

# Honours College

For students who want to go the extra mile



**Universiteit  
Leiden**

Honours Academy

Discover the world at Leiden University



## What is the Honours College?

If you enjoy going the extra mile, the (extracurricular) Honours College programme might be something for you. This programme is created for students with good academic results who want to expand their knowledge in different areas or specialise in their field of expertise.

You will be able to develop your own talents while being coached by the finest academic staff Leiden University has to offer. You will earn extra credits and after three years you will receive an honours certificate. The programme starts with an introductory module at the beginning of the second semester of your first year and lasts until the end of your bachelor's studies. You can also start with the programme in the first semester of your second year.

Would the  
Honours  
College suit  
you?

3

## Read more about:

Faculty track

5

Double Bachelor Plus

9

What are the  
options?

4

Individual track

9

Bachelor Honours  
Classes

10

Honours Community

11



# Honours College

An extracurricular programme offering you an extra challenge

## Would the Honours College suit you?

If you recognise yourself in the following profile, you might want to sign up for the Honours College:

- ▷ you are motivated, talented, and you have the will and ability to achieve more;
- ▷ you are curious, critical, and motivated to work in an interdisciplinary network;
- ▷ you are capable of completing your studies within the official time allotted without any delays, with good results.

## What does it have to offer?

- ▷ a challenging academic programme, stimulating your inquisitiveness and curiosity;
- ▷ the chance to come up with solutions for current problems;
- ▷ the possibility to broaden your horizon and go beyond the borders of your discipline;
- ▷ an academic community of honours students and academics, in which you can discuss and develop your ideas;
- ▷ more contact and collaboration with fellow students and teachers;
- ▷ an honours certificate and annotation on your bachelor's degree.

## What are your options?

If you are doing a full bachelor's programme at Leiden University, you can participate in the Honours College. If not, or if you don't want to follow the full programme, we also offer Bachelor Honours Classes of one semester (see page 10). The Honours College has three sub-programmes, which are:

- ▷ **Faculty track:** you will follow an additional education and research programme; see pages 5-8.
- ▷ **Individual track:** you will put together your own personalised programme in consultation with the coordinator of your faculty; see page 9.
- ▷ **Double Bachelor Plus:** you are enrolled in two bachelor's programmes and want to take part in the Honours College; see page 9.

There are many possibilities for composing your own honours curriculum. This is something we can help you with.

For the specific requirements to participate and obtain the certificate, please see the Course Regulations, which you can find on our website.

## Application

If you would like to apply for the introductory module after the first semester of your first year, you have until the beginning of the second semester to do so. To apply, you will need to send us a copy of your most recent transcripts and your CV, and write a letter of motivation.

If you would rather apply when you have passed the first year of your studies, you have until 1 September to send in your application.

For specific information about the application procedure, please check our website: [honourscollege.leiden.edu](https://honourscollege.leiden.edu).



