Overview

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) program is recognition of successful research experience. This degree requires an original and significant contribution to knowledge in an approved area. The degree requires a minimum of 3 years full-time study and preparation of a thesis.

The degree of Doctor of Philosophy may be awarded by the Council on the recommendation of the Research Committee of the appropriate faculty or board (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) to a candidate who has made an original and significant contribution to knowledge. See UNSW Higher Degree Research Learning Outcomes.

The length of a doctoral thesis normally should not exceed 100,000 words of text and should be submitted for examination within 3 years of full-time study.

Location

The candidate may undertake the research as an internal student ie. at a campus, teaching hospital, or other research facility with which the University is associated, or as an external student not in attendance at the University except for periods as may be prescribed by the Committee.

The approved applicant may undertake their enrolment with a part-time or full-time load at the University, at one of its teaching hospitals or a research facility with which the University is associated; the Committee may permit a candidate to spend a period in the field, within another institution or elsewhere away from the University if it is satisfied that this is necessary to the research program and provided that the work can be supervised in a manner satisfactory to the Committee.

If the candidate's research work is based externally, there must be a minimum acceptable level of supervision that will be determined by the Committee. Normally
an external candidate within another organisation or institution will have a co-
supervisor at that institution.

**Candidature**

A candidate shall be required to undertake an original investigation on a topic
approved by the Committee and may also be required to undergo such examination
and perform such other work as may be prescribed by the Committee. The work
shall be carried out under the direction of a supervisor appointed by the Committee
from the academic staff of the University.

A candidate shall be enrolled for a minimum of 144 units of credit (UOC) and up to a
maximum of 192 UOC.
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<tr>
<th><strong>Faculty</strong></th>
<th>Faculty of Medicine</th>
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<td><strong>Campus</strong></td>
<td>Kensington</td>
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<td><strong>Study Level</strong></td>
<td>Research</td>
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<td><strong>Typical duration</strong></td>
<td>3 to 4 Years</td>
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<td><strong>Delivery Mode</strong></td>
<td>Research</td>
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<td>Research Calendar</td>
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<td><strong>Minimum Units of Credit</strong></td>
<td>144</td>
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<td><strong>CRICOS Code</strong></td>
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Admission Requirements

Entry Requirements

1. Candidates with an Honours degree (at least class 2 division 1) in a relevant discipline, or with an MBBS from an Australian or New Zealand university, are in general considered eligible for admission to a PhD program, or

2. Candidates with Honours below class 2 division 1, or who have not been awarded an Honours degree, need to demonstrate appropriate research experience and are in general considered eligible for admission to a PhD program if able to provide evidence of first authorship on at least one refereed paper in a journal of sufficient standing. However, first authorship on a publication is not an absolute prerequisite and the eligibility of all such candidates is determined on a case-by-case basis, or

3. Candidates with an MBBS or other medical degree from another country are in the first instance considered to be eligible to enrol for a research Masters program, with later upgrade to a PhD if appropriate. Direct enrolment for a PhD may be approved on the basis of strong support from the proposed supervisor and the relevant Head of School, or

4. Candidates with a Bachelor's degree (not an Honours degree) and relevant experience, but no first author publications in refereed journals of sufficient standing, may be eligible to enrol in a research Masters program on the basis of support from the proposed supervisor and the relevant Head of School, with later upgrade to a PhD if appropriate. Uncommonly, direct enrolment for a PhD may be approved on the basis of strong support from the proposed supervisor and the relevant Head of School.

For further information, see the Admission to Higher Degree Research Programs Procedure.

For more information about admission requirements for various UNSW programs, visit the following website(s):

Domestic Students
International Student
Additional Information

- Progress Review and Confirmation of Research Candidature Procedure
- Thesis Examination Procedures
- Conditions for Award of Doctor of Philosophy Policy

For further information on policies, procedures and forms, see the Graduate Research website.
Program Fees

At UNSW fees are generally charged at course level and therefore dependent upon individual enrolment and other factors such as student's residency status. For generic information on fees and additional expenses of UNSW programs, click on one of the following:

Domestic Students
Commonwealth Supported Students
International Students
Pre-2019 Handbook Editions

Access past handbook editions (2018 and prior)

Pre-2019 Handbook Editions
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Authorised by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)
CRICOS Provider Code 00098G
ABN: 57 195 873 179