The Hitchhiker's Guide to the PhB

2026

Bachelor of Philosophy (Honours) in Science

Australian National University

ANU College of Science and Medicine

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Welcome

Welcome to the PhB Science program! We are delighted that you decided to join this research-intensive Science degree at the ANU. We hope that you will be challenged by interesting intellectual problems throughout your degree, that you enjoy being part of one of the world's top research institutions and that you make many long lasting personal connections to other students, to your teachers and mentors.

The PhB is a special degree in many regards. First to the name: Why do we call it the PhB? The name, Bachelor of Philosophy, was chosen because the word Philosophy means 'a liking of wisdom'. The PhB should give you the training and flexibility to follow your passion to explore areas of science that interest you most. The PhB also refers to the similarity to the PhD (Doctor of Philosophy), to which the PhB would naturally lead. While you certainly don't need to do a PhD following your PhB, your research-intensive training will prepare you very well for this pathway.

What distinguishes the PhB from other degrees is firstly that it incorporates research projects throughout your degree (these are called **Advanced Studies Courses or ASCs**). Joining a research group and being part of cutting edge research is certainly what students have enjoyed most about this degree. It will prepare you well for your Honours year and surprisingly often has led to publications in international journals, even from first year projects!

Secondly, you have much greater **flexibility in choosing your courses** of interest; you do not need to follow the course curriculum required for Majors and Minors in other degrees. With this flexibility comes the necessity to choose your courses wisely, so that you gain enough depth and skills in the area you are most interested in and are likely to do your Honours project in.

To make sure you get guidance for your course choices, you will be assigned an **academic mentor**. That is an academic in the area of your interest, who will help guide you with your course choices and ASCs, as well as your general intellectual wellbeing at the ANU. Please don't be frightened to talk to them, they have all volunteered to be PhB student mentors and would love to get to know you. They might be busy at times but happy to see you. You are expected to take the initiative to make appointments with them, at least once or twice a semester. More about mentors later in the guide.

Below you find a comparison of the PhB degree with the Bachelor of Science:

B Science	PhB Science
24 courses, which can include optional research projects	24 courses, of which at least six have to be research-related projects
Option to continue to the Honours year	Compulsory Honours year
No grade criteria	Need to maintain 75% average in science courses
Defined majors	Flexible degree structure; no majors or minors required
No mentor	Academic mentor for each student and optional student mentors
No special activities	Introductory activities, annual symposium, BBQs, student seminars and more

Contacts

Are there people to help you navigate the PhB universe? Of course there are: The Science Administraion Team handles all your administrative an enrollment questions. Please send any administrative enquiries to students.cos@anu.edu.auv that will be handled by the ANU College of Health & Medicine and ANU College of Science Student Administration team.

The PhB Convenor is Professor Ulrike Mathesius, she will help you with all general and academic problems. You can contact her by phone (6125 2840), or email (Ulrike.Mathesius@anu.edu.au or PhB.Science.Enquiries@anu.edu.au).

For all your discipline-related questions, there are PhB discipline coordinators who will help you with course choices, ASCs and career related questions; these are (current for 2022):

Astrophysics: Prof. Melissa Ness, Melissa.Ness@anu.edu.au, Ph: 6125 0217

Biology: A/Prof Aude Fahrer and Dr Christina Spry
Aude.Fahrer@anu.edu.au, Ph: 6125 4942
Christina.Spry@anu.edu.au, Ph: 6125 6229

Chemistry: Prof Thomas Huber, t.huber@anu.edu.au, Ph: 6125 9346

Computer Science: Dr Dylan Campbell, Dylan.Campbell@anu.edu.au, Ph: 6125 3981

Earth Sciences: Prof. Jochen Brocks, Jochen.Brocks@anu.edu.au, Ph: 6125 7946

Environment: Prof Saul Cunningham, Saul.Cunningham@anu.edu.au, Ph: 6125 4588

JCSMR (Neuroscience, Genetics, Cancer, Immunology): Assoc. Prof. Tanya Soboleva, Tanya.Soboleva@anu.edu.au, Ph: 6125 5349

Math: Prof Tony Licata Anthony.Licata@anu.edu.au, Ph: 6125 4575

Physics: Prof Yuri Kivshar a yuri.kivshar@anu.edu.au, Ph: 6125 3081

Psychology: Dr Mark Stevens mark.stevens@anu.edu.au, Ph: 6125 0788

Science Communication: Assoc. Prof. Brad Tucker, Brad.Tucker@anu.edu.au, Ph: 6125 6711

How we will communicate with you

We will communicate with you frequently via email or Canvas. **Please check your university email regularly (if possible daily) to make sure you don't miss an important email.** Canvas contains a lot of important information, including all the relevant forms, and important dates. Please familiarize yourself with the PhB Canvas site, you will also need to use this to submit your ASC reports and summary forms. Sometimes we will make announcements on Canvas, so please check the website regularly.

