Higher Degree Research
2014
mq.edu.au
Macquarie prides itself on its international research reputation. As one of Australia’s premier teaching and research institutions, we are confident that your choice of Macquarie University for your higher degree research program will be rewarded by an exceptional experience of research training in an environment of the highest quality.

One example of Macquarie’s commitment to international excellence is the introduction of our new research training program. In 2013 Macquarie University adopted a new research training degree structure, making it the first Australian university to fully align with Asian, European and North American qualifications. With greater international recognition for their qualifications, graduates of the Master of Research enjoy enhanced employment opportunities and pathways to further study overseas. This new research training pathway also facilitates Macquarie’s substantial joint PhD program with leading international partners across the globe.

The University continues to pursue its vision to be acknowledged as world class in our identified Concentrations of Research Excellence (COREs). Existing areas of research strength are being enhanced, while new areas of research excellence are emerging from groups of our highly motivated staff. More top-class researchers are being appointed to the Concentrations of Research Excellence, and support mechanisms for our researchers are being strengthened.

This commitment to excellence has been rewarded by the results the University achieved under the Australian Government’s second Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) evaluation. Results from the ERA 2012 evaluation highlighted Macquarie’s impressive research profile, with 40 per cent of our research ranked as ‘outstanding performance well above world standard’. The disciplines rated above, or well above, world standard include biological sciences; Earth sciences; environmental sciences; history and archaeology; language, communication and culture; law and legal studies; philosophy and religious studies; and physical sciences. In total, 85 per cent of Macquarie’s research activity was rated as performing at world standard or higher.

We value our higher degree research student body as a key asset of the University, and recognise the vital contribution our research candidates make to the University and the nation. One way we show our appreciation for our research students is through our Macquarie Research Excellence Scholarship program. To encourage excellence in higher degree research, we have expanded this program to enable well-prepared candidates to undertake doctoral studies at Macquarie.

The Higher Degree Research Office provides specialised support for higher degree research candidates. In addition to managing both domestic and international applications and admissions, the Office administers all higher degree research scholarships, including those schemes supported directly by the University.

The Dean of Higher Degree Research has specific responsibility for framing the academic support programs and pastoral care for higher degree research candidates, including liaison with the academic disciplines and student representatives, and above all, ensuring the quality of the outcome for research candidates and the University.

I welcome your interest in undertaking a higher degree research program at Macquarie University and urge you to contact our staff to investigate fully the opportunities available for you to gain an advanced research degree of the highest international standing.

Professor Sakkie Pretorius
Deputy Vice-Chancellor – Research

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Macquarie leading the way

Macquarie is renowned for excellence in interdisciplinary research and teaching, our unique approach to learning, our highly skilled graduates, and our first-class facilities.

Research excellence

Macquarie is a comprehensive university, with great research strengths in the sciences, social sciences and the professional disciplines. Macquarie conducts research driven by international collaboration and leads Australia in a range of research disciplines. Home to some of the world’s pre-eminent researchers, we offer students the best study environment, ensuring they collaborate with outstanding academics.

Rankings success

In ERA 2012 Macquarie achieved the maximum 5 rating – outstanding performance well above world standard – in three science disciplines: Earth sciences, environmental sciences and physical sciences. In total, 85 per cent of Macquarie’s research activity was rated as performing at world standard or higher.

Over half of Macquarie’s subject areas are ranked in the top 100 worldwide in the current QS World University Rankings by Subject. Additionally, according to the CWTS Leiden Ranking 2013, subject, with linguistics and psychology both in the top 50. While not in the current QS World University Rankings, over half of Macquarie’s subject areas are ranked in the top 100 worldwide in the current Times Higher Education World University Rankings.

World-leading researchers

Over the past five years Macquarie has built on its outstanding reputation through targeted investment in areas of national and international significance. Ninety top-class researchers have been recruited through the University’s Concentrations of Research Excellence (CORE) program, which is centred on 18 high-performing research areas.

Twenty three Macquarie researchers – Professors Ken Cheng, Max Coltheart, Xuan Duong, Dick Frankham, Bill Griffin, Sandy Harrison, Malcolm Hudson, Lesley Hughes, Ian Paulsen, Ian Prentice, Sue O’Reilly, Shoba Ranganathan, Ron Rapee, Roger Summons, Mark Westoby; Associate Professors Simon Griffioen, Michelle Leishman, Norman Pearson; and Drs Andrew Allen, Linda Beaumont, Elena Belousova, Daniel S Falster and Ian Wright – are in the top one per cent of researchers in the world (ESI, 2013).

