UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA

Doctor of Philosophy (MXP001.2)

Please note these are the 2027 details for this course

Domestic students

Selection rank	
Delivery mode	On campus
Location	Bruce, Canberra
Duration	4.0 years
Faculty	Graduate Research Office
Discipline	Graduate Research Office
UAC code	
English language requirements	Academic IELTS of 6.5 or equivalent, with no band score below 6.0 View IELTS equivalences

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
Delivery mode	On campus

Location	Bruce, Canberra
Duration	4.0 years
Faculty	Graduate Research Office
Discipline	Graduate Research Office
CRICOS code	102575A
English language requirements	Academic IELTS of 6.5 or equivalent, with no band score below 6.0 View IELTS equivalences

About this course

Distinctive advantage

Our Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) is a transformative higher degree by research program designed to empower you to make original contributions to knowledge and practice in your chosen field. Delivered over four years full-time (or eight years part-time), the program combines rigorous independent research with 12 credit points of advanced coursework.

Be equipped with a strong foundation in research theory, methodology, and professional practice. You'll be encouraged to think big, be entrepreneurial, find innovative solutions to real-world problems and make a positive change Our PhD Plus will help you stand out in a highly competitive job market and advance your career prospects in academia, industry or policy.

Study a Doctor of Philosophy at UC and you will:

- Conduct independent, original research culminating in a thesis, which may include creative works in applicable disciplines.
- Join a dynamic and supportive community of researchers across diverse fields.
- Design and lead complex research projects using advanced methods and theoretical frameworks.
- Develop innovative, evidence-based solutions to complex, real-world challenges.
- Communicate advanced research concepts to academic, professional, and public audiences.
- Address complex ethical issues, research integrity, and data governance requirements.
- Apply advanced data analysis, computational tools, and/or statistical techniques.
- Identify, evaluate, and influence emerging trends and debates in your field.
- Gain high-level transferable skills in research, leadership, and strategic thinking.

Industry Engagement

Thanks to UC's PhD Plus program you'll have ample opportunities to engage in meaningful industry collaboration. Explore the option to co-design your research with industry stakeholders, engage in collaborative data collection or trials, or undertake targeted research internships. These experiences foster real-world impact and enhance employability by embedding research within professional contexts.

Career Opportunities

After graduating from UC's PhD Plus program, you'll be well-positioned for a diverse and impactful career across academia, industry, government, and the not-for-profit sector. Potential roles include:

- Academic Researcher or Lecturer
- Policy or Cultural Advisor
- Innovation or Strategy Consultant
- Research and Development Manager
- Creative Producer or Arts Researcher
- Government or Industry Research Officer
- Writer, Editor, or Communications Specialist
- Program Evaluator or Strategic Planner
- Research Director or Program Lead

Course specific information

If you aspire to lead transformative research and shape the future of your discipline, then the PhD Plus might be for you. With its unique blend of coursework and independent research, the program fosters creativity, rigour, and integrity in addressing complex challenges.

You'll benefit from UC's strong research culture and industry connections, gaining access to high-impact projects, collaborative opportunities, and professional networks. Whether your goal is to pursue an academic career, drive innovation in industry, or influence policy and practice, the PhD provides the skills, experience, and support to help you succeed.

Admission requirements

To be eligible to apply for this course:
1. There must be appropriate supervision available to supervise your research topic.
2. You must have completed one of the following Australian or Australian-equivalent qualifications in a relevant discipline related to your proposed research:

a) Bachelor Honours Degree with first-class or upper second-class honours, or equivalent,
b) Masters Degree (Research), or
c) Masters Degree (Coursework) with a research component of at least 25 per cent of the course.

The Dean, Graduate Research School may, in exceptional circumstances, approve admission into the PhD based on evidence of academic and research achievement gained through professional training, work experience or peer reviewed publications that they deem are equivalent to meeting the minimum academic requirements above.