Degree Structure

- Note that the below requirements are current for students starting the PhB in 2026; if you started earlier the rules apply to the year in which you started.
- The PhB is a **four-year program** that is designed with flexibility in mind -each PhB program is as individual as the student taking it. You do not need to complete Majors or Minors.
- You need to complete **144 units** (one course is usually 6 units) of courses prior to undertaking Honours including:

- **a minimum 36 units of Advanced Studies:** Advanced Studies Courses (ASCs) and Advanced Studies Extensions (ASEs), of which at least 18 units must be ASCs, and at least one ASC must be SCNC3101.

- A maximum of 60 units can be from first year (1000-level) courses

- A minimum of 12 units of courses tagged as Transdisciplinary Problem-Solving (Please see Programs and Courses for the classification)

- At least 84 units of science courses

- At least 30 units of third year (3000 level) courses

- At least 36 units of second and third year courses relevant for your Honours discipline, completed with a weighted average mark of at least 70%, and satisfaction of any other requirements for admission to the relevant Honours discipline.

- A minimum of 6 units from the quantative reseach skills courses; BIAN3014, BIOL2001, BIOL2202, ENVS1003, ENVS2002, PSYC2009, PSYC3018 or any 1000, 2000 or 3000 level MATH or STAT course (MATH1042 is not included)

In the fourth or Honours year of a PhB, students undertake a research project for most of the year under the guidance of an academic supervisor (48 units). This Honours project is always in one of the Science disciplines and has to be carried out at ANU. Some Honours discipline include course work. The possible Honours disciplines include all science disciplines as well as Computer Science, Statistics and Biological Anthropology. If you are planning Honours in Psychology, please see the degree requirements on the PhB site on Programs and Courses.
Below is an example of how the PhB Science (Honours) can be structured. In the table below, all electives can be substituted by science courses, and ASCs and ASEs can be taken in any semester or session. An academic advice session will be held during Orientation Week for new students. From there, students can meet with an advisor (e.g. the PhB convenor, Discipline Coordinators or Academic Mentors) to formalise a study plan.

An example structure is shown below: Bachelor of Philosophy (Honours) - Science (you do not need to take the courses in this combination or order, ASCs and ASEs can be taken any semester/session).

Year	Semester	Courses (6 units each)			
1	1	Science Course +ASE	Science Course	Elective	Elective
	2	Science Course + ASE	Science Course	Elective	Elective
2	3	ASC 1	Science Course	Elective	Elective
	4	ASC 2	Science Course	Elective	Elective
3	5	ASC 3	Science Course	Science Course	Elective
	6	Science Course + ASE	Science Course	Science Course	Elective
4	7	Honours	Honours	Honours	Honours
	8	Honours	Honours	Honours	Honours

PhB flexible double degree

If you are enrolled in the PhB as a double degree, your degree structure changes in a number of ways. Please see the PhB convenor and/or a Science Subdean for advice. The major differences are:

Your degree will take 5 years instead of four (240 units).

You will still complete Honours, and Honours will be part of your PhB degree, not of the other degree. This means that your Honours prerequisites have to come from the courses you do as part of your PhB.

The requirements for the PhB (36 units of advanced studies , at least 1 quantitative course) need to be completed as part of the PhB. The two transdisciplinary courses can be part of either degree.

Instead of completing 144 units towards the coursework component of the PhB (before Honours) you only complete 96 units, plus 96 units towards your other degree. You will need to complete minors and majors for the other degree as appropriate for the degree you are enrolled in. Please see the degree builder on Progrms and Courses for more detail.

The progression requirement will apply towards the courses counting towards the PhB.

Progression Requirement

To remain enrolled in the PhB Science (Honours) degree, students must maintain an **average mark of 75 percent for science courses in each teaching period** (Summer/First Semester/ Autumn and Winter/Second Semester/Spring subsequent to the first year of study. Non-science courses will not count toward this average.

