

RESEARCH DEGREES AT UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA



UNIVERSITY OF
CANBERRA

THE UNIVERSITY'S RESEARCH STRENGTHS

The University of Canberra has four Research Institutes dedicated to bringing together the best researchers to innovate and collaborate in four diverse research areas.

The **Institute in Applied Ecology** undertakes high quality research that improves our understanding of the environment to enhance decision-making for natural resource management and sustainable development.

The **Institute for Governance and Policy Analysis** is a leading international provider of programs for overseas, Commonwealth and State jurisdictions on government, leadership and public policy themes, with a focus on applied research to promote outstanding public sector leadership, policy and delivery that really works for the benefit of the public.

The **UC Research Institute of Sport and Exercise** promotes multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research and innovation, with a focus on high performance sport, physical literacy, sport design and technology, and sport and exercise medicine.

The **UC Health Research Institute** brings together University-wide expertise in biomedicine, biotechnology, clinical sciences, public health, urban planning and architecture, and health services research to support world-class health research.

RESEARCH LED SUPERVISION

Each of the Research Institutes offer **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)** and **Master by Research** degrees specific to their disciplines. Supervisors in the Institutes are experienced and dedicated researchers in their field, with a wealth of knowledge and resources, to be able to provide a supportive and positive research environment for their research candidates.

Additionally, Doctor of Philosophy, Professional Doctorate and Master by Research degrees are offered in a broad range of disciplines in each of the University's four Faculties; *Faculty of Arts and Design*, *Faculty of Business, Government and Law*, *Faculty of Education, Science, Technology and Mathematics*, and the *Faculty of Health*.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY COURSE STRUCTURE

COURSEWORK COMPONENT: MONTHS 1 TO 6

The first six months of a University of Canberra PhD provides candidates with a solid coursework foundation on which to build their own research project. Students can undertake a combination of units including research methods, qualitative or quantitative research, and/or discipline specific units that complement their field of study or provide foundation skills they will require for their project.

Units in English language development and Leadership and Management are also available as part of the coursework component. (See the appendix to this brochure for more information).

For applicants with demonstrated research experience or qualifications, an exemption from the coursework component may be granted.

RESEARCH COMPONENT: MONTHS 7 TO 36 (APPROXIMATELY)

The research component is the period in which candidates undertake a research project which will ultimately make a contribution to knowledge in their field of research. Steps in this process include the developing and implementing a research plan, acquiring a thorough understanding of the relevant literature, collecting and analysing data, and writing a thesis of between 80,000 and 100,000 words.

EXAMINATION AND REVISION (IF REQUIRED)

Candidates are encouraged to complete their research and have their thesis ready for examination between the three and three-and-a-half year marks to allow time for the examination and any subsequent revision processes.

DURATION OF COURSES

The maximum duration for a Masters by Research degree is two years and for a Doctoral degree is four years full-time equivalent (noting that student visas require candidates to study full-time).

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

All applicants are required to meet minimum English language and academic standards.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Course	Academic qualification required for entry
Doctoral degrees	Masters by Research Masters by Coursework with a significant research component A Bachelor degree with honours (or equivalent) + Have background in doing research Demonstrated capacity and/or aptitude for research
Masters by Research	Bachelor degree with above average performance in an appropriate field of study, or An equivalent award with demonstrated capacity and/or aptitude for research.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

Course	Minimum test scores required for entry
General minimum entry requirement	IELTS overall ≥ 6.5 with each band ≥ 6.0 (or equivalent recognised English language test results)