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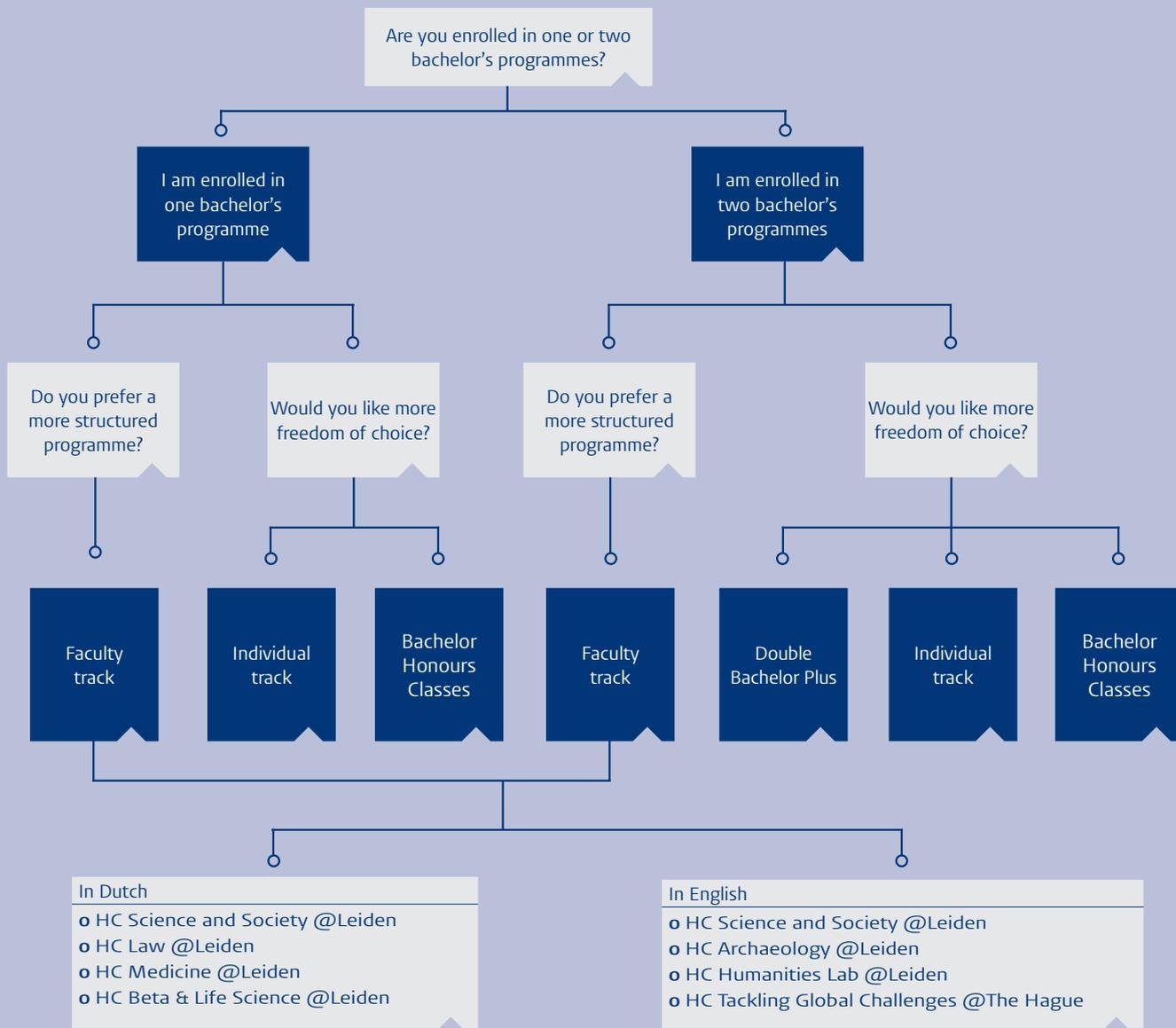


For questions:  
[honourscollege@ha.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:honourscollege@ha.leidenuniv.nl)



Check our website:  
[honourscollege.leiden.edu](https://honourscollege.leiden.edu)

# What are your options?



\*All Faculty tracks can be followed by students of other faculties, with the exception of the HC Beta & Life Science, the HC Medicine and the HC Law.



## A typical week of Abdullahi Abdi Igal,

Honours student Tackling Global Challenges

**Sunday:** After one and a half day of resting and enjoying a peaceful weekend, my regular study timetable begins on Sunday evening. I try to read the readings of my International Politics course and I practice some Arabic grammar.

**Monday:** I normally arrive at Leiden University Campus The Hague around 8:30h. After my International Politics lecture, I take two hours of relaxation and head to a restaurant to have lunch. In the late afternoon, I attend the Honours lecture Public Leadership. Afterwards, I usually go home to have dinner or else hang around with my friends. Also, I attend the nearby gym with fellow students to practice one hour of intensive gym training.

**Tuesday:** I arrive at university around 9:30h, and I work on my homework assignments or essay. Afterwards, I head to my student job as a stock coordinator.

**Wednesday:** At 9:00h I attend my Arabic class. Afterwards, I immediately attend my second lecture International Economics. After this lecture, I go out with friends and eat at a nearby restaurant. Around 15:30h, I usually go back to the library and spend a few hours on homework and prepare for my upcoming Arabic presentation. I end the day attending the gym.