There are some courses taught by other ANU Colleges that will count as Science towards your degree (e.g. in statistics, computer science, engineering, economics, biological anthropology). A list can be found at: science.anu.edu.au/current-students/science-courses/other-courses

What happens if you cannot meet the progression requirement?

Your marks are evaluated by a University committee on two occasions each year (end of first and second semester).

If your marks for Science courses fall below the 75% requirement you will receive a warning email and are encouraged to speak to a Science Sub Dean about how you are going. If in another semester you fall below the 75% requirement you will be sent another email advising you to make an appointment with a Science Sub Dean to discuss your progress. First year is exempt from this,

Students who do not achieve the minimum 75% weighted average mark for Science courses may be transferred to the Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Science (Advanced) (Honours).

Please ensure you reach out to a Science Sub Dean or the PhB Convenor for any concerns.

Advanced Studies Projects

The PhB program requires completion of a minimum six Advanced Studies projects (36 units) taken as either an Advanced Studies Course (ASC) or an Advanced Studies Extension (ASE). Of the six projects required, at least three must be ASCs. You can do more than six projects if you wish.

If you do more than three ASCs you may find this means missing out on too many courses. This is why we have ASEs as a means to still do your necessary coursework, but add an additional research-related component to the course material.

We don't expect you to do an Advanced Studies project in the first semester of your first year; usually most students have enough to deal with settling into their course work and exploring areas of interest. However, from second semester first year onward, most students start to complete Advanced Studies projects. There is no set pattern for completion of ASE/ASCs, you can undertake these in whichever semester or session will work best for you, including summer, winter, spring and autumn sessions. ASCs can be done in any science discipline.

Advanced Studies Courses (ASCs)

An **ASC** is a stand-alone six unit course that involves an individually supervised project with a staff researcher or research team and constitutes about 120 to 150 hours of work. Assessment is typically a mixture of a report, assignments, an oral presentation and/or a lab book. Written assessment should be no less than 60% of the final mark and the oral presentation should be no more than 20% of the final mark. The final report and seminar are mandatory assessment items, but other assessments can be added. You must do at least three ASCs and can do more if you wish.

Arranging an ASC early (ideally at the end of the previous semester) ensures you have a project in place by the start of semester. You should read the information below about how to find a supervisor and follow the steps on the PhB Science Canvas site to complete your enrolment and gain approval for your project. Before you start your ASC, you must fill in an ASC Summary Form, available on the PhB Canvas site, where you specify your project and assessment items and submission dates together with your supervisor. Your supervisor also needs to specify a co-marker, who needs to be independent of the research group. However, in Physics and Biology, the reports will be co-marked anonymously, so don't specify a co-marker for these disciplines. You will need to submit this form on the Canvas site and get approval from the relevant Discipline Coordinator and PhB Convenor on Canvas by the indicated deadlines. Please do this as early as possible.

There are two course codes for ASCs, SCNC2101 and SCNC3101, both can be taken more than once. For SCNC3101, the following rules apply:

You must have successfully completed SCNC2101 at least once and 72 units towards a degree OR You must have successfully completed SCNC2101 at least three times OR You must have successfully completed 96 units.

More details about ASCs can also be found in the ASC Guidelines available of Canvas.

External ASCs

It is possible to arrange to do an ASC with a supervisor at an external institution. In the past, students have done ASCs with supervisors at the Canberra Hospital, CSIRO and other universities, for example. Your external supervisor should be prepared to mark your report and seminar. Your report (and sometimes your seminar) will also need to be co-marked by an ANU academic from the same discipline (we can help arrange this). To do an external ASC you need to enroll in an ASC at ANU as normal and fill in your ASC summary form for approval.

Non-standard session ASCs

You can enroll for ASCs during non-standard sessions (summer, autumn, winter and spring). To set up an ASC in a non-standard session you should follow the same process as for a regular ASC, making sure that you allow enough time to gain approval for the project prior to the census date and to commencing work on your project.

For ASCs in non-standard sessions, the final report and all other assessment items are due either before the start of the following semester or the last day of the session, whichever is earlier.

