



ECMS HDR RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

FAQ'S

Studying a Higher Degree by Research can provide you with the skills and experience to pursue unique career opportunities and the potential to carve out your own future within a wide range of industries. Below we have compiled a list of questions which might offer some additional useful information.

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Questions relating to research studies

• **DOES A HIGHER DEGREE BY RESEARCH REQUIRE YOU TO UNDERTAKE RESEARCH AND/OR PRODUCE A FORMAL THESIS/DISSERTATION?**

Yes, a higher degree by research is a postgraduate university degree involving a unique supervised research project. These degrees are either a Masters by Research or Philosophy, or a Doctoral degree. Successful completion of a Masters or Doctoral degree requires submission of a formal thesis. Refer to the [Research Student Handbook](#) for further details.

• **IS IT POSSIBLE TO HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO RESEARCH AND WRITE ACADEMIC PAPERS IF YOU ARE WORKING ON AN INDUSTRY PROJECT?**

The main focus for research students working on industry projects is the research, as your relationship with the company is not as an employee. Each industry partner has different needs but your time should be managed through careful supervision.

• **ARE YOU ABLE TO STOP A PHD IN THE MIDDLE OF YOUR RESEARCH?**

When you decide to do a PhD, the time commitment is for at least 4 years. For the research to remain relevant, its important to complete your studies in a timely manner, the exception being for approved periods of leave under extenuating circumstances. If you are unable to commit to a 4 year period, a 2 year Master of Philosophy may be a more suitable choice.

- **WHAT IS THE EXPECTED TIME INVESTMENT OF A PHD STUDENT?**

Full-time students are expected to nominally spend 36.75 hours per week, between the hours of 7am to 7pm on weekdays on their PhD project. The maximum duration of the candidature is 4 years for a PhD. The expectation is halved for part-time candidates, and the maximum duration of the candidature is 8 years.

- **CAN I PAUSE A PHD TO DO AN INTERNSHIP?**

This would depend on your scholarship arrangements. The [UAiPhD](#) and [Adeladie-CSIRO iPhD](#) scholarships are built specifically for students who are interested in an industry based PhD project and includes a 6 month period of internship after the first year of study. There is also an opportunity to engage with internship opportunities through the APR Intern or the Industry Engaged Program (IEP) during a period of leave following the submission of your thesis for examination.

Refer to the [link](#) for more information.

- **IS THERE ANY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME RESEARCH STUDIES?**

Part-time research study opportunities are available and dependent upon the type of research project being undertaken. The main difference is the duration of part-time research study. In the case of a half-time PhD candidate, the thesis must be submitted not less than 4 years and not more than 8 years from the date of commencement of candidature. The supervisor contact hours may also vary, but that would be as per the arrangement made with the primary supervisor. Refer to the [academic program rules](#) for information.

- **IS PART-TIME RESEARCH STUDY FEASIBLE?**

In certain situations, part-time research study program may be feasible, depending on the project and supervision arrangements. The supervisor would need to determine if a part-time arrangement would still ensure the research would remain relevant at the end of the study term.

- **IS IT POSSIBLE TO CONVERT TO A PHD IF I AM ENJOYING RESEARCH AS A MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY STUDENT?**

Yes, you can upgrade from an MPhil to a PhD if you are making good progress.

- **I AM INTERESTED IN DOING AN MPHIL OR PHD, AM CURRENTLY EMPLOYED AND HOLD A UNIVERSITY BACHELOR DEGREE. AM I ELIGIBLE FOR ADMISSION IF MY DEGREE IS OVER 10 YEARS OLD WITH NO HONOURS GRADE AND A LOW GRADE POINT AVERAGE?**

If you are interested in postgraduate research study but its been a while since you last studied, we still encourage you to apply for admission. Applications like this are handled on a case-by-case basis and we encourage you to add what other professional or research related experience you may have had that would substitute for a GPA or Honours grade.

- **HOW MANY PAPERS ARE REQUIRED FOR A THESIS BY PUBLICATION?**

There is no "hard number" for the quantity of papers required for a thesis. However, a typical number ranges from 2 up to 8 journal papers for most PhD graduates.

