://www.monash.edu/pharm/future/courses/pharmaceutical-science-honours/honours-projects>

Prospective students must contact supervisors to discuss research projects.

The Honours projects currently available within the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences are listed by theme:

- Drug Discovery Biology
- Medicinal Chemistry
- Drug Delivery, Disposition and Dynamics
- Medicine Use and Safety
- Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Education

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHY STUDY HONOURS?

This is your opportunity to study and work with Australia's largest group of pharmaceutical researchers. Our researchers have made ground breaking contributions to the development of treatments and superbugs, flu, malaria, postpartum haemorrhage and other conditions.

We offer a prestigious program of coursework and research in pharmaceutical science for high achieving students who have completed a relevant undergraduate degree. You will undertake research methodology training and carry out an independent research project on your selected topic, working closely with a supervisor who will provide you with individual guidance and academic counselling. The course offers a pathway to higher level research in pharmaceutical science.

You'll have access to the latest equipment and facilities at our recently redeveloped campus in the inner-Melbourne suburb of Parkville.

Studies can be undertaken within the general research themes of:

- Drug discovery biology
- Medicinal chemistry
- Drug delivery, disposition and dynamics
- Medicine use and safety
- Pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences education

You'll develop skills in research planning, experimental techniques, data analysis and scientific writing, and gain the confidence to continue your higher degree studies and help develop breakthrough medicines or improve medicine use and safety.

With the permission of the Faculty Graduate Research Committee, it may also be possible to undertake a portion of the research in an external institution such as a hospital or industry laboratory. If a substantial portion of the research work is to be carried out in an external institution you will have an internal supervisor from the faculty and an associate supervisor from the relevant institution.

WHAT ARE THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS?

The prerequisite for entry to the honours year is a bachelor's degree in pharmacy, science, pharmaceutical science, medicinal chemistry, formulation science or a related field. You need to acquire an average overall distinction grade (70 per cent) or higher in the final year of the course, or equivalent qualifications and experience deemed by the Course Coordinator to be suitable preparation for the student's proposed field of study.

For acceptance as an Honours student, the applicant must:

- have a suitable academic background;
- be accepted as a prospective student by a supervisor; and
- have a suitable research project as a basis for the degree studies.

English Language Requirements

All international applicants must meet the minimum English language proficiency requirements set by Monash University. English proficiency standards must be met and results (if applicable) contained with the application preferably by the application closing date.

- IELTS 6.5 (no band lower than 6.0); or
- TOEFL Paper-based test: 550 with a TWE 4.5; or
- TOEFL Internet-based test: score of 79 overall with minimum scores: Writing 21, Listening 12, Reading 13, Speaking 18; or
- Equivalent approved English test

WHAT ARE THE COURSE FEES?

*Fees listed below are correct at the time of printing. Fees are subject to change annually.

Fees for 2024	
Domestic students	Commonwealth supported place (CSP) The average annual student contribution is A\$8,301 (2023 rate)
International students	Fees for 2024 are A\$49,600
Other fees	Student services and amenities fees have not been set for 2024. The current fees are A\$326

2025 fees will be released later this year.

WHAT SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE?

There are no available scholarship opportunities at the faculty. However, there may be scholarships available Monash wide. More information can be found at the following website:

[Find a Scholarship – study at Monash University](#)

HOW MANY HONOURS PLACES ARE AVAILABLE?

We do not have a set number of Honours places available. Applicants should find a research project they're interested in and contact the relevant supervisor to discuss their suitability. A supervisor can only take on a maximum of 2 Honours students per year.

WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE?

Honours students are to provide their own computer or can access computers in the Faculty computer lab. Honours students must save their data/work onto the university drive to keep it secure. There will be software packages and IT support available for free, as well as telephones, and remote internet access. Each student will receive a \$20 printing/photocopying credit on their student card.

Students are also provided with laboratory space, equipment and consumables as required for their project. In addition, students will have access to supervisors and other research staff for support and guidance.

HOW MANY HOURS A WEEK ARE INVOLVED?

Honours research is not a standard day. Depending on your experiments, you may find yourself working during the day as well as some evenings and weekends. Experiments may not always run between 9am-5pm. You should discuss and plan your project schedule with your prospective supervisor.

