Higher degree research candidature

Macquarie offers individualised support and assists you at every academic and administrative stage, from application through commencement and progression, to completion of candidature. You will receive careful direction from your academic supervisors, all of whom have well-established reputations for their own research.

Although a research degree is a demanding undertaking that will take a number of years to complete, the experience will be most rewarding. The University sets high standards for our research candidates, which ensure our research degrees are respected and valued in the global environment.

You are expected to plan and manage your own time. You must be able to juggle the constant need to progress your research program with the competing and valid demands of family, friends, hobbies and relaxation. Time management skills become very important.

The Higher Degree Research Office website contains information essential to your candidature. Of particular use is the Higher Degree Research Guide for Candidates and Supervisors which is available at www.hdr.mq.edu.au/information_about/hrdguide

Research Training Scheme

All eligible domestic higher degree research candidates enrolled in Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Master of Philosophy (MPhil), and Combined PhD/Coursework Masters in Psychology programs are granted places under the Research Training Scheme (RTS). RTS places provide you with an exemption from course tuition fees.

The RTS guidelines impose specific conditions on universities and candidates, ranging from admission eligibility criteria, changes to program, maintaining candidature progressions through to funding entitlements. It is expected that you will submit your thesis within the RTS-funded period, which is a maximum of four years full-time study (or part-time equivalent) if undertaking a doctorate degree by research and two years full-time study (or part-time equivalent) if undertaking a masters degree by research.

For more information about RTS funding visit the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research website www.innovation.gov.au/Research/ResearchBlockGrants/Pages/ResearchTrainingScheme.aspx

Attendance

Full-time and part-time candidature

Higher degree research programs may be taken either by full-time or part-time study; however applicants for admission as a part-time candidate must satisfy the faculty that they will have sufficient appropriate time to complete the requirements of the degree within the maximum allowable period of candidature.

International candidates studying on a student visa should be aware that it is a condition of student visa that full-time enrolment be maintained.

In order to undertake full-time candidature you are expected to commit on average a minimum of 40 hours per week to your research study program.

In order to undertake part-time candidature you must be able to commit on average a minimum of 20 hours per week to your research study program.

Throughout your candidature you must regularly attend to requirements and participate fully in the intellectual, research and academic life of your academic unit.

Candidature location

All HDR candidates are enrolled in their research program as internal mode of attendance.

If you reside outside the normal commuting distance your principal supervisor and the relevant faculty must be convinced that you have the personal maturity and research experience to pursue independent, sustained and structured research off campus.

You, your principal supervisor and the faculty must ensure appropriate and adequate supervision, facilities and affiliation are arranged, and that locational arrangements are consistent with any agreements relating to you.

Higher degree research such as fieldwork and data collection can be undertaken offsite, that is, at locations away from campus and overseas, subject to approval from your principal supervisor and the faculty. Time spent undertaking research offsite does not affect enrolment status, as enrolment continues as usual and the submission date does not alter.

Intellectual property

Macquarie recognises your rights to intellectual property generated by you during your course of study at the University. At enrolment, you are requested to assign intellectual property rights to the University and agree to the University managing any agreements relating to you.

Further information is provided with your enrolment package. For the full policy visit www.hdr.mq.edu.au/information_about/enrolment/ip_issues

Commencement programs

After enrolling at Macquarie you will be required to participate in a commencement program to ensure the best possible start to your research. The program consists of two components; both are compulsory activities for research candidates.

• Central Commencement Program (CCP)

CCP is an introduction to the University, to research practice and to the support mechanisms available to you. The program runs twice a year and is an opportunity to meet with other candidates and become oriented to the task of undertaking research. Key members of the University community attend the program and provide information essential for successful thesis completion.
• Faculty Commencement Program (FCP)

This component is delivered by individual faculties and provides you with an orientation to your own context, opportunities to learn from senior researchers and other research candidates, opportunities to explore research methodologies, opportunities to present your own work and listen to others, and the opportunity to participate in a variety of research seminars. The FCP is pivotal to your integration into the culture of your faculty and department. The FCP is part of the first year of candidacy; it is assessed and must be completed in order to progress with candidature. For more information visit www.hdr.mq.edu.au/information_for/new_candidates/commencement_programs

Academic progress

A number of milestones have been set for enrolled candidates to ensure research is kept on track and to assist in overcoming any research-related difficulties. After the first six months of equivalent full-time study, the faculty will report on your progress to date. Thereafter, at the end of each calendar year all HDR candidates enrolled in the time-based component of their degree are required to submit an annual progress report. Successful completion of progress reports is required for the continuation of enrolment and any scholarship held. For more information visit www.hdr.mq.edu.au/information_for/current_candidates/annual_progress_report

Candidature Management Plan

At the commencement of research candidature at Macquarie University you are informed of the date by which your thesis is to be submitted. There are a number of milestones to be achieved during research candidature and these are mapped out in a Candidature Management Plan (CMP). The aims of the CMP are to ensure you are fully aware of the nature of these milestones as they relate to higher degree research progression and to assist you with your research planning and in developing a realistic timeline for research completion by the due date.

Individual plans have been devised according to the degree of enrolment and scholarship status. For example, a candidate enrolled in a Doctor of Philosophy has four years to complete the program. Scholarship holders enrolled in a doctoral degree and receiving a stipend for three and a half years should aim to submit their thesis within this time. Masters by Research candidates have two years to complete their research. Plans have been devised for each degree according to these candidature periods.

The CMP does not take into account specific discipline requirements and it may be that there will be some minor variations in research component completion due to the area of study. The Higher Degree Research Committee urges all candidates to discuss the CMP with their supervisors to ensure that both central candidature requirements and discipline-specific requirements are met within the designated candidature period.

Candidates researching for the submission of a thesis by publication, which may or may not include a creative component, should also consult with their supervisors to ensure necessary requirements are met.

For more information visit www.hdr.mq.edu.au/information_for/new_candidates/cmp