

Professional Doctorate in Public Administration (Research) (385JA.1)

Please note these are the 2025 details for this course

Domestic students

Selection rank	PG
English language requirements	An IELTS Academic score of 6.5 overall, with no band score below 6.0 (or equivalent). View IELTS equivalences
Duration	4.0 years
UAC code	
Faculty	Faculty of Business, Government & Law
Discipline	Canberra School of Politics, Economics and Society
Location	Bruce, Canberra

Fees 

Per Unit	Per Annum	Full Course
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International students

Academic entry requirements To study at UC, you'll need to meet our academic entry requirements and any admission requirements

specific to your course. Please read your course admission requirements below. To find out whether you meet UC's academic entry requirements, visit our [academic entry requirements page](#).

[View UC's academic entry requirements](#)

English language requirements An IELTS Academic score of 6.5 overall, with no band score below 6.0 (or equivalent).

[View IELTS equivalences](#)

CRICOS code 099087C

Faculty Faculty of Business, Government & Law

Discipline Canberra School of Politics, Economics and Society

Location Bruce, Canberra

Duration 4.0 years

Fees 

Per Unit

Per Annum

Full Course

About this course

Research a professional practice issue in public administration

If you are a public administration professional, this course will see you extend and build upon your professional experience via a combination of coursework, a relevant choice of electives and a research dissertation. You will undertake advanced study and reflection on theory and practice in the professional field of public administration and public policy, while drawing on, and extending, your professional experience and expertise.

As a doctoral student, you will choose a real-world public administration problem to explore as a research project and will be encouraged to do so in the context of your own workplace, organisation or community. You will graduate from the program having made a unique contribution to professional practice in the field of public administration and ready to progress your career to the next level. As a Higher Degree by Research (HDR), this course is covered under the Australian Government's Research Training Program (RTP) funding model, which provides a fee offset for domestic students for the standard duration of the course.

Study a Professional Doctorate in Public Administration (Research) at UC

and you will:

- undertake coursework that develops knowledge and skill in research methodology and research methods
- develop the research, writing and analysis skills which enable you to produce a dissertation which is an original and significant contribution to the relevant literature and/or professional practice
- prepare a substantial dissertation which adds to existing knowledge and forms an in-depth investigation and analysis of a particular professional issue
- initiate closer links between the University and senior professionals in fields associated with public administration and public policy.

Work Integrated Learning

A professional doctorate is, by its very nature, the embodiment of Work Integrated Learning (WIL), and is much more focused on professional practice than a traditional PhD. Throughout your coursework and specifically in your dissertation, you will be encouraged to apply your existing professional knowledge and undertake new research to identify and explore a real-world problem in the field of public administration.

Career opportunities

- Academic
- Lecturer
- Sessional academic
- Senior research officer
- Senior research fellow
- Administration director
- Administrative services director
- Public servant
- Senior policy officer
- Project officer
- Senior analyst
- Program director
- Strategic adviser
- Consultant
- International diplomat
- Indigenous program director
- Human resources director
- Industrial relations director

Course-specific information

Before a candidate is admitted to the Professional Doctorate in Public Administration program, the University must be satisfied that it is able to supervise the candidate's proposed dissertation, and that the candidate satisfies the following admission requirements:

- a) holds at minimum a bachelor's degree and a post-bachelor honours year by research, or a master's or graduate diploma degree of one to two years' full-time duration in a relevant field, with a Credit or greater average, and evidence of having performed in subjects relevant to the proposed study at Distinction level or above
- b) has five years of professional practice in a relevant area
- c) provides evidence of superior legal professional performance both intellectually and technically

- d) provides evidence of capacity for independent research under the guidance of a supervisory panel at a doctoral level, and relevant professional development
- e) provides evidence of superior professional performance, both intellectually and technically.

A requirement for proceeding to the research component of the degree is completion of the coursework component of the degree, and the acceptance and approval of a research proposal and plan by the course convener.

There are non-standard English language requirements for this course. To be eligible, you must have an academic IELTS or equivalent of 6.5 with no band score below 6.0. Students who have undertaken all their education in an English-speaking country (as defined on the UC website) are deemed to have met our English language proficiency requirements.

Domestic students who are accepted on this course are provided for under the Australian Government's Research Training Program (RTP) funding model, which provides a fee offset for the standard duration of the course. Once your RTP entitlement is consumed, you will be charged the annual fee rate that applied at the start of your degree. Further information on fees for Higher Degree by Research (HDR) students can be found [here](#).

Admission requirements

Before a candidate is admitted to the Doctor of Public Administration, the Faculty must be satisfied that it is able to supervise the candidate's proposed dissertation and that the candidate satisfies the following admission requirements:

- (a) holds at minimum a Bachelor degree and a post-Bachelor Honours year by research, or a Master or Graduate Diploma degree of 1 to 2 years full-time duration in a relevant field with a credit or greater average and evidence of having performed in some subjects relevant to the proposed study at Distinction level or above;
- (b) has five years of professional practice in a relevant area;
- (c) provides evidence of capacity for independent research under the guidance of a supervisory panel at the doctoral level and relevant professional development; and
- (d) provides evidence of superior professional performance both intellectually and technically.

A requirement for proceeding to the research component of the degree is completion of the coursework component of the degree and the acceptance and approval of a research proposal and research plan by the course convener.

Assumed knowledge

None.

