





SBMS Honours and Postgrad Information Session  
Monday 24 August, 2026

# Program for today (12.30 to 2pm)

12.30 pm - Welcome from Head of SBMS (Prof Michael Piper)

12.25 pm - Introduction to the Honours programme (Prof Jo Bowles)

12.50 pm - Pathways to PhD (A/Prof Richard Clark)

1.00 pm - Panel Discussion (Sarah, Hugo, Sahana, Yash, Brandon)

1.20 pm - Research posters and networking





# Acknowledgment of Country

The University of Queensland (UQ) acknowledges the Traditional Owners and their custodianship of the lands on which we meet.

We pay our respects to their Ancestors and their descendants, who continue cultural and spiritual connections to Country.

We recognise their valuable contributions to Australian and global society.



## Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion

Diverse perspectives, abilities, experiences and backgrounds inspire creativity, encourage innovation and enrich our communities.

Members of our broad community are valued and respected for their individuality. UQ strives to create a culturally safe, welcoming and inclusive workplace, with strong community connections and partnerships.





# Why would I study Honours at all?

- Find out what research is about and how knowledge is generated
- Experience full-time 'work' whilst applying knowledge learned during your degree
- Develop your capabilities in:
  - Critical thinking
  - Self-management and independence
  - Teamwork
  - Effective Communication – written and oral
  - Innovation – develop your own ideas
  - Technical skills – e.g. analysing data
  - Ethics
  - Many other transferable skills
- Become part of a cohort of junior researchers
- Challenge yourself!

UQ is a research-intensive university – don't miss the opportunity!



# Why would I study Honours at SBMS?

- SBMS is #1 in Queensland for life sciences and medicine\*
- SBMS is #33 in the world for life sciences and medicine\*
  - ~ 36 research groups
  - >100 PhD students
  - ~100 Honours students per year
  - 20-40 SCIE students per year

## *External opportunities:*

IMB, QBI, Frazer, Mater, QIMRB, PAH, RBWH, PCH, etc.

(an SBMS-based co-supervisor may be needed)

\*(QS World University Rankings 2026)



# Where will an Honours degree take me?

Students will develop strong **quantitative, problem-solving and research skills** that will enable them to:

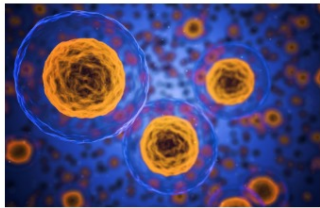
- Work without close supervision in a research environment (public or private sectors)
- Work in industry (pharmaceutical or diagnostic development/ manufacturing/ consultancy)
- Work in medical/clinical sciences (e.g. pathology, diagnosis, IVF)
- Proceed to a research higher degree (e.g. PhD)
- Gain entry into postgraduate courses (e.g. medicine, Masters in allied health fields, dentistry)
- Patent law, journalism, governance, policy, public health (help turn discoveries into practice)
- Teaching (secondary, tertiary, postgrad, professional)



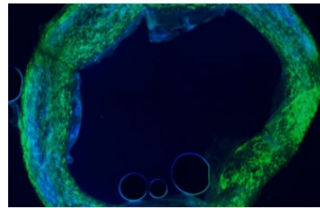


# What could I be working on?

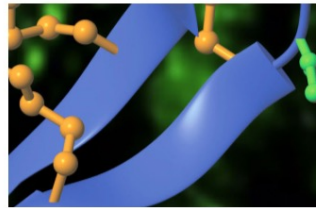
<https://biomedical-sciences.uq.edu.au/research/themes>



Cell architecture



Chronic diseases: cancer,  
cardiovascular disease,  
diabetes, neurodegeneration