All admissions are subject to the Higher Degree by Research Procedure https://policies.canberra.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=45&version=1

Transferring from another HDR Course
You may be eligible to transfer from one HDR course within the University to the Doctor of Philosophy if you have met the requirements detailed in the Higher Degree by Research Procedure.

Additional admission requirements

The Graduate Certificate in Research Methods and Design exists as an exit award only, for those students admitted to the PhD.

If a candidate fails to meet academic requirements during candidature, they may be eligible for the Graduate Certificate as an exit award providing the requirements of the award have been met.

Where a candidate fails to meet the academic requirements of the Graduate Certificate, they will be discontinued from the PhD and offered the opportunity to reattempt failed units and, if successful, exit with a Graduate Certificate. The Graduate Certificate will not be awarded if the candidate successfully completes the PhD.

Assumed knowledge

Sufficient knowledge relevant to the study area to enable identification of a need for research.

Periods course is open for new admissions

Year	Location	Teaching period	Teaching start date	Domestic	International
2027	Bruce, Canberra	Research Semester 2		✓	✓
2027	Bruce, Canberra	Research Semester 1		✓	✓
2028	Bruce, Canberra	Research Semester 1		✓	✓
2028	Bruce, Canberra	Research Semester 2		✓	✓

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

Doctor of Philosophy (MXP001) | 96 credit points

Restricted Choice - May do up to 6 credit points from the following

Expand All | Collapse All

Recommended for Business, Government and Law students - May select from

Professional Doctorate Research Proposal B PG (8610) | 3 credit points — Level P

Research Fundamentals PG (10386) | 6 credit points — Level P

Reading and Critiquing Literature PG (10387) | 6 credit points — Level P

Research Design PG (10388) | 6 credit points — Level P

Legal Research and Writing Skills PG (11445) | 3 credit points — Level P

Recommended for Education students - May select from

Education Research Perspectives PG (9087) | 3 credit points — Level P

Qualitative Research PG (10440) | 3 credit points — Level P

Quantitative Research PG (10441) | 3 credit points — Level P

Educational Research Capstone Project PG (10443) | 6 credit points — Level P

Research Applications in Education PG (11908) | 3 credit points — Level P

Recommended for Health students - May select from

Qualitative Research Practice in Health PG (9583) | 3 credit points — Level P

Quantitative Research Practice in Health PG (9585) | 3 credit points — Level P

Epidemiology and Principles of Research PG (9594) | 3 credit points — Level P

Recommended for Information Sciences students - May select from

Inf. Sc. Research Proposal R (6798) | 3 credit points — Level R

Advances in Information Sciences and Engineering PG (11526) | 3 credit points — Level P

ICT and Engineering Research Methodology PG (12090) | 3 credit points — Level P

- Information Science students: You may choose any coursework units from 973AA Master of Information Technology and Systems with agreement from your supervisory panel or the HDR convenor.

Recommended for Creative Practice students - May select from

Applied Arts and Humanities Thesis Design PG (9679) | 6 credit points — Level P

Open to all students - May select from

Research Planning PG (6486) | 3 credit points — Level P

Inf. Sc. Research Proposal R (6798) | 3 credit points — Level R

Education Research Perspectives PG (9087) | 3 credit points — Level P

Qualitative Research Practice in Health PG (9583) | 3 credit points — Level P

Quantitative Research Practice in Health PG (9585) | 3 credit points — Level P

Epidemiology and Principles of Research PG (9594) | 3 credit points — Level P

Applied Arts and Humanities Thesis Design PG (9679) | 6 credit points — Level P

Research Fundamentals PG (10386) | 6 credit points — Level P

Reading and Critiquing Literature PG (10387) | 6 credit points — Level P

Research Design PG (10388) | 6 credit points — Level P

Qualitative Research PG (10440) | 3 credit points — Level P

Quantitative Research PG (10441) | 3 credit points — Level P

Educational Research Capstone Project PG (10443) | 6 credit points — Level P

Advances in Information Sciences and Engineering PG (11526) | 3 credit points — Level P

