Follow your passion with a PhD or research degree

Be Remarkable

PHD AND RESEARCH DEGREES APPLICATION GUIDE 2020
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Legend

Abbreviations and symbols used throughout this guide:

-ranking

For international applicants

More detailed explanations of terms are on page 16.

Cover image: Eden Little is a Master of Science candidate whose thesis is evaluation of bioactive natural products from traditional Chinese medicines against alpha-Synuclein targeted drug screening. Background: Ben Evert, PhD in Molecular Biology
Professional and career development opportunities

Griffith University offers resources, opportunities and over 100 workshops per year to support you to develop research and practical skills.

In addition to a comprehensive orientation program to help you hit the ground running, our program includes help with:

- planning your research degree
- research methodology
- statistical and software training
- writing and publishing
- selling your research
- public speaking.

**Careers Week**
A suite of workshops to prepare you for the broad range of career options available to researchers.

**Skills Week**
A comprehensive professional development program designed to complement your research study.

**Three Minute Thesis**
An academic competition that challenges PhD candidates to describe their research within three minutes to a general audience. Featuring cash prizes and the opportunity to represent Griffith at the Asia-Pacific Final.

More at griffith.edu.au/3MT
Is research at Griffith right for me?

By undertaking a research degree at Griffith University, you are choosing to study at one of Australia’s most innovative tertiary institutions, supervised by internationally renowned research experts.

Griffith University is one of the leading providers of higher education in the Asia–Pacific, with a reputation for research and teaching excellence.

The latest Excellence in Research (ERA) for Australia exercise rated 99% of our research at world standard or above.

Collaborative research opportunities at Griffith open doors to greater innovation and discovery for our research candidates, who are ready to think globally and discover new solutions to world issues.

Learn from more than 1,700 experts across a broad range of disciplines who will help you pursue your research interests.

Explore multidisciplinary collaborations with researchers across our 30+ research centres and institutes, in extensive and varied discipline areas.

Griffith offers world-class facilities and resources for research candidates, creating the best possible research environment and experience.

Where can a Griffith research degree take you?

Touring research
Dr Grace Pan (PhD in Tourism Management) ‘Business Partnership Relationships in the Chinese Inbound Tourism Market to Australia’

Research Centres and Institutes
- Australian Rivers Institute
- Cities Research Institute
- Environmental Futures Research Institute
- Griffith Asia Institute
- Griffith Criminology Institute
- Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery
- Griffith Institute for Educational Research
- Griffith Institute for Tourism
- Institute for Glycomics
- Institute for Integrated and Intelligent Systems
- Menzies Health Institute Queensland
- Advanced Design and Prototyping Technologies Institute
- Centre for Clean Environment and Energy
- Centre for Governance and Public Policy
- Centre for Quantum Dynamics
- Centre for Work, Organisation and Well Being
- Griffith Centre for Social and Cultural Research
- Law Futures Centre
- Queensland Conservatorium Research Centre
- Queensland Micro- and Nanotechnology Centre
- Australian Research Centre for Human Evolution
- Griffith Centre for Design and Innovation Research
Applying for a PhD or research degree

There are a number of steps to work through to apply for a research program at Griffith University:

1. Choose your research degree
   (i) Consider eligibility
   (ii) Consider program fees
   (iii) Consider scholarships

2. Choose a research topic

3. Find and connect with a research supervisor

4. Submit your application online

5. Be advised of your application outcome

Contact your proposed research supervisor or HDR convenor if you have questions about the process, they are here to help. Alternatively you can contact the Griffith Graduate Research School office and we will redirect your enquiry.

giffith.edu.au/research-study

Australian Rivers Institute is a world leader in research on rivers and catchments. During my PhD candidature, my supervisors were researchers with high reputations and extensive knowledge and experience in my study field. I have a very good relationship with all my supervisors. They not only helped me with my research, but also provided many opportunities to familiarise me with Australian culture. I also had the opportunity to meet many world-class researchers from other institutes when they came to visit.

Dr Songyan Yu
PhD Graduate and Research Fellow,
Australian Rivers Institute, Griffith University
1. Choose your research degree

What is a research degree?
A research degree is a postgraduate degree which primarily involves completing a supervised project of original research. Completing a research program is your opportunity to make a substantial contribution to, and develop a critical understanding of, a specific discipline or area of professional practice.

The most common research program is a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), but there are several other research degrees you can choose from, depending on your interests and eligibility.