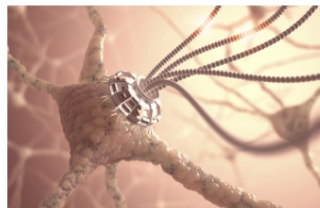
Drug design and development



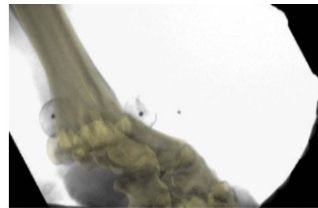
Musculoskeletal and motor  
control



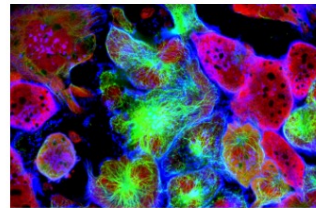
Neurobiology and brain  
function



Receptors and signalling



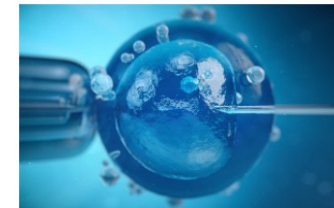
Functional and comparative  
anatomy



Injury and repair



Innovation in biomedical  
education



Reproduction

# Honours in SBMS

SBMS = School of Biomedical Sciences

HMBS = Faculty of Health, Medicine  
and Behavioural Sciences

BBiomedSc (Hons)  
BSc (Hons)  
BAdvSci (Hons)



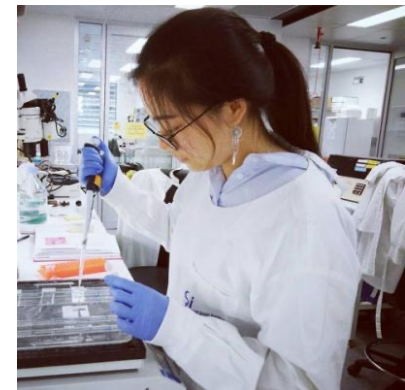
## Three courses are required to complete Honours in SBMS

### **BIOM6070** – ‘Biomedical Science Research Preparative Skills’ (2 units)

(Workshop style, intensive - written and oral communication, experimental design, critical analysis, Ethics, AI, many skills and resources useful for Hons and beyond)

### **BIOM6080** – ‘Biomedical Science Research Techniques’ (2 units)

(Workshop style, intensive – focus on research techniques, biostatistics, hypothesis testing etc)



### **BIOM6100/6200** – ‘Honours Research Project’ (12 units) – from Week 6 of your first semester

#### **Major independent research project**

Likely fields - anatomy, human genetics, immunology, infectious diseases, pharmacology, physiology or ‘biomedical science’ (which includes developmental biology and cell biology)



## **BIOM6070 (2 units)**

Coordinator – Dr Kelly Walton



Lecturer – Prof Jo Bowles



Head Tutor – Dr Fiona Cheung



## **BIOM6080 (2 units)**

Coordinators – A/P Seb Furness and Dr David Simmons



## **BIOM6200 (12 units)**

Coordinators – Prof Jo Bowles and Dr Cassy Spiller



# How do we determine the grade for the Honours year?

- Same assessment for BSc Hons, BBiomedSc Hons and BAdvSc Hons
- Weighted average of the first attempt of the three courses.
- GPA for the year is calculated as per [UQ policy](#)

Your GPA is calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{GPA} = \frac{\sum (GP)}{\sum P}$$

Where:

G = the grade in a course

P = the unit value of that course

Σ = the sum of

If you are enrolled in a course but get no grade, G = 0.

Example:

Your grades are 4, 5, 5, and 7 for courses with unit values of 2, 2, 1, and 1 respectively.

This means your GPA is:

$$\frac{(4 \times 2) + (5 \times 2) + (5 \times 1) + (7 \times 1)}{2 + 2 + 1 + 1}$$

$$30 \div 6$$

$$\text{GPA} = 5.0$$

| GPA          | Class of Honours |
|--------------|------------------|
| 6.2 – 7.0    | Class I          |
| 5.65 – 6.199 | Class IIA        |
| 5.0 – 5.649  | Class IIB        |
| 4.0 – 4.999  | Class IIIA       |
| <4.0         | Class IIIB       |

# Summary of Assessment for BIOM6100/6200

- Proposal (written, 10%)
- Research Report (written, 55%)
- Research Outcomes Presentation (oral, 25%)
- Supervisors' assessment (10%)

Placed within a lab or labs (together with other students, research assistants, postdocs etc) – essentially 'work'.