Additionally, Macquarie is the host institution of, or has a major node in, four of the 13 Australian Research Council Centres of Excellence. These include the Centre of Excellence for Core to Crust Fluid Systems, the Centre of Excellence in Cognition and its Disorders, the Centre for Engineered Quantum Systems and the Centre for Ultrahigh Bandwidth Devices for Optical Systems.

Partnering with industry

Macquarie is located in the heart of Australia’s largest high-technology precinct. Such a location provides our academics and higher degree research candidates with outstanding research and innovation opportunities with some of the world’s leading organisations, including Cochlear Ltd, CSIRO, EMI, GascoSmithKline, Honeywell, and Optus. It also means our programs can offer outstanding integration with industry, which provides you with a superior learning environment, enhanced internship opportunities, and greater exposure to the job market prior to graduation.

Global outlook

Macquarie is a university with a global perspective. We welcome thousands of international students from over 100 countries to our campus each year, our curriculum is internationally focused, our exchange program is among the most extensive in Australia, and our extracurricular leadership programs have a global focus. Such an international focus enriches the educational, social and cultural experiences of all of our students and enhances their global view.

International partnerships

A major feature of our international program is our cotutelle and joint PhD arrangements which facilitate partnerships between Macquarie and 99 universities in 28 countries. The program continues to grow, increasing opportunities for international research collaboration with many world-leading research universities.

Campus life

Macquarie is located on 126 hectares of park-like campus within the heart of Australia’s largest high-technology precinct in North Ryde, just 15 kilometres from the city centre. Its own community, the Macquarie campus comes complete with shops, cafes, banks, a bar, a pharmacy, a bulk-billed medical clinic, private hospital, counselling services, financial aid, disability support services, prayer rooms, child care, and free on-campus WiFi. The campus is also walking distance to a major shopping precinct. Our sports facilities, which include pools, a gym, sports fields, and basketball and tennis courts, are some of the best university facilities in the country. Transport options at Macquarie make it one of the easiest universities to get to by public transport. There are over 4000 car spaces on campus, regular buses to and from all destinations, and an on-campus train station.
First-class facilities

Over AUS$1 billion has been invested in our campus to give you the very best facilities for learning, research and recreation.

Australian Hearing Hub
The new Australian Hearing Hub brings together some of Australia’s best researchers and service providers to advance research, education and innovation into hearing and language disorders.

Australian School of Advanced Medicine
The Australian School of Advanced Medicine brings together world-class clinicians, researchers and medical educators to create an innovative training program with a focus on future trends in medicine. It hosts a Concentration of Research Excellence in Neuroscience, Vascular sciences and Surgery.

Cochlear Ltd
Macquarie is home to the global headquarters and principal manufacturing facilities of the world leader in implantable hearing solutions. Cochlear Ltd is also a partner in the University-based Australian Hearing Hub.

Macquarie University Hospital
Australia’s most technologically advanced private hospital on a university campus is setting new benchmarks in health care. A world leader in neurosurgery, it houses the country’s only gamma knife, as well as other high-tech equipment found nowhere else in Australia.

Macquarie University Library
The library is unique in Australia, featuring the country’s first automated document storage and retrieval system. It is a versatile learning, research and social space, and provides access to a wide range of specialist collections and journals.

Macquarie University train station
In 2009 we became the first Australian university to have its own campus train station. Every 15 minutes a train service runs in each direction, providing a direct rail link to the city centre and residential suburbs.
Higher degree research and research training

Macquarie’s outstanding international research reputation ensures that your research degree will be respected and valued across the globe.

By undertaking a research degree at Macquarie you will have the opportunity to make an important contribution to the development of new knowledge in society, work alongside some of the world’s leading researchers, and access some of the region’s most outstanding facilities.

Macquarie offers research supervision across a wide range of disciplines, giving you many options to further explore your research topic. More information on the research interests of our academics can be found on the Macquarie University Supervisor Register at mqsr.mq.edu.au/MQSR

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

More specific information on the requirements for completing a higher degree research (HDR) program and Macquarie’s support structure can be found at hdr.mq.edu.au/information_about/useful_links

Higher degree research training

In 2013 Macquarie University introduced a new postgraduate degree structure, making it the first Australian university to fully align with Asian, European and North American qualifications. With greater international recognition for your qualifications, as a graduate of the new Master of Research, you will enjoy enhanced employment opportunities and pathways to further study overseas.

Consistent with the ‘Bologna model’, the two-year full-time research training degree is the main pathway to a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and Master of Philosophy (MPhil).