If your ASC due dates do overlap with the following semester, you will need to apply to overload your enrolment (if you are also intending to enroll in four courses for that semester). This means, for example, that summer and winter ASCs have to be submitted (report submitted on Canvas) before the first day of semester 1 or 2, respectively, following that session, even though the official session end date is later (usually 31st March and 30 September, respectively). The only way you can extend you ASC into the following semester is if you are only taking three (or less) courses in that semester, or if you have successfully applied for overload in the following semester.

Please note: If you are doing a summer ASC just before starting Honours, your ASC has to be finished and marked before the first day of enrollment for Honours (usually end of January). Please arrange your timetable accordingly and inform your supervisor before the beginning of the project about this.

How do I find a supervisor?

The best way to find an ASC Supervisor is to talk to lecturers that you know, to your mentors and discipline coordinators. You should also look at the ANU websites of each Research School to identify possible groups of interest.

Below is a step-by-step guide to finding a supervisor (modified from science.anu.edu.au/current-students/undergraduate-research/finding-undergraduate-research-supervisor)

Step 1.

Explore current research at ANU. You need to know what topics or projects interest you!

- Read through schools' websites: check the priority research areas and look for undergraduate/honours research opportunities on the potential projects page (see College Undergraduate Research Links or links to potential projects on the PhB Canvas site to help you get started).
- Network with lecturers, Honours/First Year Conveners, students, tutors, demonstrators, and friends. Ask for advice on who is doing work in your area of interest.
- You don't need to have any exact ideas of a project, the project topic will mostly come from your supervisor and fit with their current research activities.

Step 2.

Prepare to contact potential supervisors.

- Look at research groups' websites. Is it a big research group or a small one?
- Have a go at reading a few research papers from the group. To find the most recent papers, do an online search, as well as looking at the information and papers on the ANU website.
- Prepare a list of questions you have about the group and the research.

Step 3.

Contact a few (2-3) potential supervisors. Don't take it personally if s/he doesn't respond immediately, they might be busy.

- Use your ANU email
- Use an informative, brief subject line
- Use formal language (no emoticons, abbreviations, etc.)
- Address the potential supervisor as Dr. or Prof.
- Be direct. Introduce yourself and your reason for emailing. State if you are interested in an Honours or undergraduate-level project. If you are interested in a specific project or topic, explain why.
- If relevant, mention a paper you read and why it was interesting to you or a question you have.
- Ask to schedule a meeting and suggest several times that suit you.
- Consider attaching a statement of results to show what a great student you are.
- For more suggestions and examples, How to Email a Research Professor or Emailing Professors.

Step 4.

Meet with potential supervisors.

You may want to ask about the researcher's:

- Research interests
- Plans for the project you are interested in
- Preferred supervisory style (How often do they like to meet? Exactly how independent do they expect a student to be? Does this match with your preferences?)
- Expectations for an undergraduate researcher
- Experience working with undergraduates
- Meetings with their research students (lab meeting or research group meeting) and if you could attend one. (Going to a research group meeting can show you what the group's culture is like.)

The potential supervisor may ask you about your:

- Academic interests. (This is another opportunity to show that you read the researcher's website, as well as a few papers.)
- Preparation (how you did in relevant courses, any research experience, technical skills)
- Education and career goals

Step 5.

Once you decide on a project with a supervisor, if you have discussed projects with other supervisors, as a courtesy, please let the other potential supervisor know that you are working with another researcher.

ASC Extensions to final due date

Sometimes it is not possible to complete your ASC by the deadline. Sometimes a machine that you really need might not be working, or you or a family member have been sick or your supervisor was not available unexpectedly. If this is the case, your ASC supervisor ask for a (up to two weeks extension by emailing you, the relevant PhB Discipline Coordinator and phb.science.enquiries@anu.edu.au with the reasons and get their approval.

Wanting more time to write a better report, expected absences or not being organized are not acceptable reasons for extensions.

Should you require any further period of extension you must submit a request in writing to the PhB Convenor, phb.science.enquiries@anu.edu.au. The PhB Convenor will require written confirmation of support from your supervisor and copies of medical certificates or any other relevant supporting documentation.

It is your responsibility to apply for extension to your submission date; only applications made before the submission date will be considered unless documentation of extenuating circumstances is received.

Assessment items submitted after the due date without approval will be penalised by five per cent of the possible marks available for the assessment task per working day or part thereof. Assessment items will not be accepted after the tenth working day from the due date.

