

DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS : HONOURS 2010

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Department of Genetics will offer both Honours and Masters programs in 2010. A major aim of these courses is for you to extend your knowledge of Genetics, to begin more professional training as a scientist and to assess your abilities and liking for research. For an outline of the general research interests of supervisors, have a look at the noticeboard in the ground floor foyer of the department and the department website <http://www.genetics.unimelb.edu.au/research/>.

THE HONOURS COURSE

The Honours course is a one-year undergraduate program providing the opportunity to undertake a research project conducted under the supervision of a member of staff and as well as Genetics-related course work components. The program begins in late February and continues until late November.

The Genetics Honours course consists of a total of 100-credit points with the following components: Research (62.5 points) and Coursework (32.5 points).

Research

The research project continues throughout the year and is assessed by the presentation of a written report at the end of the year. The report and discussion of your thesis is assessed by an assessing committee. The supervisor will also assess your research performance. The assessing committee will meet with you and your supervisor several times a year and provide valuable feedback.

Course work

The course work consists of an essay on the project background, lectures and lecture discussions on various aspects of advanced genetics together with written and oral presentations. Students are also expected to attend Departmental seminars

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

A Faculty Score (weighted average based on the best 87.5 points of science study at the 300-level) of 65 or above is a minimum requirement for admission into either the Honours course or the Masters program.

In addition, BSc students need to complete a major in Genetics (including 652-301 Evolutionary Genetics and Genomics, 652-302 Genes: Organisation and Function and 652-304 Genetic Analysis). B.Biomed.Sci students wishing to enter the Genetics Honours or Masters programs need to complete 652-214, 652-216 and at least 25 points of 300-level Genetics subjects. Exceptions to these requirements may be made in special circumstances particularly where relevant 300-level practical subjects have been completed. These exceptions require the approval of the Head of Department.

Please note that meeting the above minimum requirements is not a guarantee of admission. It is not possible to predict the standard required in any given year as this depends on the number and standard of applicants.

Entry into the Honours program will depend on the availability of an appropriate supervisor. Therefore, students are advised to provide some flexibility in their project choice. A wide range of projects are offered by research laboratories in the Department to provide opportunities for students to choose according to their interests. Generally, more projects are presented than there are positions available.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Information on the application and selection processes for Honours is provided below and further details on the research projects offered in the Department will be available on the Department web-page (<http://www.genetics.unimelb.edu.au>)

Application forms for Honours in Genetics will be available from the Department web site (<http://www.genetics.unimelb.edu.au>). These forms are to be submitted to the first floor main office in the Department of Genetics together with the Faculty of Science application form

(<http://www.ssc.science.unimelb.edu.au/career/further/honours/application>)

October

Project outlines will be posted on noticeboards in the Department of Genetics and on the Department web site (<http://www.genetics.unimelb.edu.au>) in the first part of October. These outlines will be brief and general and it is **essential** that students consult the supervisors involved for more details. Some projects may be available as MSc projects only.

October - November

Students consult with the supervisor(s) associated with each research area/project in which they are interested. It is essential that you discuss projects with potential supervisors. Supervisors will not offer projects to students that they have not meet. If a supervisor is not available at the time, make an appointment leaving your name, contact telephone number and email address where appropriate.

In deciding to apply for particular projects, students should consider their interests, the general nature of the project and their potential supervisor. **It is important to note that the project you undertake does not commit you to a particular career path in science.** It is how well you tackle the scientific questions, not the particular nature of the problems themselves, which is important.

December

Our intention is to make offers in early December (the actual date may vary according to Science Faculty advice). Everyone who applies and fulfills the academic requirements

will be contacted as to the outcome of their application.

In filling out the application forms it is important to:

- List as many preferences as you wish and a number of different supervisors since individual supervisors will vary with respect to numbers of students they can take in a particular year. Do not include a project if you have not shown sufficient interest to consult with the supervisor about that project.
- Provide contact telephone number(s) and/or an email address which you check regularly for the first two weeks of December.

If you have further questions, please contact Prof. Jim Camakaris, Honours Coordinator (j.camakaris@unimelb.edu.au). Remember to check the Department web site frequently for new information.