The model demonstrates our commitment to research excellence by providing you with a more intensive research experience before beginning doctoral study, as well as better articulation and joint PhD options with overseas universities.

Higher research degrees

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) enables you to undertake extensive, independent research which forms a distinct contribution to the knowledge of your chosen 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 research will be supervised by at least two academics 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 prior approval.

Depending on the discipline in which you conduct your research, you will be required to submit a thesis which is 75,000 to 100,000 words in length.

Admission requirements and length of candidature

From 1 January 2014, admission to the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) will have the following new requirements:

1. you must have completed Macquarie’s Master of Research with at least 75 per cent in second year; OR
2. you must have completed a Master of Philosophy; OR
3. you must have completed a masters (at least two years) from another institution with a major research component (at least 50 per cent thesis, approximately 20,000 words) at distinction level (75 per cent or greater)

In addition, all other peer-reviewed research output may be taken into consideration under Rule 2(8) of Macquarie’s higher doctoral degree rules. Refer to the postgraduate rules section at universitycouncil.mq.edu.au/legislation.html

If you have not completed the Master of Research and do not meet the above criteria you may be asked to undertake the degree as a research training pathway to the PhD.

If you have previously studied at bachelor honours or masters level, you may receive credit towards the Master of Research for a maximum of 50 per cent of the program.

MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY

The Master of Philosophy (MPhil) is 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.

Your program may include some coursework and research seminar units, and participation in presentations, and will be supervised by at least two supervisors.

The Master of Philosophy requires a thesis which is 50,000 words in length.

Admission requirements and length of candidature

From 1 January 2014, admission to the Master of Philosophy will have the following new requirements:

1. you must have completed Macquarie’s Master of Research with at least 65 per cent in second year; OR
2. you must have completed a masters (at least two years) from another institution with a major research component (at least 50 per cent thesis, approximately 20,000 words) at credit level

In addition, all other peer-reviewed research output may be taken into consideration under Rule 2(5) of Macquarie’s rules for the degree of master by research. Refer to the postgraduate rules section at universitycouncil.mq.edu.au/legislation.html

The maximum period of candidature for the Master of Philosophy is two years.

If you have not completed the Master of Research and do not meet the above criteria you may be asked to undertake the degree as a research training pathway to the Master of Philosophy.

If you have previously studied at bachelor honours or masters level, you may receive credit towards the Master of Research for a maximum of 50 per cent of the program.

Jointly supervised PhD programs

Macquarie participates in two modes of international co-enrolment – cotutelle and joint degrees – with leading research-active universities in Asia, Europe, the UK, the US and South America.

COTUTELLE

A cotutelle arrangement allows for simultaneous enrolment in a PhD at Macquarie and one of our partner universities. Under a cotutelle you submit one thesis to both institutions for joint recognition, for which you may be awarded two testamurs; one from Macquarie University and one from the partner institution.

Discover our dynamic partners international.mq.edu.au/research/cotutelles

JOINT DEGREE

A joint degree also allows you to undertake research at Macquarie and one of our partner universities, however under this arrangement you will undergo a single joint thesis examination and be awarded a single testamur bearing the crests of both universities.

Co-funded scholarships are usually available to candidates enrolling in a cotutelle or joint PhD.

Discover your PhD advantage international.mq.edu.au/research/cotutelles

Pursue your research passion mq.edu.au/masterofresearch

Undertake independent research

hdr.mq.edu.au/information_about/research_degrees/doctor_of_philosophy_phd

Get in-depth expertise

hdr.mq.edu.au/information_about/research_degrees/master_of_philosophy_mphil
Applying for higher research degrees

There are a number of steps to work through before you apply for a higher research degree at Macquarie University.

1. Pre-application
Prior to completing the higher degree research application form you are required to investigate a research topic and prepare a brief research proposal to accompany your application form. You must also consult with academic staff in your chosen research field at the University to discuss your research interests and/or potential topic to ascertain whether your research project can be accommodated.

2. Preparing a research proposal
Your proposal should define your chosen area of study, and identify a research question, clarify its importance and outline a framework for further investigation. Sufficient detail is required to enable the University to determine if it has the resources, including suitably experienced supervisors, to support your candidacy.

Research proposal requirements vary according to the discipline, department or degree. You are therefore required to establish what is expected for the research proposal with the appropriate department.

3. Application form
Following consultation with academic staff concerning the suitability of your proposed research topic and the availability of supervisors and facilities, you must complete a higher degree research application form.

There are no set closing dates for HDR applications. However, if you are applying for a scholarship, specific deadlines may apply.

