Higher degree research programs

Higher degree research programs provide a unique opportunity to follow a specific interest in an area of research, to focus on this for several years and make an important contribution to the development of new knowledge in society. Macquarie University provides its research candidates with the opportunity to work with academics at the international forefront of their fields.

The availability of supervision reflects the present research interests of academic staff in the various departments, schools and research centres. Candidates for research degrees can be accepted only where suitable specialised supervision is available. You are required to approach potential supervisors prior to making your application to the University.

For more information on the research interests of academics visit:
Macquarie University Supervisor Register
137.111.71.14/MQSR

Faculties and departments
www.hdr.mq.edu.au/information_about/research_degrees/areas_of_study

University rules for research degrees may be found in the Macquarie University Calendar of Governance, Legislation and Rules
universitycouncil.mq.edu.au/legislation.html

More specific information on the requirements for completing an HDR program and Macquarie’s support structure can be found in the Higher Degree Research Guide for Candidates and Supervisors.
www.hdr.mq.edu.au/information_about/hdrguide

Examination for research degrees is generally by written thesis which must conform to the established University guidelines. The University recognises that theses or parts of theses may be presented in a variety of formats and media, and would normally incorporate a written component. Theses may include, for example, relevant papers (including conference presentations) published or accepted for publication during the period of candidature, together with a comprehensive and critical introduction and integrative conclusion. You may include published work which is part of the contribution to knowledge of the thesis if the research and publication of the work occurred during the candidature of your degree.

### RESEARCH PROGRAM

<table>
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<th>Research degree</th>
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<td>Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)</td>
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<td>Doctor of Philosophy/Master of Clinical Neuropsychology</td>
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Master of Philosophy (MPhil)

The Master of Philosophy (MPhil) is an ungraded degree awarded for research that demonstrates that a contribution has been made to knowledge in a particular field of study by presenting new facts or by demonstrating an independent critical ability to evaluate existing material in a new light.

The MPhil program is available in all faculties. The degree requires that a thesis with a maximum length of 50,000 words be submitted for a written assessment by two examiners external to the University. Before submitting a thesis you must have followed an approved program of study and research within the University for a period determined by the Higher Degree Research Committee and normally not less than one year. The program of study may include some coursework and research seminar units, and participation in presentations, and will be supervised by at least two supervisors.

In some disciplines further research training or the completion of a preliminary coursework program in research preparation may be required prior to admission to candidature. For further information refer to the ‘Pathways to Macquarie higher degree research programs’ section at the end of this chapter and to the ‘Faculties and departments’ section of this prospectus.

Admission requirements

To be eligible for consideration for admission to the MPhil you must normally possess a bachelor degree with First Class or Second Class Honours, or other evidence of research ability, from a recognised university or other tertiary institution. Requirements for admission to research degrees are defined in the University rules which are published in the Calendar of Governance, Legislation and Rules. Further information on admission to candidature is available in the ‘How to Apply’ section of this prospectus.

Calendar of Governance, Legislation and Rules
universitycouncil.mq.edu.au/legislation.html

Length of candidature

The MPhil is a two-year full-time (or part-time equivalent) program. For full-time candidates the minimum period of candidature is one year and the maximum period is two years. For part-time candidates the minimum period of candidature is two years and the maximum period is four years. A full-time candidate is expected to commit on average a minimum of 40 hours per week to their research study program. A part-time candidate is expected to commit on average a minimum of 20 hours per week to their research study program and consult weekly with their supervisors.

PhD spotlight

Indonesian-born Audrey Adji is seeking to reduce the numbers of Australians who die from cardiovascular disease through her novel PhD research project.

By understanding more about how the aortic pressure and aortic blood flow changes with age – particularly through the stiffening of major arteries – she hopes to gain a better understanding of the mechanisms behind ageing to improve how people with cardiovascular disease are assessed and treated.

In 2010 Adji was awarded the inaugural Skipper Postgraduate Research Travel Award which enables postgraduate students to attend an international conference or visit a laboratory directly related to their project.
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) is an ungraded degree awarded for independent research which forms a distinct contribution to the knowledge of the subject and which affords evidence of coherence and originality shown either by the discovery of new facts or by the exercise of independent critical power. Your program of study will be supervised by at least two supervisors.

The degree requires that a thesis with a maximum length of 75,000 to 100,000 words (depending on the department) be submitted for a written assessment by three examiners external to the University. Before submitting a PhD thesis you must have followed an approved program of study and research within the University for a period determined by the Higher Degree Research Committee (normally not less than two years).

Your program of study must be supervised by an eligible Macquarie academic staff member, and will normally be carried out within the University. There is, however, provision for you to be permitted to carry out much of the program outside the University with faculty approval.

In some disciplines further research training or the completion of a preliminary coursework program in research preparation may be required prior to admission. For more information refer to the ‘Pathways to Macquarie higher degree research programs’ section at the end of this chapter and to the ‘Faculties and departments’ section of this prospectus.