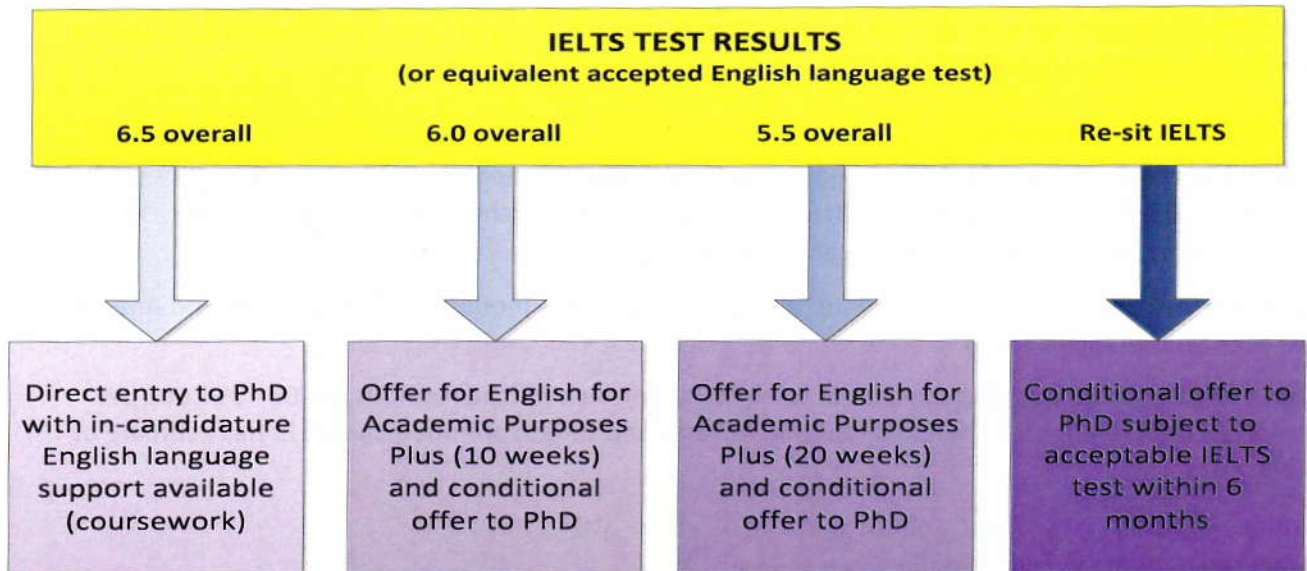
*For PhDs in Education an overall score of ≥ 7.0 with each band ≥ 6.5 is required

The University accepts IELTS Academic, TOEFL internet based, Pearson Academic and Cambridge English Advanced.

Applicants may also fulfil English language requirements based on their country of birth and education, or evidence of tertiary study in an English-speaking country.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PATHWAYS

There are a number of tailored English language programs available as a pathway to research courses, for applicants who do not meet the minimum English language requirement.



SUPPORT FOR CANDIDATES

UC research candidates are viewed as full members of the academic research community and their needs and requirements are considered with this principle in mind. Candidates are provided with office space and a computer and have full access to the University's IT and library services.

All Higher Degree Researchers are involved in their area's research communities and given opportunities to attend and present their work at appropriate local, national and international seminars and conferences.

The Researcher Development Program at University of Canberra (UC ReD) is designed to support Higher Degree Researchers' (HDR) and Early Career Academics' progress and development as researchers through the provision of a series of workshops and seminars. The focus of the program is on research and skills supporting research.

FUNDING

SCHOLARSHIPS

For international candidates applying from Partner Institutions the University offers a range of research scholarships and awards to eligible Higher Degree Research students. Scholarship assessment is based on academic merit and research potential

Scholarships may cover tuition fees (fee sponsorships) or provide a living allowance (stipend), or both.

Scholarships are usually offered for a period of three years, some may also offer possible extensions of six months. Many scholarships include a dependent child allowance as part of the stipend. International students whose tuition fees are paid in full by the University (fee sponsorship) are also eligible to apply for a fee waiver for dependent children to attend a local school:

http://www.det.act.gov.au/school_education/international_students/temporary_residents_and_dependents

International candidates are also able to apply for funding from external sponsors or organisations in their home country. Information on scholarships offered for HDR study by a broad range of institutions and organisations can be found on the [Hobsons Scholarship Search](http://www.hobsonscoursefinder.com.au/scholarship/) website (www.hobsonscoursefinder.com.au/scholarship/).

International applicants who wish to be considered for a University of Canberra scholarship as well as admission must apply prior to 31 October for commencement in the following year.

OTHER COSTS TO CONSIDER

International students are required to have visa length overseas health cover. The University's preferred provider is OSHC by Allianz Global Assistance. Candidates can purchase single or family cover. Visit the website for a quote: <https://www.oshcallianzassistance.com.au/>

All Higher Degree by Research candidates are required to pay a modest Student Services and Amenities Fee each year (\$286 in 2015).

The University estimates that the cost of living in Canberra can range from AU\$8,000 - \$17,000 per semester, dependent on a student's lifestyle. Airfares and tuition are not included in this estimate of living costs.

APPLICATIONS

Applications for admission are assessed on academic qualifications and research experience, English language proficiency and the availability of an appropriate supervisor in the relevant discipline area.