# Your first Semester

| Week              | Subject              | Key Tasks                                                                        |
|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1                 | BIOM6070<br>BIOM6080 | Turn up, <b>diary</b><br>Turn up                                                 |
| 2                 | BIOM6070<br>BIOM6080 | Turn up, <b>diary</b><br>Turn up, <b>quiz</b>                                    |
| 3                 | BIOM6070<br>BIOM6080 | Turn up, <b>diary</b><br>Turn up, <b>quiz</b>                                    |
| 4                 | BIOM6070<br>BIOM6080 | Turn up, <b>diary, test</b><br>Turn up, <b>quiz</b>                              |
| 5                 | BIOM6070<br>BIOM6080 | Turn up, <b>diary,</b><br><b>Major poster assessment</b><br>Turn up, <b>quiz</b> |
| 6                 | BIOM6200             | START RESEARCH!                                                                  |
| 7                 | BIOM6080<br>BIOM6200 | <b>Assignment due</b><br>RESEARCH                                                |
| 8                 | BIOM6200             | RESEARCH                                                                         |
| 9                 | BIOM6200             | RESEARCH<br><b>PROPOSAL DUE (10%)</b>                                            |
| 10                | BIOM6200             | RESEARCH                                                                         |
| 11                | BIOM6200             | RESEARCH                                                                         |
| 12                | BIOM6200             | RESEARCH                                                                         |
| 13                | BIOM6200<br>BIOM6070 | RESEARCH<br><b>Seminar Reflection Report</b>                                     |
| Between Semesters | BIOM6200             | RESEARCH, mostly                                                                 |

# Your second semester

| Week         | Subject  | Key Tasks                                                                          |
|--------------|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1            | BIOM6200 | RESEARCH<br><b>Research Progress Meeting (formative)</b>                           |
| 2            | BIOM6200 | RESEARCH                                                                           |
| 3            | BIOM6200 | RESEARCH                                                                           |
| 4            | BIOM6200 | RESEARCH                                                                           |
| 5            | BIOM6200 | RESEARCH                                                                           |
| 6            | BIOM6200 | RESEARCH                                                                           |
| 7            | BIOM6200 | RESEARCH                                                                           |
| 8            | BIOM6200 | RESEARCH                                                                           |
| 9            | BIOM6200 | RESEARCH                                                                           |
| 10           | BIOM6200 | RESEARCH                                                                           |
| 11           | BIOM6200 | RESEARCH<br><b>DRAFT REPORT DUE (formative)</b>                                    |
| 12           | BIOM6200 | Finalise Research Report with much earnestness!                                    |
| 13           | BIOM6200 | <b>RESEARCH REPORT DUE (55%)</b>                                                   |
| Swot vac     | BIOM6200 | Prep for seminar                                                                   |
| Exam Wk1     | BIOM6200 | <b>RESEARCH OUTCOMES SEMINAR (25%)</b><br><b>Supervisor(s) submit REPORT (10%)</b> |
| <b>DONE!</b> |          |                                                                                    |

# Where do I start??

## Decide what broad research field you are interested in

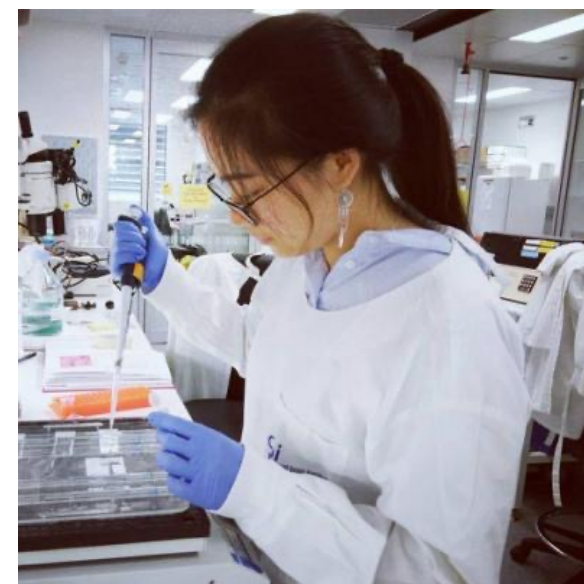
- Also consider what techniques/skills you would like to learn

## Find a supervisor in that field

- Are they actively publishing?
- Do they have other students/staff?
- What are the resources and/or support available for your project?