Admission requirements
To be eligible for admission you must normally possess either a masters degree with a substantial research component, or a bachelor degree with First Class or Second Class Honours Division 1 from a recognised university or other tertiary institution. Requirements for admission to research degrees are defined in the University rules which are published in the Calendar of Governance, Legislation and Rules. For more information on admission to candidature refer to the ‘How to Apply’ section of this prospectus.

Calendar of Governance, Legislation and Rules
universitycouncil.mq.edu.au/legislation.html

Length of candidature
The PhD is a four-year full-time (or part-time equivalent) program. The minimum period of candidature is two years and the maximum period is four years. For part-time candidates the minimum period of candidature is four years and the maximum period is eight years. A full-time candidate is expected to commit on average a minimum of 40 hours per week to their research study program. A part-time candidate is expected to commit on average a minimum of 20 hours per week to their research study program and consult weekly with their supervisors.

Combined research and coursework degrees
The Department of Psychology in the Faculty of Human Sciences offers three combined degree programs:

- Doctor of Philosophy/Master of Clinical Neuropsychology
- Doctor of Philosophy/Master of Clinical Psychology
- Doctor of Philosophy/Master of Organisational Psychology

For details of the programs refer to the ‘Faculty of Human Sciences’ section of this prospectus and to their website.

Jointly supervised PhD programs
Cotutelle
Macquarie University is committed to an expansion of its international joint enrolment program – known as ‘cotutelle’ in French – with leading research-active universities in Europe, the UK, the US and Asia. Simultaneous enrolment in a PhD at Macquarie and one of its partner universities will enable you to submit one thesis for joint recognition; the thesis will be examined in accordance with the requirements of each institution. About half of your time will be spent at each university under the supervision of researchers in the chosen area of study. On successful completion of the cotutelle you will be awarded two testamurs; one from Macquarie University and one from the partner institution.

Eligible candidates are financially supported for this joint enrolment through an international Macquarie University Research Excellence Scholarship (MURES). Enquiries about a cotutelle enrolment can be made through your principal supervisor or directly to:
Professor Ernest Jordan
Director of International Research Programs
T: +61 2 9850 6097
F: +61 2 9850 7733
E: ernest.jordan@mq.edu.au or mi.hdr@mq.edu.au

Joint degree
As part of its internationalisation strategy Macquarie University has established a joint PhD program with selected international research-intensive universities. Candidates admitted to this program will undertake research in both universities under co-supervision by at least one supervisor at each university. The thesis will be submitted and examined just once and meet agreed requirements of Macquarie University and the partner university. Subject to satisfactory completion of all agreed award requirements the two universities will jointly award a degree of Doctor of Philosophy with a single testamur bearing the crests of both universities.

Applicants for this program must meet the admission requirements of both universities. Successful applicants may receive a scholarship from Macquarie to cover tuition fees, if required, while enrolled at the University. Payment of these fees and any living allowance stipend is subject to satisfactory academic progress and governed by the conditions of award of such a scholarship. Applicants will need to satisfy eligibility criteria for the award of a scholarship.
It should be noted that while enrolled at Macquarie University you must maintain enrolment and pay fees due at the partner university during each year of candidature.

Enquiries about the joint degree program and a list of approved participating universities can be directed to:
Professor Ernest Jordan
Director of International Research Programs
T: +61 2 9850 6097
F: +61 2 9850 7733
E: ernest.jordan@mq.edu.au or mi.hdr@mq.edu.au

For more information about cotutelle and joint degree arrangements, and a list of partners visit www.international.mq.edu.au/research/partner

Pathways to Macquarie higher degree research programs

In some circumstances you may be required to complete a preliminary program of research training or preparation prior to enrolment in your higher degree research program. This may occur in situations where you do not have the required qualifications for the degree or where the faculty requires prior training. Preliminary postgraduate coursework programs such as postgraduate certificates in research preparation are available for these circumstances. Refer to the faculty sections of this prospectus for further information.

Some disciplines may require you to undertake specific coursework or training units to supplement your research work. You will be independently advised of this in your formal letter of offer.

A range of postgraduate certificates in research preparation are available if you do not meet the admission criteria and/or do not have adequate research experience or background in your chosen discipline to commence a research degree immediately. When close to completion of the preliminary program, a fresh application for admission to the higher research degree must be submitted to the Higher Degree Research Office.

Applications for preliminary programs are made through the Coursework Studies Section for domestic students and through Macquarie International for international students.

Domestic applicants
www.postgradandbeyond.mq.edu.au/Coursework/Courses.htm

International applicants
www.international.mq.edu.au

For more information on pathways to higher degree research visit www.hdr.mq.edu.au/information_about/applications/pathway_programs

PhD spotlight

Already internationally respected for his research into energy economics, De Mello is investigating the impact of the price of crude oil on the price of commodities such as petrol, diesel, heating oil and naphtha, and how this, in turn, affects products manufactured down the chain.

In just four years he has achieved international publication of seven research papers – some received A rankings, and two more are in the pipeline; written two book chapters; and attended 15 conferences – he was awarded Best Paper at the 2011 International Association for Energy Economics conference in Lithuania.

And in 2010 he received a prestigious Macquarie University Research Excellence Award.

Lurion De Mello
Department of Applied Finance and Actuarial Studies