Dropping an ASC

You can drop an ASC, as any other course, by the census date. As a matter of etiquette, please speak with your ASC Instructor to let them know that you won't be continuing and also let us know by email to students.cos@anu.edu.au.

Advanced Studies Extensions (ASEs)

An **ASE** is an add-on to an existing course and constitutes approximately an additional 30 hours of work. The regular course mark counts for 75% of your final mark and the ASE component counts for 25%. Assessment is negotiated with your supervisor.

You can arrange an ASE through the course convenor of the course you are extending. Talk to the convenor at the start of the semester and tell them that you are a PhB student who wants to do an ASE in their course. Most courses will offer an ASE, but it is not guaranteed, so talk to your course convenor early to make sure an ASE is offered.

You should follow the steps on the PhB Science Canvas Site to gain approval for your project.

Please also check the ASE Guidelines available on Canvas.

Dropping an ASE

If you want to drop an ASE, you can do so **before the census date** by talking to your course convenor and your ASE instructor (if this is not the same person) to let them know that you won't be continuing and also let us know by email to students.cos@anu.edu.au.

An ASE can only be dropped **after the census date** if you encounter unavoidable and unexpected extenuating circumstances that impede your successful completion of the ASE where the circumstances occur or are exacerbated after the census date. If you need to drop an ASE after the census date, you will need to submit a written request to the PhB Convenor (phb.science.enquiries@anu.edu.au). This request should include a personal statement explaining the reason that you are requesting to drop the ASE and why you did not drop the ASE prior to the census date. You will need to provide copies of medical certificates (if applicable) and any other relevant supporting documentation.

Unless an ASE has been dropped (following the processes above), ASE marks will be factored into your final course score regardless of whether the adjustment will raise or lower the final mark.

Medical Pathway

The PhB degree can also lead you to the ANU Medical program. The ANU Medical School has reserved 10 places per year for PhB students to enter the Doctor of Medicine and Surgery (MChD). You need to graduate from the PhB and pass an interview from the Medical School. You will not have to sit the GAMSAT if you receive an offer from the Medical School as a PhB student.

If you are interested in following this pathway, you can apply to join in July in year three of your degree (or in the year before starting Honours if you are doing a double degree or extending your degree because of underloading). The interviews by the Medical School are typically conducted in September of the same year. You can only attempt the interview once. You do not need to do any medical science-related courses, including ASCs, during your degree to apply.

If more than ten students apply and pass the interview in any year, selection of the ten students with will be based on your GPA and interview score.

Academic Mentors

Students will be assigned an academic mentor at the beginning of their first year by the appropriate PhB discipline coordinator. Academic mentors will be the student's key intellectual anchor to the ANU and play a crucial role in ensuring that students gain maximum benefit from the opportunities provided by this flexible and challenging degree program. Mentors should use the benefit of their experience in science research to help PhB Students guide their career paths and PhB students will often undertake a research project at some time with their mentor.

PhB discipline coordinators and the PhB Convenor will still be there to offer initial orientation advice, manage general issues and provide support for academic mentors.

Responsibilities of Academic Mentors:

- Familiarise themselves with the PhB degree requirements.
- Be available to meet with the student as required. The frequency of the meetings is left up the individuals but twice per semester is probably the minimum required to meet the goals of the program. These meeting will enable the mentor to check regularly with students on progress, potential problems and possible opportunities. Mentors are encouraged to raise any concerns

with the appropriate PhB discipline coordinator or the PhB Convenor.

- Become familiar with the student's academic program especially Advanced Studies Courses (ASCs).
- It is also important to review each semester's achievement and to reflect on areas of strength and/or weakness. We are expecting very high levels of achievement within this program, and mentors play a key role in bringing out the best out in gifted students.
- Supervise the PhB student under their mentorship in an ASC if possible/appropriate.
- Assist the student in connecting with other academics to set up ASCs in the student's areas of interest.
- Log into the PhB Canvas site periodically to keep up to date on news and developments that may affect students.

Responsibilities of students:

- Make initial contact with their assigned mentor and arrange a time and place for a meeting.
- Meet with their mentor at least twice per semester. The onus is on the student to maintain the contact with the mentor.
- Ensure adequate time to see your mentor if required.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Who do I ask if I have a question about my program?**You can ask the PhB Convenor (Uli Mathesius; Ulrike.mathesius@anu.edu.au or PhB.Science.Enquiries@anu.edu.au), PhB Administrator Team (students.cos@anu.edu.au), your discipline coordinator, your academic mentor and/or your student mentor. We are all here to help you. We prefer you to ask questions early so we can help you before there is a problem. If in doubt, just email us.

