

Doctor of Philosophy (DPHD) - PhD

CRICOS code (International applicants): 088073M

	On-campus	External
Start:		
Campus:	Ipswich, Springfield, Toowoomba	-
Fees:	Domestic full fee paying place International full fee paying place Research Training Program (RTP) - Fees Offset scheme	Domestic full fee paying place International full fee paying place Research Training Program (RTP) - Fees Offset scheme
Standard duration:	Can be studied full-time or part-time (full-time students normally complete in 3 to 4 years).	

Notes:

International students pay full fees unless allocated an USQ fees scholarship.

Contact us

Future Australian and New Zealand students	Future International students	Current students
Ask a question Freecall (within Australia): 1800 269 500 Phone (from outside Australia): +61 7 4631 5315 Email: study@usq.edu.au	Ask a question Phone: +61 7 4631 5543 Email: international@usq.edu.au	Ask a question Freecall (within Australia): 1800 007 252 Phone (from outside Australia): +61 7 4631 2285 Email usq.support@usq.edu.au

Program aims

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree is awarded for research which demonstrates that the student has the capacity to conduct research and make a significant contribution to new knowledge.

Cotutelle

The University of Southern Queensland offers a Cotutelle PhD program as an alternative pathway to achieving the PhD, which enables the student to conduct research across two universities.

The Cotutelle PhD program is subject to the terms specified in the Cotutelle agreement.

Program objectives

Graduates of this program should be able to:

- (1) Investigate a substantial, complex and relevant area of research with specialised research skills that enable them to advance their discipline.
- (2) Critically evaluate relevant research literature, theoretical propositions, methodologies and findings to design and conduct original research.
- (3) Cogently present, verbally and in writing research findings which include propositions, creative works, insights and conclusions to their peers and professional community.
- (4) Independently and systematically apply specialised technical and research skills to plan and execute a research project, undertake research ethically according to the discipline standards and generate new knowledge and original insights that make a contribution to their discipline.
- (5) Apply principles of integrity, research ethics, judgement, adaptability and responsibility in ways appropriate to an expert in their discipline.

Australian Qualifications Framework

The Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) is a single national, comprehensive system of qualifications offered by higher education institutions (including universities), vocational education and training institutions and secondary schools. Each AQF qualification has a set of descriptors which define the type and complexity of knowledge, skills and application of knowledge and skills that a graduate who has been awarded that qualification has attained, and the typical volume of learning associated with that qualification type.

This program is at AQF Qualification Level 10. Graduates at this level will have systematic and critical understanding of a complex field of learning and specialised research skills for the advancement of learning and/or for professional practice.

The full set of levels criteria and qualification type descriptors can be found by visiting www.aqf.edu.au.

Admission requirements

To be eligible for admission, applicants must satisfy the following requirements:

- Completion of a relevant Australian university bachelor honours degree with First Class Honours or Second Class Honours (Division A) or equivalent,
or
- completion of an Australian university Masters degree (with a significant research component) or equivalent,
or
- other qualifications equivalent to First Class or 2A Honours.

International full fee paying place

International students pay full fees. Full fees vary depending on the courses that are taken and whether they are studied on-campus, via distance education/online. Students are able to calculate the fees for a particular course via the [Course Fee Schedules](#).

Research Training Program (RTP) - Fees Offset scheme

All Australian citizens, Australian permanent residents and New Zealand citizens commencing a Higher Degree by Research (HDR) program will have their tuition fees paid by the Australian Commonwealth Government under the Research Training Program (RTP) Fees Offset scheme. The RTP Fees Offset scheme covers program fees for an HDR student up to a maximum period of four years for full-time study or up to eight years part-time study for a Doctoral program, and up to a maximum period of two years for full-time or four years part-time for a Masters by Research program.

As part of the enrolment process, students are required to submit proof of citizenship or permanent residency status and transcripts of all previous academic study. This documentation enables the University of Southern Queensland to determine eligibility for an RTP Fees Offset place.

If a student's RTP Fees Offset entitlement expires before completion of the program, the student will be required to pay full tuition fees.

Students eligible for an RTP Fees Offset place are those who:

- have not used RTP Fees Offset funding in the previous three years; or
- have already used RTP Fees Offset funding and have successfully completed an HDR program. Once a student completes an HDR program, full entitlements of RTP Fees Offset are restored.

The Australian Commonwealth Government's contribution to program fees must be acknowledged on all published material relating to a research project via a statement identifying the support received through the RTP Fees Offset scheme.

Program structure

The Doctor of Philosophy is a 24-unit program made up of one unit of research training, one unit of approved postgraduate elective (coursework or research training as approved by the Associate Dean (Graduate Research School) on advice from the supervisory team), two units for a Research Proposal to support Confirmation of Candidature and 20 units of independent research within your selected area of study. Candidates are required to enrol in an approved Schedule D course (independent research course) if the supervisory team recommends that the candidate has appropriate knowledge of relevant coursework or Research Methodology course listed in Schedule A and Schedule B.

The award of the Doctor of Philosophy requires the successful examination of the student's thesis or research outcomes, work based research project/s and professional learning.

The Doctor of Philosophy comprises a minimum of 16 units, although students would normally complete 24 units, with the option to extend to 32 units if needed. Students are required to enrol in appropriate course(s) in Semester 1 and Semester 2 from date of admission through to the date that they submit their thesis for examination, or alternatively be on approved leave. Failure to enrol or not be on approved leave may result in the student's enrolment being cancelled. Students studying full-time will need to enrol in 4 units each semester (Semester 1 and Semester 2). Part-time students will need to enrol in 2 units each semester (Semester 1 and Semester 2).

The enrolment pattern of this program is required to reflect the following:

- Research Methodology Course (Schedule A) must be completed in the first four units of enrolment.
- Advanced Approved Course (Schedule B) must be completed within the first six units of enrolment.
- Candidates who are not required to enrol in Research Methodology Course (Schedule A) and Advanced Approved Course (Schedule B) must enrol in Independent Research Courses (Schedule D).
- Research Proposal for Confirmation of Candidature (Schedule C) must be completed after the successful completion of Schedule A and Schedule B Courses and within the first eight units of enrolment.

- Independent Research Courses (Schedule D) to commence in parallel with Schedule A, B & C Courses as appropriate. After completion of 8 units, it is mandatory to ha

Examination Criteria for the Standard PhD Thesis and PhD Thesis by Publication

The thesis will be examined according to the following criteria:

- (1) The extent to which the student has demonstrated:
 - (a) Originality;
 - (b) Critical insight; and
 - (c) Capacity to carry out independent research; and
- (2) The extent of the contribution to kno

Students are able to enrol in any offered mode of a course (on-campus, external or online), regardless of the program mode of study.

Schedule A course must be completed in within the first four units of enrolment and Schedule B course must be completed within the first six units of enrolment. Students who are deemed as having sufficient knowledge of Research methodology will be required to enrol in a Schedule D courses instead of Schedule A or Schedule B. Students should contact Graduate Research School for more information. Schedule C course must be completed within the first eight units of enrolment. The enrolment is to be consulted with a student's supervisor.

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