Your application must be submitted to the University with original or certified copies of supporting documents. If the documentation is not in English, an official translation in English must also be included.

4. English language proficiency
Proficiency in the English language is a requirement for admission to all higher degree research and research training programs at Macquarie University.

Higher degree research applicants (domestic and international), whose academic qualifications were obtained from a country where English is not the official language, are required to provide evidence of English language proficiency.

The University accepts both IELTS and TOEFL as proof of English language proficiency. Scholarship applicants are usually expected to have higher than the minimum entry requirements.

Tuition fees

The fee structure for higher degree research varies for domestic and international candidates.

Domestic candidates

**RESEARCH TRAINING SCHEME**

All eligible domestic higher degree research candidates are granted places under the Research Training Scheme (RTS), which provides an exemption from course tuition fees. There is no need to apply for an RTS place as it is automatically awarded to eligible candidates.

The RTS guidelines impose specific conditions on universities and research candidates. It is expected that you will submit your thesis within the RTS-funded period, which will fund you for three years full-time study (or part-time equivalent) under a PhD, and two years full-time study (or part-time equivalent) for a Master of Philosophy. If you are transferring from another Australian university, or have an incomplete research degree, you will have your prior study period in the research degree deducted from the maximum candidature at Macquarie.

**Fund your future**


International candidates

All international candidates are required to pay tuition fees.

You will be advised of the amount in your letter of offer. New international candidates, excluding tuition-fee scholarship holders, are required to pay a commencement fee when accepting an offer at Macquarie. The fee, which is the equivalent of one session’s tuition fee, is required prior to your enrolment at Macquarie.

In addition to this fee you are also required by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship to purchase Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for your entire visa period in Australia. The University will only issue a Confirmation of Enrolment (COE) on receipt of the commencement fee and OSHC. After the initial payment of your commencement fee you will be required to pay fees on a half-yearly basis.
Scholarships

Macquarie provides a wide range of generous scholarships to support students with a proven capacity for research. Additionally, you may be eligible to apply for an externally funded scholarship.

Scholarship eligibility
Each scholarship scheme specifies particular eligibility requirements. These may include being of specified citizenship, meeting minimum English language proficiency levels, enrolment in a specific program, demonstrating an outstanding academic background and a proven capacity for research, and/or specific experience and research skills in a particular discipline.

Macquarie rates applicants on academic merit, proven research capacity including peer-reviewed research activity, prior scholarships, awards and prizes, and relevant work or professional experience.

Macquarie University HDR scholarships
Macquarie offers scholarships to domestic and international candidates – the Macquarie University Research Excellence Scholarship (MQRES) and the International Macquarie University Research Excellence Scholarship (IMQRES). The scholarships primarily fund research within Macquarie’s Concentrations of Research Excellence (COREs).

Co-funded MQRES scholarships may also be available to cotutelle and joint PhD candidates, China Scholarship Council award holders, as well as other externally funded award holders. Scholarships are packaged on an individual basis and may include a stipend to assist with living costs, tuition fees, and an allowance for relocation or travel.

Government-funded scholarships

AUSTRALIAN POSTGRADUATE AWARD
The Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) is open to domestic candidates of exceptional promise. The APA includes a living allowance, as well as possible allowances for relocation.

INTERNATIONAL POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP
The International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (IPRS) is open to international candidates who wish to undertake higher degree research in Australia and gain experience with leading Australian researchers. The IPRS covers tuition fees for up to three years and basic overseas health cover.

Macquarie will normally provide an additional living allowance stipend equivalent to the Australian Postgraduate Award.

OTHER GOVERNMENT AWARDS
There are a range of government scholarships available for domestic and international candidates under the Australia Awards scheme.

Other financial support

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH FUND
The Postgraduate Research Fund (PGRF) is an additional source of research funding available for activities that will add value to research projects – up to a maximum value of AU$5,000 over a one-to-two-year period. There are usually two PGRF funding rounds each year, and funding is offered on a competitive basis taking into account individual merit and need.

EXTERNAL ORGANISATION AWARDS
Externally funded scholarships are available to support domestic students planning to conduct research outside of Australia. These include the Australia Awards Endeavour Scholarships, Fulbright Postgraduate Scholarships, John Monash Scholarships, Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Scholarships, Rhodes Scholarships and DAAD Scholarships.

FACULTY AND DEPARTMENTAL SCHOLARSHIPS AND SUPPORT
Individual faculties and departments may offer scholarships in addition to the University’s centrally funded scholarships, as well as financial assistance for travel costs for conferences, field work and basic research needs.