2. **Who can I see if I want more help with personal or other problems?**
   The ANU has many avenues to help you with any personal or academic problems. It is normal for students to encounter problems when transitioning to university (or at any other stage), so try and see someone to talk about it early on.
   A list of resources to support your physical, social, spiritual and mental health to help you to maintain a healthy lifestyle during your studies at ANU can be found at: https://www.anu.edu.au/students/health-safety-wellbeing . The ANU Counselling service have very qualified members of staff to help you or to refer you to other professionals. Please see their website https://www. anu.edu.au/students/health-wellbeing/counselling and don't hesitate to make an appointment, it's free and confidential.
   You can also see you mentor, the PhB Convenor or the PhB discipline coordinators. We encourage you to come and talk about anything at all. It might feel hard to take the first step and talk about something, but it is usually the best way to find help.

3. **What if I want to take a semester off studies for any reason?**
   This is possible. There are different requirements for domestic and international students and you should refer to the information on the following pages:

   - International students: https://www.anu.edu.au/students/program-administration/program-management/program-leave-international-coursework-student
   - Domestic students: https://www.anu.edu.au/students/program-administration/program-management/program-leave-domestic-coursework-student

   We appreciate if you let us know that you intend to take leave and we will help you in any way we can.

4. **Can I overload?**
   You can overload under certain circumstances, but in general we don't recommend it. A full study load of four courses is usually plenty to keep you busy and you can always add an ASE to one of your courses if you need something more challenging. You will need to have completed at least 48 units before you can apply to overload. To overload you will complete an application for overload that will be sent to the PhB Convenor for approval.
   More information can be found at: https://www.anu.edu.au/students/program-administration/enrolment/overload-your-enrolment

5. **Can I underload?**
   Yes, this is possible, but for most scholarships you need to be enrolled with a full time load. If in doubt contact us and/or the scholarship office.
   International students will need to apply for a reduced study load. For more information see: https://www.anu.edu.au/students/program-administration/program-management/reducing-your-study-load-as-an-international

6. **Do I need to fulfill prerequisites for every course?**
   As a PhB student you are allowed to take a wider course choice than most other students. This means that you can't always take all the courses that are a prerequisite for later year courses. In general, we recommend that you plan your program in a way that allows you to take prerequisites, but you don't necessarily have to as a PhB student. If you want to enroll in a course for which you don't have the prerequisite, you need to talk to the convener of that course and get their permission to enroll. They would want to know that you have sufficient background in that area to ensure you won't be struggling with the course. Course conveners are not obliged to give you permission to enroll if they think you would have difficulties completing the course. Early planning is recommended! First year Chemistry is required for subsequent Chemistry courses, so if you are planning to include any Chemistry courses into your curriculum, please take CHEM1101 and 1201.

7. **Can I study overseas on exchange as part of the PhB?**

   Yes, you certainly can. Please see us early to make sure your exchange will be easy to incorporate into your study. You will need to apply following the process set by ANU Global Programs. For this, you will need to fill in a College Endorsement Form, which will need to be signed by the PhB Convenor.

   We recommend that you go on exchange in second year or in first semester of third year. If you go later (during your last semester before Honours), we might not get your transcript from exchange before you need to enroll in Honours. This can potentially be a problem for starting Honours on time.

   Once your exchange has been approved by ANU Global Programs and you know which university you will be going to, please come and see the PhB Convenor to discuss your course choices to make sure your courses fit well with your past and future courses at the ANU, including any requirements for Honours. It would also be a good idea to get some advice on exchange from your academic mentor or discipline coordinator.

   Whilst the results of your exchange courses are not added to your cumulative ANU GPA or considered toward satisfaction the PhB grade average requirements, the results may be used in other decision making processes, such as admission to future studies, award nominations or to satisfy scholarship requirements (ie. Honours admission/scholarships, University Medal, Medical School admission or other postgraduate study). It's important that you do your best!

8. **Can I choose to transfer out of the PhB program?**

   Yes, this is possible. Sometimes, students find that their interests change and this is not a problem at all. You will need to apply for transfer through ISIS and deadlines apply. You may only submit one degree transfer application per deadline. Don't hesitate to see the PhB convenor or administration team for help.