## Contact your potential supervisor

- Don't send a generic email
- Show some familiarity with the supervisor's work
- Tell them why you want to do an Honours project in their lab
- Contact them early!!
- Meet them in person – will they be supervising you day-to-day or will that be a RHD student or post-doc?



# Would I even enjoy research??

## Summer and Winter Research Program

- Co-ordinated by Student Enrichment and Employability Development (SEED)
- Paid research experience (\$3000 for 6 weeks in summer, \$2000 for 4 weeks in winter)
- Full time research – no assessments
- Competitive scholarships
- Only advertised projects are eligible
- For more information and application deadlines:

<https://employability.uq.edu.au/summer-winter-research>

## Kay Campbell Scholarship

Specifically for students that have completed SCIE3220.

Follows Summer/Winter Research Program Timeline

(\$4500 for 6 weeks in summer, \$3000 for 4 weeks in winter)

<https://scholarships.uq.edu.au/scholarship/kay-campbell-scholarship>



# Questions about Honours

SBMS Honours convenor:

Prof Jo Bowles – [jo.bowles@uq.edu.au](mailto:jo.bowles@uq.edu.au)

## How to apply for Honours

<https://biomedical-sciences.uq.edu.au/study/honours>

For Sem 1 start – apply by Jan 31<sup>st</sup>

For Sem 2 start – apply by June 30th

## Consider online information

<https://biomedical-sciences.uq.edu.au/study/honours>

*Upcoming Changes in prerequisites.*

*From 2027 a GPA average of at least 4.5 will be required (from first attempt for 8 units of courses at level 3 or higher, relevant to the Honours project topic, with maximum of 2U from research projects).*





THE UNIVERSITY  
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AUSTRALIA

CREATE CHANGE

Some of our first graduates of the new Honours programme, July 2026



# Study your HDR in Biomedical Sciences at UQ

UQ's School of Biomedical Sciences  
PhD information session

**Richard Clark**

Acting Director Higher Degree Research Training (SBMS)

Group Leader, Peptide Chemical Biology Lab

School of Biomedical Sciences | Faculty of Health, Medicine, and Behavioural Sciences

The University of Queensland

E [richard.clark@uq.edu.au](mailto:richard.clark@uq.edu.au)

# UQ PhD Program

## Higher degrees by research (HDR) at UQ

Study a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Master of Philosophy (MPhil) or professional doctorate at UQ, one of the world's leading research universities.



- A Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) is an internationally recognised graduate research program that will enable you to become an independent researcher.
- With guidance of an advisory team, you'll undertake a research project, produce a thesis and complete an oral examination.
- A PhD takes 3-4 years full-time. Under guidance, you'll develop advanced research skills and knowledge in your chosen field.
- About 1,000 PhD candidates join UQ each year researching a wide range of topics.



# UQ PhD Program highlights

- UQ is one of Australia's top research-intensive universities. Our research makes an impact on the world's cultural, environmental, economic and social challenges.
- Be inspired and challenged to explore new ideas and develop greater understanding of complex questions with leading researchers.
- Access premier resources including one of Australia's largest libraries, with more than 2 million physical resources and 116,800+ journal subscriptions.
- Foster and improve your skills through the Career Development Framework, created with industry.
- Learn from researchers whose work addresses national and global cultural, environmental, economic and social challenges.



35 in the world

CWTS Leiden Ranking 2023



51 in the world

Academic Ranking of World Universities 2023

# Before you apply

## Academic entry requirements

You have to prove you are prepared for PhD study.  
You do this by showing you:

- have completed some research experience
- have completed an approved university degree and
- can meet the English language requirements.

Many departments will have additional entry requirements and may request documents to support your application, such as a research proposal.  
You should discuss these additional requirements with your potential thesis supervisor.