The PhD is the highest level of education that can be achieved.

See below for the full list of research programs offered at Griffith University.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESEARCH PROGRAM</th>
<th>COURSE CODE</th>
<th>ENTRY REQUIREMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Research Doctorates</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)</td>
<td>6001</td>
<td>A bachelors degree with first- or second-class honours (Division A), or a masters degree incorporating a significant research component with equivalent grades (GPA of at least 5.5, and a grade of 6.0 for the research component on a 7.0 point scale).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor of Philosophy (by Prior Publication)</td>
<td>6024</td>
<td>Established researcher of international standing in the respective field on the basis of an ongoing record of academic work, and for whom admission to the PhD program is inappropriate; with a portfolio of high quality publications that meet the program criteria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology</td>
<td>6026</td>
<td>A bachelors degree in psychology with first- or second-class honours (Division A), or a masters degree in psychology incorporating a significant research component with equivalent grades (GPA of at least 5.5, and a grade of 6.0 for the research component on a 7.0 point scale). Qualifications must be accredited by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC). <strong>Note.</strong> Admission is restricted to candidates who are registered Psychologists or who are eligible for probationary registration with the Psychology Board of Australia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor of Philosophy in Organisational Psychology</td>
<td>6027</td>
<td>A bachelors degree with first- or second-class honours (Division A), or a masters degree incorporating a significant research component with equivalent grades (GPA of at least 5.5, and a grade of 6.0 for the research component on a 7.0 point scale). <strong>Note.</strong> Admission is restricted to candidates who are registered Psychologists or who are eligible for probationary registration with the Psychology Board of Australia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor of Medicine/Doctor of Philosophy</td>
<td>5099/6001</td>
<td>A numerical score equivalent to a Distinction for year 1 of the Doctor of Medicine program; and a bachelors degree with first- or second-class honours (Division A), or a masters degree incorporating a significant research component with equivalent grades (GPA of at least 5.5, and a grade of 6.0 for the research component on a 7.0 point scale).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Study Abroad (Non-Award)</td>
<td>9926</td>
<td>Enrolled in a Doctoral program in an overseas institution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Professional Doctorates</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor of Education</td>
<td>6022</td>
<td>A bachelors degree with first-class or second-class honours (Division A), or a masters degree incorporating a significant research component with equivalent grades (GPA of at least 5.5, and a grade of 6.0 for the research component on a 7.0 point scale), and professional engagement pertinent to the degree of at least 3 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor of Musical Arts</td>
<td>6017</td>
<td>A bachelors degree with first- or second-class honours (Division A), or a masters degree incorporating a significant research component with equivalent grades (GPA of at least 5.5, and a grade of 6.0 for the research component on a 7.0 point scale), and normally professional experience pertinent to the degree of at least 5 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor of Visual Arts</td>
<td>6009</td>
<td>A bachelors degree with first- or second-class honours (Division A), or a masters degree incorporating a significant research component with equivalent grades (GPA of at least 5.5, and a grade of 6.0 for the research component on a 7.0 point scale).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESEARCH PROGRAM</td>
<td>COURSE CODE</td>
<td>ENTRY REQUIREMENTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masters by Research</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Philosophy (MPhil)</td>
<td>5001</td>
<td>A bachelors degree with second-class honours (Division B), or a masters degree incorporating a significant research component with equivalent grades (GPA of at least 5.0, and a grade of 5.0 for the research component on a 7.0 point scale).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Arts Research</td>
<td>5633</td>
<td>A postgraduate qualification with a GPA of at least 5.0 (on a 7.0 point scale), or a bachelors degree with second-class honours (Division B). Qualification must be in a related discipline.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Education and Professional Research Studies</td>
<td>5608</td>
<td>A postgraduate qualification with a GPA of at least 5.0 (on a 7.0 point scale), or a bachelors degree with second-class honours (Division B). Qualification must be in a related discipline.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Medical Research</td>
<td>5626</td>
<td>A bachelors degree in medical science, biological science, pharmaceutical science or a related health discipline with a GPA of at least 5.0 (on a 7.0 point scale) or equivalent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Music Research</td>
<td>5602</td>
<td>A Bachelor of Music degree with second-class honours (Division B) or a postgraduate qualification in music with appropriate professional experience.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Science</td>
<td>5667</td>
<td>A Bachelor of Science degree in a relevant science discipline with a GPA of at least 5.0 (on a 7.0 point scale) or equivalent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Visual Arts</td>
<td>5052</td>
<td>A bachelors degree with second-class honours (Division B) or an equivalent 4 year bachelors degree in an appropriate visual art or design discipline. Practitioners with substantial experience and a corresponding exhibition record will be considered.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Design (Research)</td>
<td>5723</td>
<td>A postgraduate qualification with a GPA of at least 5.0 (on a 7.0 point scale), or a bachelors degree with second-class honours (Division B). Qualification must be in a related discipline.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Significant research component requirement**