   For more information please see: https://www.anu.edu.au/students/program-administration/program-management/transferring-between-degrees

   If you transfer to a Bachelor of Science or a Bachelor of Science (Advanced) (Honours), these degrees require at least one major and one minor (or specialisation), which you do not need for the PhB. If you have taken enough units for a major, minor or specialisation anyway, this can be counted. If you do not have enough units for a major or minor and you are at the end of third year, you can get a major in Interdisciplinary Studies.

9. **Can I apply for a summer scholarship and do an ASC during summer as part of this program at the same time?**

   In general, you cannot receive payment for an ANU summer scholarship and count the project towards an ASC. However, we encourage you to take opportunities for summer scholarships, within the ANU or outside of the ANU, e.g. at CSIRO , without taking this for credit.

   Applications for summer scholarships are usually due in August, for more information please visit this link: www.anu.edu.au/study/apply/summer-research-program-applications . There is also a summer program at CSIRO, which we will send you information about.

10. **What other research project opportunities are available?**

    There are a number of opportunities to take part in research projects, often outside the ANU. This might be a valuable experience for you in making connections with international students, or with companies or other organisations. A list of some of the options can be found here: https://students.science.anu.edu.au/research-opportunities/bachelor-honours-research

    Often, PhB students attend the Global Summer School of the International Alliance of Research Universities (www.iaruni.org/) during our winter break. Some of these courses can be counted towards your degree, sometimes as an ASC. Please talk to the PhB Convenor if you are interested in taking any of these courses to make sure they qualify for credit at the ANU.

11. Are there any options to present my research publicly?

Yes, there are several opportunities to present your work.

Depending on interest, there will be a PhB student conference. This is an opportunity to present one of your ASC projects to the public, particularly prospective PhB students. We will advertise this conference in advance so you can sign up. There is also the Australian Conference of Undergraduate Research (ACUR), which gives students an opportunity to present their research at a national level. This usually happens in September. Many PhB students have also been involved in research that leads to publication. This is a good opportunity for you to get familiar with the publication process and something that you will certainly benefit from for your future career. However, this is certainly not an expectation of an ASC project.

For other opportunities to present your research, please visit: https://science.anu.edu.au/current-students/undergraduate-research/publication-presentation-opportunities

12. I started an ASC but don't get enough support from my supervisor, what should I do?

Please let us know as soon as possible if you think you don't get enough support or there are other problems with your project. You can contact the discipline coordinators and/or the PhB Sub Dean at any time. Please also point out any difficulties you have in the ASC progress report that you should submit halfway through your ASC.

13. Can I change my academic mentor?

Yes, sometimes you might not get along that well with a mentor, or your interests may change over time. In that case please email us (PhB.science.enquiries@anu.edu.au) and we will try to find you someone else.

14. As a PhB Student, can I access extended library borrowing privileges?

Yes, it is possible for you to access postgraduate/honours borrowing rights . You will need to request these privileges by visiting the information desk at the Hancock Library and providing proof of your enrolment as a PhB student - this can be as simple as displaying your ISIS enrolment on your phone. It will take a few minutes for the library staff to set you up.

15. How do I meet other PhB students?

We will organize a number of activities for PhB students throughout the year. We also have a PhB common room, currently located on the second floor of the Geography Building. We will communicate details to you about acces to the room. This room is meant for study and discussion with other PhB students. Please don't invite other students to the room, or organize any noisy activities. Please don't move any furniture or other items in and out of the room without letting us know. There is a small kitchen and fridge that you are welcome to use. Please clean up after yourself. No alcohol is permitted in this room. If there are any issues with the use of the room, please email PhB.Science.Enquiries@anu.edu.au to let us know.

16. How do I check that ASE/ASC titles have been recorded correctly on my academic transcript?

To view the titles that are listed on your transcript you will need to:

1. Log into ISIS
2. Navigate to ISIS>Academic Records>Academic History
3. Select the magnifying glass icon to view the details for your academic program
4. Select the green arrow against each course to "view details"
5. Check the Course Note and the Transcript Note fields

For any corrections to your titles, please email science.enquiries@anu.edu.au.

Australian National University

Contact us

ANU College of Science and Medicine
T 02 6125 2809
E students.cos@anu.edu.au
W science.anu.edu.au

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