

## Science Honours Academy



Honours education aims to develop your academic and professional skills, both of which are very important for a successful future. Working with multiple disciplines is a very important aspect of research. Being a part of the Science Honours Academy (SHA) is a great way to stay ahead of the curve when it comes to your development as a researcher. During your time at the SHA you will confront real-world problems that require direct contact between different areas of expertise. This will provide you with a new view on research.

## What is the Science Honours Academy?

The Science Honours Academy (SHA) is a close community of motivated honours students. This close community organizes symposia, trips and events for the SHA students and functions as the interdisciplinary module of the honours programme.

The goals of the SHA are:

- to bring together students from different disciplines in social and scientific contexts
- to prepare students to cooperate and communicate outside their own areas of expertise
- to identify suitable solutions to societal and global challenges in collaboration with companies

## For who?

When you follow an honours programme, you will be enrolled in the SHA in the second year of your programme. The programme is completely taught in English. This is to get you accustomed to the language that is mostly used in research.

In the interdisciplinary module you will experience how real-world problems are dealt with from different scientific perspectives. In small groups from different disciplines in collaboration with large companies you will have to tackle

problems on which you are advised by a supervisor.

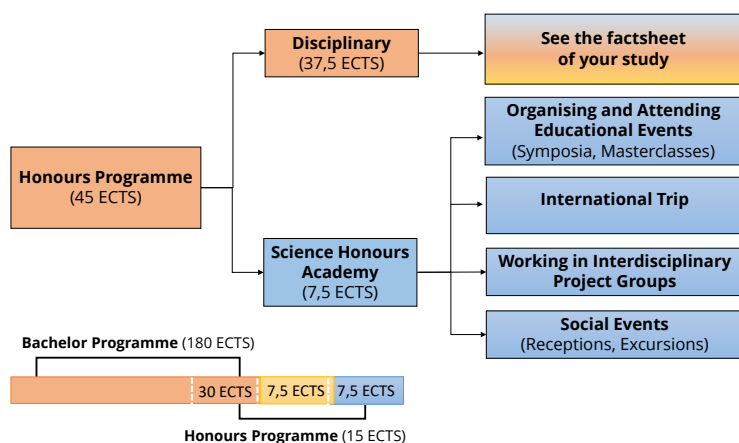
## What will you learn?

You will learn various skills, such as solving problems, communicating with different disciplines, working in teams and thinking critically. However, there are no set learning goals for every student. Instead, you will get a lot of flexibility to find out what your interests are and what you want to learn. If you like the organization of events better than taking extra courses, you can for example organize the journey abroad. This flexibility allows you to take the activities which match your academic interests.

### Activities

There will be a wide range of activities during your time at the SHA, all of which have an interdisciplinary component. Students:

- organize skills workshops such as debating or entrepreneurship
- tackle real-world problems in in collaboration with companies in multidisciplinary groups
- go on an international trip to an European city to discover the local research institutes and facilities
- meet other students from different faculties/ universities during pub quizzes, receptions, pool evenings and BBQs



**Descartes College**  
 These courses are interdisciplinary and extinguish themselves from the disciplinary honours programmes by combining all sciences the UU has to offer: [www.uu.nl/descartescollege](http://www.uu.nl/descartescollege).

## Gijs van Seeventer, Physics Honours Student



I joined the honours programme because I wanted to gain more in depth knowledge during my bachelor physics.

My initial interest to join honours wasn't the interdisciplinarity the SHA focuses on. Nevertheless, I have found that the SHA is a very rewarding environment. It offers a place to look beyond your own borders. Because of the flexibility of the SHA program, I could choose between seminars with a biological or mathematical topic. Since physics is quite mathematical, I chose to go to the biology themed seminar. There, professors talked about different aspects of brain functionalities, from eyesight to memory. To my surprise, if I remember it correctly, neurologists are already capable of mapping where we store our memory of shapes and shades! Another interesting part is just talking and working with students from other disciplines. Getting to know how other disciplines approach and frame problems isn't just interesting. It's also useful to know that there are actually many approaches to the same problem and that those approaches all yield results.

Last not but least, it is a lot fun to be in a community of students who are curious about how the world works. And who are motivated enough to start looking around at what is actually there! I am now of the opinion that every student with a genuine curiosity for the world should take a serious look at what the Honours Program has to offer.

More information: [www.uu.nl/sciencehonours](http://www.uu.nl/sciencehonours).