**Thursday:** I begin the day with my first lecture on African Politics. Then, it is time to have a coffee with friends and work on a group presentation. At 14:00h, I attend my second lecture Emerging Economies. Then, I usually remain on campus where I still work on assignments.

**Friday:** At 11:00h, I attend an International Economics tutorial. This week we will be debating on different banking regulation policies that could assist governments and its society to avoid reckless banking behaviours. Then at 14:00, I usually attend Friday prayer at a nearby mosque. Afterwards, I work on my second Honours course of the semester. I finally end my productive week with a football match with my fellow friends.

## Faculty track

Every faculty offers an honours programme: the Faculty track. There are seven different Faculty tracks; four of these tracks are currently taught in English.

You have the opportunity to expand your knowledge in different areas or specialise in your field of expertise, and every track has space allotted to make your own choices. On the following pages you will find a description of the four different English tracks: Archaeology, Humanities Lab, Science and Society and Tackling Global Challenges. If you want to know more about the Dutch tracks, please check the Dutch flyer or our website: [honourscollege.leidenuniv.nl](http://honourscollege.leidenuniv.nl).

### HC Tackling Global Challenges

Open to	All bachelor's students of Leiden University
Language	English
Location	The Hague
Coordinator	drs. Annette Righolt
For questions	<a href="mailto:a.j.e.righolt@fgga.leidenuniv.nl">a.j.e.righolt@fgga.leidenuniv.nl</a>

Current societal challenges require new thinkers and leading experts to resolve increasingly complex crises. TGC presents the idea of 'wicked problems', complex social issues that require non-linear thinking. This Honours track looks at how wicked problems play out among government, science and society and gives you the skills to tackle some of these issues both theoretically and practically. The learning experience is based on thought-provoking theoretical courses and interactive activities, such as excursions to public and private organisations and the government as well as exciting simulation games and assignments. For example, students will receive a real-life assignment to work on in cooperation with the municipality of The Hague. In this Honours track, you will learn how to address issues and problems in society, how you can advise on such problems and find solutions. With this hands-on experience you will develop invaluable personal competences such as negotiation and leadership skills. This Honours track helps you analyse and approach problems using different scientific fields, such as policy science, political science, psychology and philosophy.



## Laura van Westbroek

Honours student of World Archaeology



'The Archaeology Honours College track has given me the opportunity to participate in ongoing research and helped me build a personal and valuable network for myself.'

### HC Archaeology: Crossing the Borders in World Archaeology

*Open to* All bachelor's students of Leiden University  
*Language* Both English and Dutch tracks are available  
*Coordinator* dr. Maaïke de Waal  
*For questions* [m.s.de.waal@arch.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:m.s.de.waal@arch.leidenuniv.nl)

Entrepreneurial and motivated students will be the managers and leaders of the future in the national and international heritage sector. A well-grounded scientific background is also an undisputed necessity. This is why this Honours track integrates both aspects. During this track, short internships will bring you into contact with the professional field of archaeology, for example with museums, governmental organisations, municipal councils and with top researchers at Leiden University. This means you can start to build an interesting network at an early stage, whilst developing ideas about possible careers.



## HC Science and Society

*Open to* All bachelor's students of Leiden University  
*Language* Both English and Dutch tracks are available  
*Coordinator* dr. Nienke van der Heide  
*For questions* [honoursfsw@fsw.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:honoursfsw@fsw.leidenuniv.nl)

The Honours College track at the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences (FSW) focuses on the interaction between science and society. You engage with prominent scientists and societal experts, meet students from other disciplines, and work together to find solutions for contemporary social problems. This increases your awareness and appreciation of different perspectives on a problem. You expand your knowledge of important issues in society and how these are researched. In the process, you develop skills such as initiating dialogue, writing accessibly, presenting, collaborating, thinking analytically and carrying out scientific research. In all this, you work together with bachelor's students from other disciplines within and outside the FSW.

The main goal is to prepare your contribution to tomorrow's world, based on your own interests and motivation. Deeper knowledge of your own talent and competences will be your starting point to obtain a broader view of current scientific and social challenges.

## Fleur Jeras

### Honours student of Science and Society



'Gaining new knowledge at university level is wonderful and interesting, but this knowledge suddenly really comes to life when you see it in its societal context. Fortunately, the Honours College offers me this opportunity.'