The research component of your prior qualification needs to equate to at least one full-time equivalent semester of research. For example, if you have completed a one year masters degree 50% of the program content must be research, or if you have completed a two year masters degree 25% of the program content must be research. At Griffith University this equates to 40 Credit Points (CP) of research. The research must have resulted in the completion of a major piece of supervised but essentially independent research and writing that has been formally examined. The research component may also comprise of a smaller research dissertation (30CP) plus a research methods course (10CP).

If your research component is less than one full-time equivalent semester (40CP), this may be accepted where the size, scope and quality is assessed as sufficient to prepare you for admission to a research degree. A smaller research component will normally be accepted where norms for the discipline apply, for example medical or other professional degrees. Additional evidence of your research preparedness may be requested, such as evidence that your qualification is sufficient for admission to a research program at the institution where the degree was awarded.
(i) Consider eligibility

Direct entry requirements
The qualifications listed in the table on the previous page are a guide, please visit degrees.griffith.edu.au to view admission requirements for each program.

If you do not hold an honours or masters degree with the grades required for admission to your chosen research program, you will be required to establish equivalence. A case for equivalence may be based on:

- An equivalent qualification where information about the structure and research content of the program and grades achieved are provided
- A combination of qualification/s and research experience and/or demonstrated leadership in a profession or industry as evidenced on the Curriculum Vitae detailing the type of research activity, the level and quality of the work, the duration of the work, and the recency of relevant work
- A combination of qualification/s and publications or other research outputs where comprehensive evidence of the publications/research outputs is provided.

For additional information on the requirements to establish equivalence, please refer to the Higher Degree Research Policy.

Academic pathway programs to a research degree
If you don’t meet the direct entry requirements for a research degree, you may be offered or you may apply for admission to a Graduate Diploma of Research Studies as an academic pathway to a PhD. Griffith offers multiple pathways to a PhD or other doctoral degrees. Discover your pathway at griffith.edu.au/research-study

Griffith pathway programs are:

- Graduate Diploma of Criminological Research Studies 4179
- Graduate Diploma of Research Studies in Business 4160
- Graduate Diploma of Research Studies in Engineering 4176
- Graduate Diploma of Research Studies in Environment 4180
- Graduate Diploma of Health Research 4161
- Graduate Diploma of Research Studies in Information Technology 4174
- Graduate Diploma of Law Research Studies 4177
- Graduate Diploma of Research Studies in Science 4175
- Graduate Diploma of Visual Arts Research Studies 4182

Visit degrees.griffith.edu.au to view academic entry requirements, English language entry requirements (international applicants), campus locations, program fees (where applicable), and application processes.

Recognition of prior learning
Prior research undertaken at Griffith University or another recognised institution may be recognised towards your chosen research program, provided it has not been recognised for another award and has been completed at the same level.

Whilst prior research may be recognised towards the research component of the program, candidates will be expected to complete any coursework requirement relevant to the degree as specified in the program requirements, unless credit has been granted. Refer to section 7.6 Recognition of Prior Learning—Griffith University Higher Degree Research Policy, for all applicants (includes credit for coursework information).

Higher degree research policy
Visit policies.griffith.edu.au and type ‘higher degrees by research’ in the search box to view this policy and others relating to research study, scholarships and admission.
English language requirements for international applicants

English language requirements apply to international applicants. You may need to take an English language test to demonstrate that you meet the English language requirements for your program. A number of English language tests are accepted by Griffith, including IELTS, PTE Academic, TOEFL iBT, Cambridge, ISPLR. Some degrees only accept specific English language tests. Please check degrees.griffith.edu.au for the specific requirements of your degree.

If your previous studies were completed in English in a country listed on Schedule A (policies.griffith.edu.au/pdf/Admission-Policy-Schedule-A.pdf) you will meet English language requirements as long as the previous studies were of at least two years duration (if completed within the past five years), or of at least one year duration (if completed within the last two years).