Research Applications in Education PG (11908) | 3 credit points — Level P

ICT and Engineering Research Methodology PG (12090) | 3 credit points — Level P

Research Methods and Skills for Research Students PG (12187) | 3 credit points — Level P

Doctoral Research Thesis Elective R (3cp) (12199) | 3 credit points — Level R

Doctoral Research Thesis Elective R (6cp) (12200) | 6 credit points — Level R

- 1. Admitted based on RPL: Students who have been admitted into the PhD based on RPL are encouraged to enrol in 12187 Research Methods and Skills for Research Students PG in their first semester

- 2. No applicable coursework units? Upon recommendation from HDR Convenor you may select any other relevant post-graduate (Level P) unit or one of the Research Thesis Electives: (12199 or 12200)

- 3. Self-enrolling: You may need to complete an enrolment waiver for some units to bypass prereqs. Provide a commentary explaining why you meet the requirements and how it aligns with your research.

- 4. Credit for Restricted Choice: If you have completed a similar coursework unit or have relevant professional experience, you might qualify for up to 6 credit points of credit. Apply via myUC.

Required - 90 credit points as follows

Coursework Units - Must pass 6 credit points as follows

Applied Theories and Methods of Research PG (12188) | 3 credit points — Level P

Advanced Research Practice PG (12193) | 3 credit points — Level P

Thesis - Must pass 84 credit points from the following

Doctoral Thesis R (3cp) (12195) | 84 credit points — Level R

Doctoral Thesis R (6cp) (12196) | 84 credit points — Level R

Doctoral Thesis R (9cp) (12197) | 84 credit points — Level R

Doctoral Thesis R (12cp) (12198) | 84 credit points — Level R

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, Semester 1 Commencing

Year 1

Research Semester 1

Doctoral Thesis R (6cp) (12196)

Research Semester 2

Doctoral Thesis R (6cp) (12196)

Semester 1

Advanced Research Practice PG (12193)

Applied Theories and Methods of Research PG (12188)

Semester 2

Restricted Choice Unit(s)

Year 2

Research Semester 1

Doctoral Thesis R (12cp) (12198)

Research Semester 2

Doctoral Thesis R (12cp) (12198)

Year 3

Research Semester 1

Doctoral Thesis R (12cp) (12198)

Research Semester 2

Doctoral Thesis R (12cp) (12198)

Year 4

Research Semester 1

Doctoral Thesis R (12cp) (12198)

Research Semester 2

Doctoral Thesis R (12cp) (12198)

Standard Full Time, Semester 2 Commencing

Year 1

Research Semester 2

Doctoral Thesis R (6cp) (12196)

Semester 2

Advanced Research Practice PG (12193)

Applied Theories and Methods of Research PG (12188)

Year 2

Research Semester 1

Doctoral Thesis R (6cp) (12196)

Research Semester 2

Doctoral Thesis R (12cp) (12198)

Semester 1

Restricted Choice Unit(s)

Year 3

Research Semester 1

Doctoral Thesis R (12cp) (12198)

Research Semester 2

Doctoral Thesis R (12cp) (12198)

Year 4

Research Semester 1

Doctoral Thesis R (12cp) (12198)

Research Semester 2

Doctoral Thesis R (12cp) (12198)

Year 5

Research Semester 1

Doctoral Thesis R (12cp) (12198)

Standard Part Time, Semester 1 Commencing - Part 1 (Years 1-4)

Year 1

Semester 1

Advanced Research Practice PG (12193)

Applied Theories and Methods of Research PG (12188)

Semester 2

Restricted Choice Unit(s)

Year 2

Research Semester 1

Doctoral Thesis R (6cp) (12196)

Research Semester 2

Doctoral Thesis R (6cp) (12196)

Year 3

Research Semester 1

Doctoral Thesis R (6cp) (12196)

Research Semester 2

Doctoral Thesis R (6cp) (12196)

Year 4

Research Semester 1

Doctoral Thesis R (6cp) (12196)

Research Semester 2

Doctoral Thesis R (6cp) (12196)