### English language requirements

There are a few ways you can meet our English language requirements. If you sit a test, the following scores are needed for PhD admission:

| Test                          | Minimum overall score | Minimum additional scores                           |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| IELTS (clinical projects)     | 7.0                   | 7.0 in every sub-band                               |
| IELTS (all other disciplines) | 6.5                   | 6.0 in every sub-band                               |
| TOEFL (paper-based)           | 570                   | 5.0 in TWE (written), and 54 in reading & listening |
| TOEFL (internet-based)        | 87                    | 21 in written, 19 in reading, listening & speaking  |

<https://study.uq.edu.au/study-options/programs/doctor-philosophy-7501#entry-requirements>

# Before you apply

## Find a supervisor or project

- A supervisor in your field who will support your proposed project.
- A project you can join that suits your interests.
- You'll need a supervision agreement before you apply – include details of your supervisor/s in your application.

## Scholarships and fees

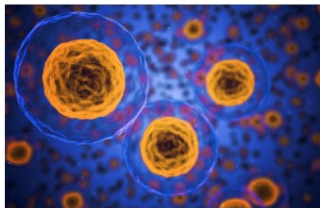
- See what scholarships are available, what they offer (fees and/or living stipend), eligibility requirements and how to apply.
- If you're successful for a UQ stipend scholarship you'll also receive a tuition fee scholarship.

## Visa requirements

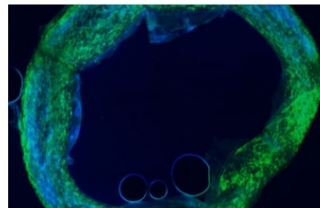
- You should be aware of your visa requirements before you apply.
- Visit your preferred program to understand specific requirements

# Finding your supervisor - SBMS research themes

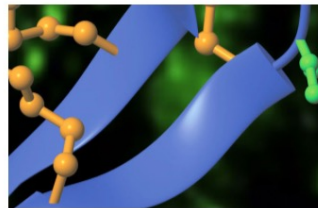
## *Diversity across the breadth of biomedical sciences*



Cell architecture



Chronic diseases: cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, neurodegeneration



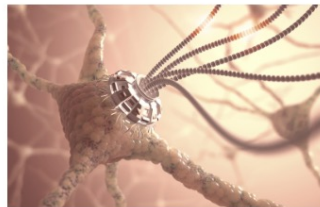
Drug design and development



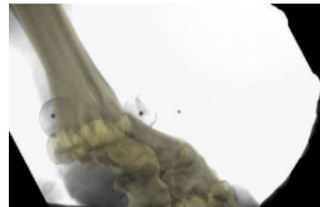
Musculoskeletal and motor control



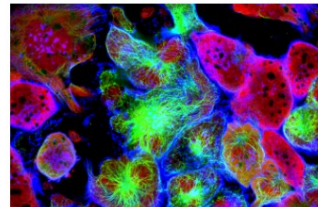
Neurobiology and brain function



Receptors and signalling



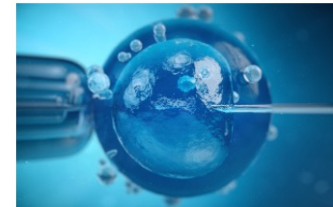
Functional and comparative anatomy



Injury and repair



Innovation in biomedical education



Reproduction

Have a look at our theme videos...

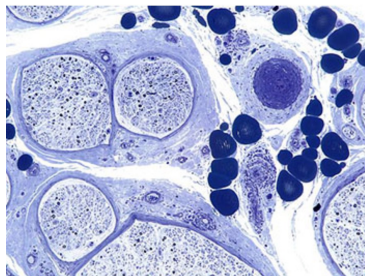
<https://biomedical-sciences.uq.edu.au/research-videos>



# SBMS research facilities

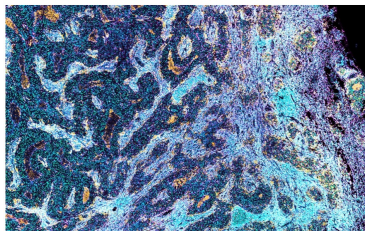
*Our innovative research encompasses basic discovery through translational pathways to medical solutions*

## Histology Facility



specialised microscopy systems for tissue preparation, slide production, and histo-chemical staining