Cohort based applications from UC's Partner Institution are *managed via a fast-track system*. The UC Graduate Research and Researcher Development team will provide advice and assistance to Partner Institutions submitting cohort applications. They can be contacted via email at GraduateResearch@canberra.edu.au

To assist with fast-tracking, applications should include, at minimum:

- A completed research degree application form
- Two completed academic references (forwarded directly to the University by referees)
- A statement of the area of research interest (up to one page in length)
- Original or certified copies of your academic transcripts (translated into English)
- A curriculum vitae or résumé
- Proof of English language proficiency (if required)

Applications from individuals are also welcome. Information to help individuals assess their eligibility for admission and to guide them through the application process is available at <http://www.canberra.edu.au/future-students/research-students>

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please contact:

Graduate Research & Researcher Development, University of Canberra

E: GraduateResearch@canberra.edu.au

T: +61 2 6206 8740

W: canberra.edu.au/research/future-research-students

This information is current as of 30 June 2015.

APPENDIX: COURSEWORK TO SUPPORT THE PHD

Candidates admitted to the University of Canberra PhD may be required to undertake a research training component. Undertaking this component includes enrolment in a range of units designed to help candidates develop essential research skills, acquire discipline specific knowledge, gain an understanding of leadership and management in tertiary education contexts and advance their English language for research, as required. Units offered include:

The Doctoral Skills Portfolio unit aims to support the development of skills identified as required for successful completion of a doctoral degree. Recognising that candidates bring to their studies a diversity of academic expertise, workplace skills and personal and professional experience, each candidate is expected to draw on the expertise of their supervisors to identify skills they should focus on in their researcher development program, as well as to help them identify opportunities to develop these skills. The portfolio might include taught units, face to face workshops, online workshops, seminars and directed study, at discipline or University level, or provided outside the University.

Research Methods and Design units provide an introduction to research in the specific disciplines relevant to the candidate's research project, and examine various research approaches, methods and techniques that are applicable in the particular field.

Quantitative Research Methods units focus on statistical techniques used in academic research conducted in business, management and other organisations contexts, and the preparation and testing of research hypotheses using these techniques.

Qualitative Research Methods units focus on qualitative techniques used in academic research conducted in business, management and other organisations contexts, and the preparation and evaluation of research questions and propositions using these techniques.

Discipline specific units are offered in the form of graduate coursework units available in the discipline areas, and are made available for candidates to acquire specific skills or specialist knowledge of discipline or research topic required to undertake their project.

Academic Writing and Research Skills and **Intercultural Academic Communication** units are designed to assist candidates to advance their research writing and communication skills to effectively communicate their research, both verbally and in writing. These units are ideal for candidate's whose first language is not English, and who would benefit from additional writing and communication development specific to their research topic.

In addition to the formal coursework component of the PhD, UC also offers access to:

Researcher Development Program (UC ReD)

The UCReD program is designed to support Higher Degree Researchers' (HDR) and Early Career Academics' progress and development as researchers through the provision of a series of workshops and seminars. The focus of the program is on research and skills supporting research.

Leadership and management in tertiary education contexts

This unit that will be made available to University of Canberra staff and research candidates from 2016, and is ideal for candidates intending to pursue leadership positions in their home institutions on completion of a PhD. The unit explores and analyses a range of theories and emerging approaches and understandings of leadership, and provides an opportunity for candidates to reflect upon what constitutes effective leadership in educational settings and develop conceptual and practical skills for the effective management of change in educational institutions.

Higher Education Academy certification

Assessment toward the UK Higher Education Academy Associate Fellowship certification is available for individuals who successfully complete two online modules of the HEA-accredited continuing professional development program.

Proposal check list

Introduction	Does it introduce and provide a summary of what you plan to do, why and how? Is it understandable to someone who knows little?
Literature	Is context of literature review clearly presented? Does it give a clear picture of what is known in the topic area? Has the literature been analysed, synthesised in order to develop a coherent argument Is the literature review organised according to ideas? Does the review lead to clear conclusions enabling you to introduce your research questions?
Objectives	Did you explicitly argue what your contribution to new knowledge will be? Are objectives, questions clear? Are they feasible?
Methodology	Is the methodology section clear enough to allow an outsider to do your research the way you intended to do it?
Overall	Do some sections contradict each other? Presentation (writing style, layout, grammar, tenses, references etc.)