Higher degree research candidate

You will receive careful direction from your academic supervisors – all of whom have well-established reputations for their own research – following an individual candidature management plan.

Attendance
FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME CANDIDATURE
You can undertake higher degree research as either a full-time or part-time candidate; however, as a part-time candidate you must satisfy the University that you have sufficient appropriate time to complete the requirements of the degree within the maximum allowable period of candidature. If you are an international candidate studying on a student visa you should be aware that it is a condition of your visa that you are enrolled full-time. Similarly, if you are a scholarship holder it is usually expected that you will be enrolled full-time.

Full-time candidates are expected to commit, on average, a minimum of 40 hours per week to their research study program. Part-time candidates must be able to commit, on average, at least 20 hours per week on a program of research and advanced study.

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 University must be convinced that you have the means and ability to pursue independent, sustained and structured research off campus. Fieldwork and data collection can be undertaken at locations away from campus and overseas, subject to approval from your principal supervisor and the University. Further restrictions may apply to international candidates, especially those on scholarship.

Commencement and orientation programs
After enrolling at Macquarie you will be required to participate in two mandatory commencement programs – a Central Commencement Program (CCP) and a Faculty Commencement Program (FCP) – to ensure the best possible start to your research. The programs provide an introduction to the University, to research practice and to the support mechanisms available to you.

You are urged to discuss the CMP with your supervisors to ensure that both central candidature requirements and discipline-specific requirements are met within the designated candidature period.

Intellectual property
Macquarie recognises your rights to intellectual property generated by you during your course of study at the University. At enrolment, you are required to assign intellectual property rights to the University and agree to the University’s terms and conditions for the use and management of intellectual property. This means that intellectual property in the form of patentable material can be commercialised to the benefit of all inventors and gives you equal rights with academic staff members.

Research integrity and ethics
All Macquarie University higher degree research candidates must comply with the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research and other external and internal ethical guidelines, as well being aware of, and complying with, the University’s research ethics policies and procedures about the gathering and use of data.

Find a scholarship for you

Macquarie offers individualised support and assists you at every academic and administrative stage, from application through commencement and progression, to completion of candidature and submission of thesis.

Academic progress
To ensure your research is kept on track, and to assist you in overcoming any research-related difficulties, the University requires regular progress reports from you and your supervisors. Successful progress via the Annual Progress Report (APR) process must be maintained for the continuation of enrolment and any scholarship held.

Candidate Management Plan
When you commence at Macquarie you will be 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 Candidate Management Plan (CMP).

The CMP ensures you are fully aware of the milestones for progression, and assists you with your research planning and in developing a realistic timeline for research completion by the due date. It does not take into account specific discipline requirements and it may be that there will be some variations in research component completion due to the area of study. You are urged to discuss the CMP with your supervisors to ensure that both central candidature requirements and discipline-specific requirements are met within the designated candidature period.

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Contacts

Higher Degree Research Office

The Higher Degree Research Office (HDRO) is responsible for the management and administration of all aspects of HDR candidature and scholarships for domestic and international HDR candidates, including:

- pre-admission and pre-enrolment advice to prospective candidates
- admission, re-admission and enrolment
- candidature management – variations, extension and withdrawal
- progress management – Annual Progress Reports, submission and examination of theses
- research scholarship promotion, assessment and management
- HDR strategy and policy development and implementation

Address
Higher Degree Research Office
Research HUB,
Building CSC (East), Level 3
Macquarie University, NSW 2109
T: +61 2 9850 7987
F: +61 2 9850 6198
hdr.mq.edu.au

Office hours
9am – 5pm,
Monday – Friday

Application and enrolment
T: +61 2 9850 1892
T: +61 2 9850 1894
E: hdrfuture@mq.edu.au

Candidature progression
T: +61 2 9850 2277
T: +61 2 9850 9784
E: hdrcurrent@mq.edu.au

Thesis submission and examination
T: +61 2 9850 7345
T: +61 2 9850 8612
E: hdrexam@mq.edu.au

Master of Research
T: +61 2 9850 4447
T: +61 2 9850 7333
E: mres@mq.edu.au

Scholarships
T: +61 2 9850 9782
T: +61 2 9850 1893
E: hdrschol@mq.edu.au

Annual progress reports and student fees
T: +61 2 9850 1891
E: hdrmanagement@mq.edu.au

Cotutelle and joint degree agreements*
T: +61 2 9850 4780
E: gpo@mq.edu.au

* The HDRO is responsible for the management of the commencement, progression, completion and scholarships of cotutelle and joint degree candidates. Please refer to numbers above.