## Microscopy and Image Analysis Facility



fully serviced light microscopy and image analysis core facility

## Integrated Physiology Facility



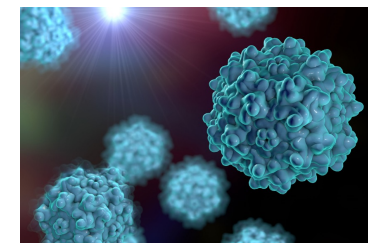
resources to establish in depth phenotyping of small animal models

## Analytical Facility



fully serviced Bio-Analytical Core facility that contains a wide range of instruments to analyse DNA, RNA, protein, cells and tissues

## Viral Vector Core Facility



design, production and purification of viral vectors for transgene delivery

# Some other tidbits

## **SASS**

- SBMS student association leads multiple events throughout the year – a great way to get involved and meet other students

## **Annual Postgrad Retreat or Research symposium**

- In alternating years we host either a retreat at an exciting location for networking and professional development opportunities or a HDP symposium to showcase the work of our wonderful students.

## **Faculty of Medicine Researcher Development Award**

- up to \$4000 for research and professional development (eg: conference, skills development in other labs)

# Questions ?

# Meet some current students



**Sarah Wilkey** is a 3<sup>rd</sup> year PhD student in Dr Sherry Wu's lab at SBMS. Her project focuses on developing strategies to improve immunotherapy for ovarian cancer.



**Sahana Deshpande** just completed Honours at the TEVOGOG lab, Frazer Institute. Her title was "Multi-omics signatures reveal mechanisms of chemoresistance and facilitate novel neoantigen target discover in ovarian cancer" and she has just started her PhD.



**Brandon Keel** is a current Honours student in the Suarez lab at SBMS. His provisional title is "Parcellating primary sensory regions of the fat-tailed dunnart cortex using tract-tracing and diffusion MRI tractography".



**Hugo Herron-Vellacott** is a 3<sup>rd</sup> year PhD student in Dr Kelly Walton's lab at SBMS. He aims to understand how major alterations to muscle mass change reproductive function.



**Yash Damania** has just completed Honours with Dr Nicholas Ariotti at IMB. His title was "The Endocytic Sorting of Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor". He will start a PhD in early 2027.



## Posters (labs represented)

**Piper** (neural stem cells in development/disease)

**Kaminskas** (targeted drug delivery)

**Coakley** (cellular mechanisms of neuroprotection)

**Wu** (cancer therapeutics)

**Teasdale** (protein trafficking in disease)

**Bowles** (developmental reproductive biology)

**Spiller** (reproductive cancer, endocrine disruptors)

**Suarez** (brain evolution and development)

**Woodruff/Balmaceda** (neuroinflammation)

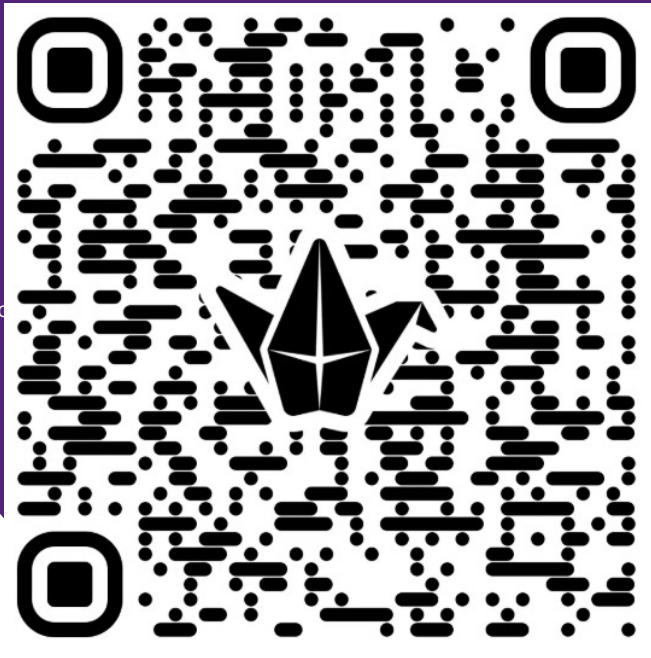
**Midwinter** (applied clinical anatomy)



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Thank you for coming along!  
Please join us for the mixer



Your input is valuable!

Please provide your feedback about  
this event!