

Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours)

COURSE
HANDBOOK
2026

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Creating Thriving Minds for an Evolving World

A Message From Professor Tony Paolini, President and CEO

As you set out on this exciting journey into the world of psychology, we'd be genuinely thrilled to welcome you into our community of passionate learners and educators.

With purpose-built facilities and access to state-of-the-art technology, we're committed to creating a student experience that's accessible, engaging, and always evolving. All our psychology courses are APAC-accredited; a reflection of our focus on quality, integrity, and maintaining strong professional standards.

If you choose to take this next step with us, know that you won't be doing it alone. Our dedicated team is here to support you every step of the way, and we're excited about the possibilities that lie ahead for you at ISN Psychology. We can't wait to see how you grow, explore, and thrive.

We also wish to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which ISN operates, the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

Why Choose ISN Psychology?

We're a TEQSA-approved Institute of Higher Education, dedicated to supporting thriving minds in a rapidly changing world. At ISN, we're committed to advancing the field of psychology through comprehensive education, innovative research, and an academic experience that genuinely supports the diverse needs of our students.

You'll have the flexibility to choose how you study, with face-to-face on-campus classes as well as a dynamic blend of pre-recorded and live-online learning options.

We also know that meaningful learning happens beyond the classroom. Through our clinical training facilities and broader psychology network, students gain valuable hands-on experience and placement opportunities that build real-world skills and confidence.

Our teaching and supervision team brings together experienced clinicians and researchers with backgrounds in both public and private practice. Many of our educators have also held leadership roles in academic and professional settings. Together, they offer a rich mix of expertise, insight, and support to help guide you throughout your studies and beyond.



COMPREHENSIVE AND FLEXIBLE

We use the latest technology and offer extensive facilities to support a well-rounded and engaging learning experience. You can begin your studies in either Semester One or Semester Two, with the option of choosing between full-time and part-time study.



EXCEPTIONAL CLINICAL FACILITIES

Learn from peers of unmatched skill and expertise. We boast a broad psychology network as well as ISN affiliated clinical facilities that provide onsite skill-based practical training.



APAC ACCREDITATION

Discover, grow, and succeed in your career. Our courses are approved by APAC, ready to guide you on your journey to becoming an accredited psychologist in Australia.

Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours)

Throughout the Honours year, students deepen their understanding of key psychological frameworks, with a strong focus on research methods and professional skill development.

Graduates are well-prepared for a variety of roles across research, government, not-for-profits, human resource management, and market research.

An accredited Honours degree in psychology also opens the door to further study. ISN Psychology offers both a two-year clinical Master's program and a one-year professional Master's pathway. These options are available to current students, alumni, and future applicants.

There's plenty of potential ahead, and we're here to help you make the most of it.

Entry Requirements: (Please see our website Policies for detailed information about entry requirements and expectations. In summary:)

- Applications are open to domestic students who are Australian citizens or hold Permanent Residency. ISN is not currently accepting applications from international students.
- You'll need to have successfully completed an APAC-accredited three-year psychology sequence or hold an overseas qualification that the Australian Psychological Society recognises as equivalent. There is no minimum WAM entry requirement into the Honours program."
- If your previous qualification wasn't completed in English, you'll need to meet English language proficiency standards for entry into an AQF Level 8 qualification. This is equivalent to an overall IELTS score of 6.5, with no individual band lower than 6.0.
- Please keep in mind that places in the program may be subject to quotas. Meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission.

Career pathways

Our Honours year is an APAC accredited fourth year (Pre-Professional Competencies) qualification that provides the basis for admission into the postgraduate professional psychology qualification pathways to registration as a psychologist, including the 5+1 pathway (Level 3) and Masters / Doctorate programs (packaged Level 3 and 4 courses).

APS Membership

Successful completion of this Honours program allows for application of an associate membership with the Australian Psychological Society (APS).

Tuition and Course Structure

The Honours year is offered as a one-year full-time program, or part-time equivalent. The full-time sequence is structured across two full-time semesters, each running for 12 weeks. The course includes six units, with two dedicated to completing a research project or thesis, all designed to reflect current best practice in the field.

Students have the flexibility to choose how they attend live, synchronous classes. You can join either in person at our Ivanhoe campus or live-online in real time from your own home, depending on what suits your schedule best.

Tuition fees are payable upfront or through FEE HELP for eligible students. For more information about tuition fees please visit our website, isn.edu.au or contact us on (03) 9008 1600.

Full Time One Year

Semester 1

	Unit Name	Credit Points	Tuition Fees
ISN401	Life Span Development and Psychopathology*	12.5	\$3,780
ISN402	Psychological Assessment	12.5	\$3,780
ISN403	Research Methods	12.5	\$3,780
ISN404	Research Thesis 1	12.5	\$3,780

Semester 2

	Unit Name	Credit Points	Tuition Fees
ISN411	Contemporary Professional Psychology*	12.5	\$3,780
ISN412	Research Thesis 2	37.5	\$11,340

**100.0 Course Total AUD:
\$30,240**

*These units are only available once per year. Students beginning their studies at the mid-year intake will take these two units in reverse order.