Periods course is open for new admissions

Year	Location	Teaching period	Teaching start date	Domestic	International
2025	Bruce, Canberra	Research Semester 2		✔	✔

2025	Bruce, Canberra	Research Semester 1	✓	✓
2026	Bruce, Canberra	Research Semester 2	✓	✓
2026	Bruce, Canberra	Research Semester 1	✓	✓

Credit arrangements

There are currently no formal credit transfer arrangements for entry to this course. Any previous study or work experience will only be considered as part of the application process in accordance with current [course rules and university policy](#).

Course requirements

Professional Doctorate in Public Administration (Research) (385JA) | 72 credit points

Required - 66 credit points as follows

[Expand All](#) | [Collapse All](#)

Coursework - 18 credit points as follows

[Research Methodology and Research Design PG \(6647\)](#) | 6 credit points – Level P

[Quantitative Research Methods B PG \(6648\)](#) | 3 credit points – Level P

[Qualitative Research Methods B PG \(6649\)](#) | 3 credit points – Level P

[Literature Review Seminar \(6650\)](#) | 3 credit points – Level P

[Professional Doctorate Research Proposal B PG \(8610\)](#) | 3 credit points – Level P

Dissertation - 48 credit points as follows

[Public Administration Dissertation D:FT \(4515\)](#) | 48 credit points – Level D

[Public Administration Dissertation D:PT \(4516\)](#) | 48 credit points – Level R

Coursework Units - Must pass 6 credit points from the following

- Postgrad Level, selected from Masters or Grad Dip, with the approval of the dissertation Supervisor & Course Convener. Units will be assessed according to their relevance to the proposed dissertation.

Candidates are also required to complete a Research Education Program to acquire the generic skills & attributes identified as appropriate for graduates of postgraduate research programs at UC.

In addition to course requirements, in order to successfully complete your course you must meet the inherent requirements. Please refer to the [inherent requirements statement](#) applicable to your course

Typical study pattern

UC - Canberra, Bruce

Standard Full Time, Research Semester 1 Commencing

Year 1

Semester 1

Literature Review Seminar (6650)

Research Methodology and Research Design PG (6647)

Semester 2

Professional Doctorate Research Proposal B PG (8610)

Qualitative Research Methods B PG (6649)

Quantitative Research Methods B PG (6648)

Year 2

Semester 1

Public Administration Dissertation D:FT (4515)

Semester 2

Public Administration Dissertation D:FT (4515)

Year 3

Semester 1

Public Administration Dissertation D:FT (4515)

Semester 2

Public Administration Dissertation D:FT (4515)

Year 4

Semester 1

Public Administration Dissertation D:FT (4515)

Semester 2

Public Administration Dissertation D:FT (4515)

Course information

Course duration

Standard: 4 years full-time or equivalent. Maximum: 8 years.

Learning outcomes

Learning outcomes	Related graduate attributes
Coursework that develops knowledge and skill in research methodology and research methods;	.
Development of research, writing and analysis skills which enable students to produce a dissertation which constitutes an original and significant contribution to the relevant literature and/or to professional practice;	.
Preparation of a substantial dissertation which adds to existing knowledge and constitutes an in-depth investigation and analysis of a particular professional issue or set of issues; and	.
Bridging the gap between theory and practice by developing closer links between the University and senior professionals in fields associated with public administration and public policy.	.

Awards

Award	Official abbreviation
Doctor of Public Administration	DPA

Enrolment data

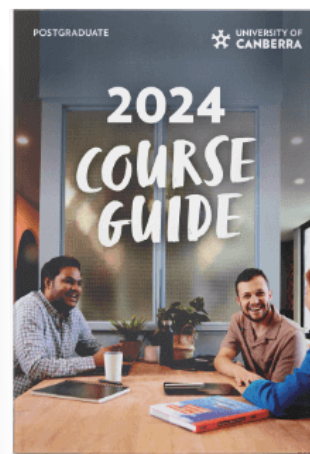
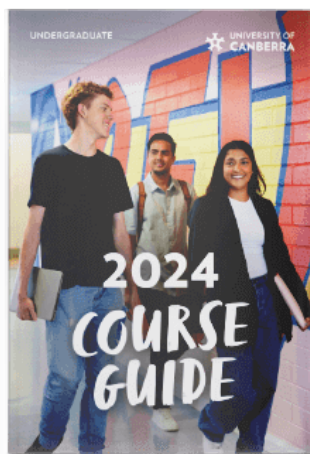
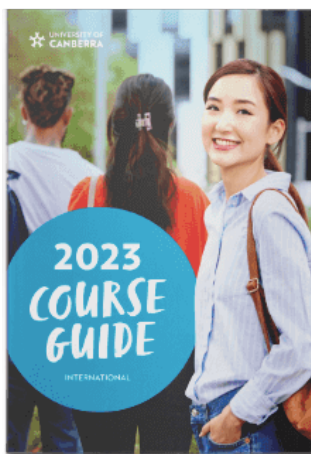
2023 enrolments for this course by location. Please note that enrolment numbers are indicative only and in no way reflect individual class sizes.

Location	Enrolments
UC - Canberra, Bruce	1

Enquiries

Student category	Contact details
Current & Prospective Students	Faculty of Business, Government and Law BGLHDR@canberra.edu.au

Download your course guide



Scholarships

Find the scholarship that's the right fit for you

[Explore Scholarships](#)

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UC acknowledges the Ngunnawal people, traditional custodians of the lands where Bruce campus is situated. We wish to acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of Canberra and the region. We also acknowledge all other First Nations Peoples on whose lands we gather.