Questions relating to application, admission and scholarship

- **WHAT ARE THE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR MPHIL AND PHD?**

Admission to PhD requires a relevant UoA Honours degree (or equivalent) with at least a 2nd class Honours (upper division). If you have a completed a postgraduate coursework degree, it must contain a significant research component and meet the minimum GPA requirement of approximately 5.5 and above. Alternatively, you have completed a relevant research Masters degree (or equivalent).

Admission to a Master of Philosophy requires a relevant University of Adelaide bachelor degree (or equivalent), with a distinction average as a minimum.

Refer to the AGC [website](#) for further information.

- **CAN I APPLY FOR ADMISSION ONLY?**

Yes. *Admission only* applications are for applicants who do not need to go into a competitive scholarship round in order to be awarded a scholarship. For example, we have many scholarships that are funded through grant funds or industry funds and there is a separate competitive application process associated with these types of opportunities. In these

cases, if students are academically qualified and the right 'fit' for an opportunity then a separate interview and assessment process is undertaken by the AGC.

- Alternatively, scholarships that are to be funded through the Commonwealth require an 'admission & scholarship' application to be submitted online in order for eligibility to be assessed through a competitive ranking process.

• WHAT ARE THE FEES?

Fees for Domestic Students

Eligible domestic students (including Australian citizens or permanent residents and New Zealand citizens) are covered by the Research Training Program (RTP) and are exempt from the payment of tuition fees. An RTP place is available for a maximum of 4 years of full time equivalent study for an eligible Doctorate student. Refer to the [link](#) for further information.

Fees for International Students

The tuition fees for international research students are available on the web at: <https://www.adelaide.edu.au/study/postgraduate/research-degrees/international-student-fees/>

Refer to the degree finder under the [Master of Philosophy](#) or the [Doctor of Philosophy](#) for further information.

• I HAVEN'T GRADUATED YET. DO I HAVE TO UPLOAD ANYTHING WITH MY APPLICATION?

Before you apply for admission and/or scholarship, you will be asked to provide your CV and current academic transcript for your potential supervisor to perform an initial assessment of your academic ability. If you haven't completed your studies, attaching an incomplete transcript will still give the supervisor an idea of your academic achievements to date. Refer to the [webpage](#) for further information.

• I'M COMPLETING AN APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION AND SCHOLARSHIP ON THE AGC WEBPAGE. UNDER 'RESEARCH EXPERIENCE' WHAT TYPE OF EXPERIENCE SHOULD I LIST?

- Probably best to discuss this with your potential supervisor once you have found a research opportunity. Refer to the ECMS Research Opportunities [Guide](#) for potential projects and academic contact details.

• I'M COMPLETING AN APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION AND SCHOLARSHIP ON THE AGC WEBPAGE. IT ASKS IF I HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED IN A RESEARCH POSITION. WHAT TYPE OF EXPERIENCE IS RELEVANT?

- Probably best to discuss this with your potential supervisor once you have found a research opportunity. Refer to the ECMS Research Opportunities [Guide](#) for potential projects and academic contact details.

• WHAT OPTIONAL DOCUMENTS SHOULD I INCLUDE WITH MY ADMISSION AND SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION?

It's useful to include any correspondence emails you may have had with your potential supervisor confirming their interest to support your application and availability to supervise.

• WOULD I NEED TO HAVE PUBLISHED AN ACADEMIC PAPER IN ORDER TO GAIN ADMISSION TO A RESEARCH DEGREE?

No, admission to a PhD program is not dependant on publishing papers. However, may make you more competitive when applying for a scholarship.

• DO WE NEED A PUBLICATION TO BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR THE IPHD PROGRAM?

No, applications for the iPhD program are not assessed based on completed publications. Admission is mainly based on your overall academic performance.

Questions relating to training and development

• DOES/DID YOUR DEGREE(S) PROVIDE ANY FORMAL TRAINING COURSES/UNITS IN RESEARCH METHODOLOGY?

Yes. All research students are required to participate in the CaRST program – a program of professional development, designed by you to meet your unique career goals and training needs. In the early stages of your research, a ‘Research Methods’ course is available for you to complete. Refer to the [website](#) for more information on available training courses.