NOTE: All tuition fees are subject to annual CPI increases. Year on year fee increases will be indicated on this website each year prior to the start of the year in line with year on year Educational Consumer Price Index rises.

Recommended Part Time Sequence (2 years)

Year 1

	Semester 1	Semester 2	
ISN402	Psychological Assessment	ISN411	Contemporary Professional Psychology*
ISN403	Research Methods	ISN404	Research Thesis 1

Year 2

	Semester 1	
ISN401	Life Span Development and Psychopathology*	
ISN412	Research Thesis 2	

*These units are only available once per year. Students beginning their studies at the mid-year intake will take these two units in reverse order.

Units

Each of the units of study are detailed below. Students should also refer to the relevant Unit Outlines located on Canvas. Unit Descriptions and Assessments are subject to change.



ISN401

Lifespan Development and Psychopathology

Unit Description

Lifespan Development and Psychopathology offers a systematic developmental overview and analysis of the major theories relating to various psychopathologies across the lifespan. Along with an increased understanding of psychopathologies, students will learn the key concepts, strengths and limitations of influential developmental theories as applied within psychopathological settings.

Unit Assessments

- Weekly engagement tasks, including participation in learning activities.
- Written assignment based on a case study scenario.
- Formal examination covering core unit content.

ISN402

Psychological Assessment

Unit Description

Psychological Assessment is an advanced assessment unit where students learn the major steps in psychological assessment including: context, interview, behavioural observation, formal testing, interpretation and creating a psychological report. Students will be introduced to the various types of assessment tools and become familiar with the general content domains of each type, and work through the parameters associated with test development and evaluation. Students must develop a general test of human performance, collect data and complete psychometric analysis on the results.

Unit Assessments

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- Weekly engagement tasks, including participation in learning activities.
- Written assignment based on a case study scenario.
- Formal examination covering core unit content.

ISN403

Research Methods

Unit Description

Research Methods focuses on advanced research methods in the discipline of psychological science. By the end of this unit, students will have demonstrated the ability to use established data sets to complete various analyses and produce written reports following the conventions of psychological science. Critical decision making and understanding the issues within research design and statistics is required to ensure completion of appropriate analyses.

Unit Assessments

- Regular online tasks, such as quizzes or data analysis activities. Written assignment based on a case study scenario.
- Written assignment involving data analysis and interpretation.
- Formal examination covering core unit content.

ISN404

Research Thesis

Unit Description

In conjunction with a thesis supervisor, students in Research Thesis 1 will develop a research question and embed this research question within the current literature, develop testable hypotheses and/or propose an appropriate methodology. Students will develop adequate statistical or alternative justification for analysing the data/information used in their project, describe possible ethical issues associated with psychological research and determine which ones apply to their thesis and how they will satisfy ethical requirements. Students must complete appropriate documentation for ethics and, when necessary, achieve ethical clearance of proposed research. Students will practice effective verbal and written communication of concepts and research in psychology.

Students are also expected to attend workshops which provide information on how to write a good Honours thesis and seminars about research topics in psychology by leaders in the field.

Note: You will attend workshops and research seminars during the semester and meet regularly with your research supervisor. Your supervisor will help you develop your research question and project.

Unit Assessments:

- *Weekly engagement tasks, including workshops and seminar participation.*
- *Written assignment addressing ethical or methodological aspects of a research plan.*
- *Oral presentation of proposed research.*
- *Written research proposal.*

ISN411

Contemporary Professional Psychology Thesis 2

Unit Description

Contemporary Professional Psychology presents the issues and role of professional psychologists in contemporary Australia. This unit describes the role of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), professional frameworks and decision-making, professional competence, role of the regulatory board and the need for continuing professional development. Students will study theories associated with interviewing and basic counseling of diverse populations. Furthermore, students will develop and demonstrate their basic interviewing and counseling skills by presenting a videotaped session with a critical written analysis.

Unit Assessments:

- Weekly engagement tasks, including participation in tutorials.
- Applied counselling assignment with practical and reflective components.
- Formal examination covering core unit content.

ISN412

Research Thesis 2

Unit Description

Continuing from Research Thesis 1, in Research Thesis 2 students will prepare and complete a research thesis (up to 8,000 words). Students will write an introduction that critically analyses the current research literature and justifies their study and hypotheses. Students will complete a methods section that clearly allows for replication of the research they undertake. Students will collect and analyse information within the context of the psychological research project and report the outcomes in the results section of the research thesis.

They will complete an extensive discussion of research findings, a critical comparison with past literature, a critical analysis of the strengths and limitations of this research and provide suggestions for future research and potential applications for the findings. Students are also expected to attend workshops which provide information on how to write a good Honours thesis and seminars about research topics in psychology by leaders in the field.

Note: In addition to workshops and seminars held throughout the semester, you will also meet regularly with your research supervisor.

Unit Assessments:

- *Weekly engagement tasks, including workshops and seminar participation.*
- *Written thesis.*



ISN Psychology

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