## HC Humanities Lab

*Open to* All bachelor,s students of Leiden University  
*Language* Both English and Dutch tracks are available  
*Coordinator* Sven Balfoort, MSc & MA and Sieglinde de Horde, LLM  
*For questions* [honours@hum.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:honours@hum.leidenuniv.nl)

You are curious, inquisitive and interested in the world around you. You want to dig deeper as well as expand your horizons. You are interested in the humanities. Does this sound like you? Then the Humanities Lab is for you!

Language, music, stories and art; during the Humanities Lab track you will study everything that we, as humans, create and share, from the perspective of different study areas. This multifaceted field allows you to both broaden and deepen your interests. In thematic lectures you will examine the similarities, differences and links between the different areas of humanities. On top of that, you will take a look at how natural and social sciences can work together with the humanities. You will receive challenging, small-scale and intensive instruction from specialists who have earned their name in education and research. The programme includes elements such as guest lectures, seminars and excursions. It gives you the chance to gain the necessary practical experience, which will also enrich your regular bachelor's programme. For more information, see [humanitieslab.nl](http://humanitieslab.nl).



## A typical week of Adriaan den Hartog,

Honours student of the  
Humanities Lab

**Monday:** A slow start to the day, with my first lecture (history) at one o'clock. Then, off to statistics class from three to five. At the end of the day, I go home to cook and chill on the couch.

**Tuesday:** In the morning and afternoon, I have time to go to the gym, do some grocery shopping and prepare classes for the rest of the week. In general, I have enough spare time, even with the extra course load. Today, I have two evening lectures. These classes are part of my regular studies, but they often share a common ground with the courses in the Humanities Lab. This is useful for understanding the curriculum of both programmes.

**Wednesday:** No lectures today, but there's enough for me to do! In the Humanities, you generally have to read a lot and

luckily we get the time to do that. I also work on my paper in the University Library, which is an important part of my studies in history. The Humanities Lab track helps me to develop the skills necessary for writing a paper, by having to search for relevant literature and write essays. After dinner, I have enough time for a drink at De Bonte Koe.

**Thursday:** From 11 to 1, I have an Economic History seminar. The rest of the day is reserved for sports and preparing for the Humanities Lab Key Module 'Why we rule the world, and how', which I follow on Friday afternoon. Preparation for this module often includes reading relevant books and articles, and having to think about the discussion questions. Furthermore, there's just enough time left for me to work on my letter of motivation to do a semester abroad next year.

**Friday:** Again, I have a slow start to the day, because the Honours College doesn't start until 1 o'clock. But the Humanities Lab course lasts until five, which is quite long. It's a topic that interests me, though, and we take regular breaks to stay sharp, so we do manage to get through the long hours! This Honours course is different from my regular courses: it is quite abstract and philosophical in nature and it's also small-scale. The smaller groups make it possible for us to have in-depth discussions. Everyone in the group has a different perspective on the topic, making the discussion very interesting and making me aware of my own academic background. At five o'clock, I head off to Rotterdam to have a bite to eat with my girlfriend and celebrate the beginning of the weekend.

# Individual track

*Open to* All bachelor's students of Leiden University  
*Language* Depends on your own choice of courses  
*Coordinator and questions* Honours College coordinator of your Faculty

If you want to take the road less travelled, you can also compose your very own individual Honours College programme and go 'solo'. Together with the Honours coordinator of your faculty you can put together a complete Honours College Study Plan for your individual track. This does not mean that you are limited to courses within your own faculty. There is a great deal of freedom and flexibility. You can enroll in the lectures and seminars offered by one of the faculty tracks, organise internships or trips abroad, attend master's courses, etc.

## Kyra van Meijgaarden

### Honours student, Individual track

'An individual track offers you the opportunity to put together your own programme, focused on what you want to learn. However, your study plan needs to meet some requirements and you have to follow a few compulsory courses together with other Honours students. The freedom of choice and the cooperation with other students are what makes an individual track so great and enjoyable for me!'

An individual track offers a great deal of freedom and flexibility. However, the study plan must meet several requirements. The Honours coordinator of your faculty can inform you about these requirements and help you make your study plan. If you are interested in following an individual track, please make an appointment with him or her.