Questions relating to careers

- **IF YOU AREN'T INTERESTED IN ANY OF THE INDUSTRY PHDS AND WOULD RATHER DO YOUR OWN TOPIC, WOULD THAT PUT YOU AT A DISADVANTAGE, IN TERMS OF SKILLS, IF YOU WANT TO WORK IN INDUSTRY EVENTUALLY?**

Completing a PhD is becoming more sought after across many industries, so either an industry or traditional PhD would be beneficial. However, industry PhDs can help you to develop some of the other [employability skills](#) that industry are looking for such as problem solving, teamwork, communication, creativity, emotional intelligence etc. All research students are required to complete a minimum number of [CaRST](#) hours as part of their requirement, so an industry based PhD can often complement these skills.

- **CAN DOING A RESEARCH DEGREE LEAD TO A TEACHING JOB AT UNIVERSITY?**

Doing a research degree can potentially lead to a teaching job and there may be opportunities to tutor coursework students during your degree. Many current academics have taken this path. However, we are finding the landscape is starting to shift in terms of career opportunities, and more and more opportunities are opening up for PhD graduates in the private and public sectors.

- **WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES FACED BY PHD STUDENTS WHEN TRANSITIONING TO INDUSTRY, AND HOW DO THEY TYPICALLY OVERCOME THEM?**

A number of PhDs coming from University to industry are highly valued for their specific and general knowledge and skills. They find business systems and larger organisations a bit new but knowledge and problem solving skills shine through as they get used to a workplace. Having an employer that knows the value of the PhD and has transitional processes or familiarity with the University system can help.

Questions relating to contact information

- **I DIDN'T DO A RESEARCH PROJECT AS PART OF MY COURSEWORK. HOW DO I CONNECT WITH A SUITABLE SUPERVISOR?**

Please refer to our ECMS Research Opportunities [Guide](#) for potential projects you may be interested in. Follow up using the academic contact details provided.

- **I AM INTERESTED IN A PARTICULAR RESEARCH TOPIC BUT CAN'T FIND IT IN THE ECMS RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES GUIDE. WHO DO I CONTACT TO DISCUSS?**

The Faculty has a Postgraduate Coordinator that represents each of its Schools and who can help you connect with the right academic. Refer to the [link](#) for contact details. Alternatively, contact ecms.hdr@adelaide.edu.au, we are happy to help.

Questions relating to scholarships

- **ARE ALL OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS?**

Sometimes this varies depending on the type of research project. Some projects related to Defence may be limited to domestic applicants only, due to accessing highly confidential information that requires a national defence clearance. Follow up the ‘further information’ or ‘contact’ links in our ECMS Research Opportunities [Guide](#) to determine the eligibility of particular opportunities.

- **ARE THERE ANY SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR THE MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY (MPHIL)?**

Yes. Scholarship opportunities for MPhil can be found by using the search function on the AGC webpage. You may also refer to our ECMS Research Opportunities [Guide](#). When you find a research project that interests you, follow up with the academic contact to confirm if there is an MPhil opportunity available for that particular (or any other) projects. Alternatively, please contact the [Postgraduate Coordinator](#) for the School to enquire and be directed to an appropriate academic.

- **CAN OFFSHORE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS APPLY FOR IPHD SCHOLARSHIPS?**

Yes, some iPhD scholarships are available to offshore international students, depending on when students are available to start. Search the list of [opportunities](#) and follow up with the academic contact to confirm.

- **CAN OFFSHORE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS APPLY FOR A UARS SCHOLARSHIP?**

No. UARS scholarships are reserved for **onshore** international students only. Please refer to the scholarship [website](#) for international scholarship options.

- **WHAT IS THE MINIMUM GPA FOR APPLYING FOR AN IPHD SCHOLARSHIP?**

There is no minimum GPA required for an iPhD scholarship, however applicants are assessed based on high academic achievement. As a general rule, students with a GPA in the region of 5.5 and above with a first class honours are considered first when competing for any available scholarships. Postgraduate coursework students are assessed based on high academic achievement and a high level of completion of a significant research component as part of their coursework studies.

- **ARE ANY SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE?**

Yes. We have many scholarships on offer. Refer to the ECMS Research Opportunities [Guide](#) for potential projects and academic contact details.

Can't find an answer to your question?

Contact us at ecms.hdr@adelaide.edu.au and we'll get back to you.

ECMS Research Development Team

Faculty of Engineering, Computer and

Mathematical Sciences ECMS

EMAIL ecms.hdr@adelaide.edu.au

WEBSITE ecms.adelaide.edu.au/study-with-us/

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