There are several different ways to enter and re-enter university, as well as various pathways to take as you progress through your studies. Knowing what program to study or even what qualification type is best for you can be overwhelming.

**Study pathways overview**

The study pathways overview below shows what qualifications are what, generally how they link into one another, and the options you have to proceed through and undertake further studies.

*the above study pathways overview provides a broad indication of the pathways to and through Griffith University. Remember that entry to all programs is dependent upon individual and specific entry requirements for each program. Full program details, including entry requirements, are located on pages 56–69 or online—[www.griffith.edu.au/programsandcourses](http://www.griffith.edu.au/programsandcourses)*
Why a research higher degree?

Undertaking a research higher degree is a lengthy and demanding process taking at least three to four years to complete. Beforehand you need to get as much information as you can by talking to potential supervisors about their research, supervisory experience and personal style—[www.griffith.edu.au/researchexperts](http://www.griffith.edu.au/researchexperts)

Whether having recently obtained a high-quality first degree or in fact returning to university after years of working, success in a research higher degree not only requires a high-quality academic record, but also determination, enthusiasm and persistence.

You are responsible for managing your own program, understanding the requirements and commitments, and meeting them. Your supervisor provides direction to your research work but you must be able to manage the time available for researching and writing the thesis with many other personal and professional demands.

Successful graduates have overcome these obstacles, persevered with the research, mastered new skills and convinced a group of peers that the contribution to knowledge submitted as a thesis is worthy of the award of a higher degree. What you make of this opportunity is up to you but there is no doubt that a research higher degree will give you distinct advantages and career options that you may not have previously thought possible.

Definition of Honours

Entry to research higher degree programs in Australia often requires a bachelors degree with honours:

**Bachelors degree with ‘end-on’ Honours year**

A program consisting of an additional full-time year of study (or equivalent) following the completion of a bachelor level degree, for which the degree with Honours is awarded.

**Four-year bachelor degree awarded with Honours**

Four-year degrees awarded with Honours incorporating an adequate amount of research and project work in the program content. As a guide, the Research and Postgraduate Studies (RAPS) Committee has adopted 30CP of research as adequate research content, although it is recognised that this may vary with different disciplines and professional areas.

Research Higher Degree (RHD) Qualifying Program

The Research Higher Degree (RHD) Qualifying Program is a non-award program and therefore does not lead to the award of a degree in its own right. For research higher degree applicants who have a previous postgraduate degree but do not possess the required qualifications for admission, the RHD Qualifying Program may be offered as an alternative route for entry to a research higher degree.

On successful completion of the RHD Qualifying Program, students may be granted admission to a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) (refer to page 56) or Master of Philosophy (MPhil) (refer to page 65) candidature subject to fulfillment of requirements for candidature as specified in the Research Higher Degree Policy. The relevant University element will be responsible for the overall supervision of the student and the monitoring of their progress throughout the RHD Qualifying Program.