To find out who the Honours coordinator of your faculty is, see page 11.

# Double Bachelor Plus

*Open to* All bachelor's students of Leiden University  
*Language* Depends on your own choice of courses  
*Coordinator and questions* Honours College coordinator of your Faculty

Are you already enrolled in two bachelor's programmes or are you considering starting a second one? Do you still want to go the extra mile and are you following (at least) one of your bachelor's programmes at Leiden University? Go for the Double Bachelor Plus! During this programme you can participate in the activities of the Honours Community and you will follow one or more different Bachelor Honours Classes. You can choose from the 35 to 40 challenging Bachelor Honours Classes offered by different faculties and fields of study each year. Following classes from one of the faculty tracks, instead of Bachelor Honours Classes, can also be a possibility. By actively taking part in the Bachelor Honours Classes and the Honours Community, you will meet inspiring researchers and fellow students. Are you interested? Then contact your faculty Honours coordinator to discuss the possibilities.

You are eligible to obtain an honours certificate if you have:

- Followed a Bachelor Honours Class or an extra course of one of the faculty tracks worth 5 EC;
- Completed two bachelor programmes nominally;
- And have completed both bachelor programmes with a weighted average of a 7.

## Lotte Konings

### Student of the Double Bachelor Plus

'By doing the Double Bachelor Plus you can still participate in the Honours College, despite the full schedule of two bachelor programmes. Few obligations and many possibilities allow me to get to know many fellow honours students, to follow the courses I am interested in, as well as enjoy the mixers and the excursions, without having to neglect my regular bachelor's programmes.'



## Bachelor Honours Classes

*Open to* All bachelor's students of Leiden University  
*Language* Depends on your own choice of courses  
*For questions* [baclasses@ha.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:baclasses@ha.leidenuniv.nl)

All Honours College students have to follow at least one elective Bachelor Honours Class (5 EC) within their programme. Bachelor Honours Classes are small-scaled, interdisciplinary courses on complex scientific and societal topics. You can enjoy the challenge of innovative educational methods, such as practical assignments, yoga and virtual education. Each year, you can choose from a selection of around 40 different Bachelor Honours Classes. For instance, you can learn how to negotiate and deal with conflicts, develop a Virtual Reality prototype, acquire skills to motivate yourself and others, explore the world of mindfulness or experience what role music plays in our society and more.

Bachelor students who are not enrolled in the Honours College Programme and who are looking for an extra challenge, can also register for Bachelor Honours Classes. Upon passing a Honours Class, non-Honours College students receive a Bachelor Honours Class certificate

You can find a full overview of the Bachelor Honours Classes in the e-Prospectus:  
<https://studiegids.leidenuniv.nl/en/studies/show/6083/honours-classes/>



# Honours Community

The Honours Academy – the meeting platform for honours students at Leiden University – organises a range of activities for honours students. The opening of the academic year, our graduation ceremony, the annual summer garden party and our annual Honours Concert are just a few examples of these activities. Take a look at our website ([honourscollege.leiden.edu](http://honourscollege.leiden.edu)) or our facebook page ([facebook.com/honourscollegeleiden](https://facebook.com/honourscollegeleiden)) to learn when these events are scheduled.

On top of this, there is also a study association for honours students: Leiden Honours Community (LHC). The LHC organises drinks, excursions, workshops, study trips, etc. To join them, please visit their website: [www.slhc.nl](http://www.slhc.nl)

For more information, please visit our website or send an email to one of the Honours College coordinators.

## Coördinatoren

### Coordinator HC Archaeology / Faculty of Archaeology

drs. Maaïke de Waal

[m.s.de.waal@arch.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:m.s.de.waal@arch.leidenuniv.nl)

### Coordinator HC Humanities Lab / Faculty of Humanities

Sven Balfoort, MSc & MA and Sieglinde de Horde, LL.M

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### Coordinator HC Science and Society / Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences

dr. Nienke van der Heide

[honoursfsw@fsw.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:honoursfsw@fsw.leidenuniv.nl)

### Coordinator HC Tackling Global Challenges / Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs

drs. Annette Righolt

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### Coordinator Honours College

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