Standard Part Time, Semester 1 Commencing - Part 2 (Years 5-8)

Year 5

Research Semester 1

Doctoral Thesis R (6cp) (12196)

Research Semester 2

Doctoral Thesis R (6cp) (12196)

Year 6

Research Semester 1

Doctoral Thesis R (6cp) (12196)

Research Semester 2

Doctoral Thesis R (6cp) (12196)

Year 7

Research Semester 1

Doctoral Thesis R (6cp) (12196)

Research Semester 2

Doctoral Thesis R (6cp) (12196)

Year 8

Research Semester 1

Doctoral Thesis R (6cp) (12196)

Research Semester 2

Doctoral Thesis R (6cp) (12196)

Standard Part Time, Semester 2 Commencing - Part 1 (Years 1-5)

Year 1

Semester 2

Advanced Research Practice PG (12193)

Applied Theories and Methods of Research PG (12188)

Year 2

Research Semester 2

Doctoral Thesis R (6cp) (12196)

Semester 1

Restricted Choice Unit(s)

Year 3

Research Semester 1

Doctoral Thesis R (6cp) (12196)

Research Semester 2

Doctoral Thesis R (6cp) (12196)

Year 4

Research Semester 1

Doctoral Thesis R (6cp) (12196)

Research Semester 2

Doctoral Thesis R (6cp) (12196)

Year 5

Research Semester 1

Doctoral Thesis R (6cp) (12196)

Research Semester 2

Doctoral Thesis R (6cp) (12196)

Standard Part Time, Semester 2 Commencing - Part 2 (Years 6-9)

Year 6

Research Semester 1

Doctoral Thesis R (6cp) (12196)

Research Semester 2

Doctoral Thesis R (6cp) (12196)

Year 7

Research Semester 1

Doctoral Thesis R (6cp) (12196)

Research Semester 2

Doctoral Thesis R (6cp) (12196)

Year 8

Research Semester 1

Doctoral Thesis R (6cp) (12196)

Research Semester 2

Doctoral Thesis R (6cp) (12196)

Year 9

Research Semester 1

Doctoral Thesis R (6cp) (12196)

Course information

Course duration

Standard 4 years full-time or equivalent. Maximum 10 years.

Learning outcomes

Learning outcomes	Related graduate attributes
2.1 To develop researchers who are able to conceive of, construct and conduct an independent research project in a particular area.	_
1. Learning Outcomes for the Graduate Certificate in Research Methods and Design:	_
2. Learning Outcomes for the Doctor of Philosophy (in addition to the above):	_
1.1 Sophisticated understanding of research principles and values.	_

1.2 Conceptual, cognitive and technical skills and knowledge relevant to research practice.	_
1.4 Knowledge of principles of research integrity, data management, and the communication of knowledge to various audiences.	_
2.2 The capacity to demonstrate high research integrity with cognitive, creative and technical skills, and develop theoretical and applied knowledge for their disciplinary field or profession.	_
2.4 The capacity to apply their knowledge and skills, and make a contribution communicating findings and concepts to both academic and general audiences.	_
1.3 Capacity to formulate a research problem, design a research project, and apply judgment in the field.	_
2.3 The capacity to manage a project in a professional manner, identify and address the ethical constraints, manage budgets, and collect and store data.	_

Awards

Award	Official abbreviation
Doctor of Philosophy	PhD

Alternative exits

Alternative exit award Graduate Certificate in Research Methods and Design:

Students may exit early from the Doctor of Philosophy course if they have successfully completed 12 credit points of coursework units.

Enquiries

Student category	Contact details
Prospective Students	Email graduateresearch@canberra.edu.au
Current and Commencing Students	Email graduateresearch@canberra.edu.au

Download your course guide

Scholarships

Find the scholarship that's the right fit for you

Explore Scholarships

Printed on 02, July, 2025

University of Canberra, Bruce ACT 2617 Australia

+61 2 6201 5111

ABN 81 633 873 422

CRICOS 00212K

TEQSA Provider ID: PRV12003 (Australian University)

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.