

Doctor of Philosophy

Level: 10

Points: 360

Method of Study: Full-time

Qualification: Degree

Duration: 4 years

Application Deadline: Ongoing

Introduction

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) qualification is a four year research degree that provides an option for interdisciplinary research of an applied and professional nature.

Research and Thesis

Doctoral degrees are characterised by advanced study and original research in a discipline, and will:

- demand extensive knowledge of the wider subject in which the topic for intensive investigation is situated
- include pure or applied research, creative planning and design, practical work and original scholarship to international standards, with graduates demonstrating well-developed skills of research, critical analysis and application so as to demonstrate independence of thought in their area of specialisation
- require sustained self-directed study and independent work
- require excellent communication skills for creating, synthesising, evaluating and persuading
- expect graduates to participate in international academic discussion in their field of study
- expect a tangible output that is an original contribution to knowledge in a discipline or field of study to an international standard.

The research for the PhD culminates in a 360-point thesis. As a general guide, a doctoral level thesis is normally between 60,000 and 80,000 words (excluding bibliographies), depending on the topic and the specific research undertaken. Students should consult their supervisor on what is appropriate for their proposed research.

Resources

The University provides a number of study resources for postgraduate students. Computer and open access pods are available across the University. Through the AUT Library, postgraduate students have access to a wide range of information resources, many of which are electronic and available both on and off campus. Postgraduate Centres located in the libraries of both campuses provide computer facilities, study carrels and refreshment areas.

The University Postgraduate Centre coordinates a Postgraduate Seminar Series throughout the year to complement those offered by the faculties. Regular orientation tours of the postgraduate facilities at AUT are available upon request.

Faculties provide study space for research students as well as laboratory space and specialised equipment where appropriate. Equipment available to support research varies appropriately from faculty to faculty. Intending research students should consult with individual faculties and proposed supervisors prior to finalising a research topic. Research may be conducted outside the University, and negotiation with outside organisations for access to equipment and facilities is possible.

Additional funding to support postgraduate student research may be available to students from:

- Faculty or University scholarships
- External funding, including funding from professional associations, or discipline-specific funding bodies.
- New Zealand Vice-Chancellor's Committee Scholarships

Preparation Paper for the Doctor of Philosophy Research Proposal

In order to facilitate the preparation of the initial research proposal as part of the application process, applicants to the Doctor of Philosophy programmes are provided with access to University resources, free of charge for three months.

International Students

All international PhD candidates enrolled in a New Zealand PhD programme at a New Zealand University for the first time after 19 April 2005, who are studying in New Zealand, will be treated as if they have resident status for the duration of their study and will be entitled to pay domestic tuition fees if they are being supervised by one of the University's leading researchers.

Entry Requirements

- International candidates will be required to study full-time for visa purposes. In order to be eligible for the domestic tuition fees candidates must be conducting the majority of their studies in New Zealand.
- a master's degree with honours; or a bachelor's degree with honours (equivalent to four years study) in a discipline which is appropriate for the proposed research
- the degree must have been gained at the standard of first or second class (first division) honours from a New Zealand tertiary institution or a recognised International University.
- the degree for applicants to the Doctor of Philosophy must also have included advanced learning in research, the execution of a research project and the writing of a report on that research
- applicants to a professional doctorate must provide evidence of having a minimum of five year's professional experience in their specific area of study.
- For candidates whose first language is not English, evidence will be required that they have obtained an acceptable pass in an accepted English language test.
- The preferred external test is IELTS and doctoral candidates are required to obtain a minimum of 6.5 overall with 7 in writing and no band less than 6,

Areas of Study

The PhD can be undertaken in any of AUT's faculties: Applied Humanities, Business, Design and Creative Technologies, Health and Environmental Sciences and Te Ara Poutama. In addition, research is conducted in the following areas:

Key Research Institutes:

Biotechnology Research Institute
Centre for Physical Rehabilitation Research
Creative Industries Research Institute
Earth and Oceanic Sciences Research Institute
Engineering Research Institute
Institute of Biomedical Technologies
Institute for Culture, Discourse and Communication
Institute of Public Policy
Institute of Sport and Recreation Research New Zealand
National Institute for Public Health & Mental Health Research
New Zealand Tourism Research Institute
The Knowledge Engineering and Discovery Research Institute

Research Centres:

Co-Lab (Creative Technologies Laboratory)
Centre for Applied Science International Development
Centre for Corporate Governance
Centre for Midwifery and Women's Health Research
Centre for Radiophysics and Space Research
Centre for Research on Information Systems Management
Centre for Work and Labour Market Studies
Computing and Information Systems Research Cluster
Gender and Diversity Research Interest Group

Interdisciplinary Trauma Research Unit
Lifelong Learning
National Centre for Health and Social Ethics
Physical Rehabilitation Research Centre
Software Engineering Research Laboratory
Taupua Wairoa Centre for Maori Health Research
Textile and Design Laboratory

Application, Admission and Enrolment

- You can apply to enrol in the PhD at any time during the year.
- Applicants should first contact faculty staff to discuss the availability of appropriate research facilities and supervision (see Faculty Contacts below).
- Faculty staff should also be the first point of contact for all students.
- Once it has been established that the faculty can host the proposed research then a formal application will need to be completed (International Application Form) which is to be submitted to the Academic Registry and Application for Provisional Admission (provided by the Faculty), to be submitted to the Faculty.
- Applicants for admission to a doctoral degree must comply with the Standard Qualification Regulations for Doctoral Degrees and must be read in conjunction with the General Academic Regulations of the AUT Academic Calendar.

For information on the PhD programme, please contact one of the following:

Faculties of Applied Humanities and Te Ara Poutama
Dr Sharon Harvey
Phone: +64-9-921-9659
Email: sharon.harvey@aut.ac.nz

Faculty of Business
Dr Andy Godfrey
Phone: +64-9-921-9846
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Faculty of Design and Creative Technologies
Associate Professor Mark Jackson
Phone: +64-9-921-9999 extn. 8648
Email: mark.jackson@aut.ac.nz

Faculty of Health and Environmental Sciences
Associate Professor Marion Jones
Phone: +64-9-921-9999 extn. 7871
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International Admissions
Registry Services
AUT University
Private Bag 92006
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For additional information on the PhD programme, please refer to the Postgraduate Knowledge Base at:

<http://www.aut.ac.nz/postgraduate/>