With the exception of public holidays taken by the university, Honours students are expected to work full-time until the end of the course.

You must notify your supervisor and the Faculty Research Office of any leave of absence (such as sick leave or personal leave).

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Theme coursework unit **25%**
Comprising elements developed by the theme/faculty

Research unit **75%**
Comprising: Written assessment score 50%
Final presentation score 10%
Oral Viva 15%

WHEN WOULD I START?

The Honours year is a one-year course. Honours students will begin on Thursday **20th February 2025** and finish in November. There is no mid-year intake in the Honours program and this course cannot be offered part-time.

IS THERE ANY COURSEWORK?

This course consists of a combination of coursework (25%) and research (75%). In the coursework component you will develop advanced theoretical and/or technical knowledge of the area of research focus within Pharmaceutical Science, that is, medicinal chemistry, drug discovery biology, formulation science and medicine use and safety.

ARE THE RESEARCH SEMINARS MANDATORY?

MIPS provide seminars on various research topics delivered by research staff and high profile invited guests. These seminars are mandatory for all honours and graduate research students to attend.

IF I RECEIVE AN OFFER, CAN I DEFER?

For students applying for the Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Science (Honours) program, you will not be able to defer your place as your project or supervisor may not be available the following year. You are encouraged to maintain contact with your supervisor throughout the course of the year and then reapply.

IS THERE A STUDENT ASSOCIATION?

Honours students are also part of the Monash Undergraduate Student Association (MUSA).

The Parkville Postgraduate Association (PPA) is another student committee, elected by the students. The association provides advice, coordinates guest speakers, sporting activities and entertainment evenings for graduate research students. Although honours students are technically undergraduates, the PPA will invite honours students to some activities since many students continue into our PhD program.

WHAT ARE THE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES?

Our Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Sciences Honours programs aim to provide students with a higher level of experience in independent analysis and research in their selected area. The one-year honours program also serves as excellent preparation for further study and research and is a pathway to gain entry into the Doctor or Master of Philosophy programs.

This degree will open up exciting opportunities in research and development centres, the pharmaceutical industry and food, agriculture, chemicals, biotechnology and cosmetics companies.

You could work as a medicine researcher and developer, drug analyst, formulation scientist, industry consultant, development chemist, medicinal chemist, patent attorney, academic or clinical-trial specialist.

WHAT HONOURS RESULT DO I NEED TO ACHIEVE TO GAIN ENTRY INTO THE PHD OR MASTER'S RESEARCH PROGRAM?

Doctorate/PhD

Duration: 3-4 years full-time or 6-8-years part-time.

Qualifications and experience equivalent to bachelor's degree in pharmacy, pharmaceutical sciences, science or other related field at a level of honours H1, H2A or a master's degree in pharmacy, pharmaceutical sciences or other relevant field.

You need to have first-class honours (H1), or qualifications considered equivalent, to be considered for all the scholarships listed on the [scholarship eligibility page](#). The H1 standard at Monash is equivalent to an overall grade of 80 per cent or higher.

Master of Philosophy

Duration: 2-years full-time course.

Qualifications and experience equivalent to bachelor's degree in pharmacy, pharmaceutical sciences, science or other related field at a level of honours H1, H2A or upper H2B (a mark of 65 or above from a recognised tertiary institution).

HOW DO I APPLY?

For entry into the Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Science (Honours) in 2025, applicants must complete the following steps:

1. [Check your eligibility](#)
2. Find your [preferred project](#)
3. Complete and submit the application form via MyAPPs portal and the project application form. If you're a non-Monash student, you must also enclose your academic transcripts and supporting documents.

For students enrolled in the Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Science (Advanced Honours) program, applicants must complete the following steps:

1. Find your [preferred project](#)
2. Complete and submit the project application form.

WHEN DO APPLICATIONS OPEN AND CLOSE?

Honours applications for 2025 will open from August and will close on 6th December 2024.

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION?

For further information about our honours programs, available projects and application information, please visit: <https://www.monash.edu/pharm/future/courses/pharmaceutical-science-honours>

For more information, please contact
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