English pathway options

If you do not meet specific English entry requirements for your program, you may wish to consider English pathway options at Griffith University. The Griffith English Language Institute (GELI) provides high quality English language instruction for international students who wish to prepare for postgraduate programs in Australia. GELI has three centres located at Griffith’s Nathan, Mt Gravatt and Gold Coast campuses.

You can complete the Direct Entry Program at GELI to meet the language requirements for your program. The number of weeks you will need to study in the Direct Entry Program will vary depending on your level of English and the minimum IELTS score required for your degree (details below).

Please check degrees.griffith.edu.au for the specific requirements of your degree.

When applying for admission to a research degree, you can also apply for admission to a GELI program when completing the English language section of the research application. The below table should be used as a guide only.

For more information about GELI and other English courses, contact GELI: griffith.edu.au/international/griffith-english-language-institute

Email: Griffith-English@griffith.edu.au
Phone: +61 (0)7 3735 3463

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IELTS BAND SCORE MINIMUM</th>
<th>IELTS SUBSCORE MINIMUM</th>
<th>YOUR ENGLISH PATHWAY OPTIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>You will most likely be eligible for direct entry into a research degree.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>Start with Direct Entry Program (10 weeks of English study) for research degree entry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>Start with Direct Entry Program (minimum 20 to 25 weeks of English study) for research degree entry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>Start with Direct Entry Program (minimum 30 to 35 weeks of English study) for research degree entry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>Start with Direct Entry Program (minimum 40 to 50 weeks of English study) for research degree entry.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(ii) Consider program fees

Domestic candidates
As a domestic research candidate, you will be exempt from paying tuition fees, except when studying the programs listed below. You will be provided with an Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Domestic Fee Offset place, supplemented by tuition fee support from Griffith University.

The maximum period of tenure of the RTP Domestic Fee Offset is up to four years (full-time equivalent) for a Doctoral degree and two years (full-time equivalent) for a Masters degree (Research) calculated from the date of program commencement.

The programs listed below are not eligible for RTP support and are full-fee paying programs for domestic candidates:
- PhD (by Prior Publication)
- Master of Science

Visit degrees.griffith.edu.au for more information on program fees.

International candidates
All international candidates are required to pay tuition fees.

Visit degrees.griffith.edu.au to calculate the tuition fees for your program.

You may wish to consider applying for a tuition scholarship to cover the cost of your program fees for the duration of the scholarship (further details in the scholarships section on page 10).

Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) costs
Australian government regulations require international student visa holders to have Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for the duration of their visa in Australia (with the exception of Belgian, Norwegian and some Swedish citizens who are exempt from OSHC under a mutual government arrangement). Griffith University will automatically arrange health cover for applicants through the OSHC provider Allianz Global Assistance.


Arranging your own health cover
Applicants not wanting the University to arrange their health cover may do so independently. However, evidence of independent cover (single, dual or family) will be required upon accepting your offer.

OSHC scholarship cover duration
Please note: Your OSHC cover must match the duration of your visa. If you are applying for a research scholarship, please note the duration of your scholarship cover will not match the duration of your student visa and you will be required to fund the OSHC amount when you accept your offer (please refer to example in table). Your offer letter will include payment options for the required OSHC amount.

Example for Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Program Code 6001

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compulsory OSHC Cover</td>
<td>4 years 9 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student visa</td>
<td>4 years 9 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum program duration</td>
<td>4 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Griffith University International Postgraduate Research Scholarship OSHC Cover</td>
<td>3 years, 6 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Griffith has an amazing community, where you feel supported and cared for. Right from the start, I have always felt like Griffith has made an effort to get to know me and seek to give me support where I needed it. Now in my second year of my PhD, I am fully realising that you learn so many skills that set you up for the workforce.

Managing projects, working in teams and learning written and verbal communication skills—I have learnt all these things and being able to study something I am extremely passionate about while doing so is a great privilege.

Peta Zivec
PhD Candidate, School of Environment and Science, Griffith University
Griffith offers generous scholarships to help you with the cost of living for the duration of your research study. Scholarships vary in value and duration. Scholarships may include a living stipend; tuition fees; overseas student health cover and other allowances specific to that scholarship. Scholarships are available to candidates enrolling in doctoral programs and selected research masters programs. Check degrees.griffith.edu.au to confirm scholarship availability for your degree.

When you apply for a scholarship as an international candidate, and unless your individual circumstances dictate otherwise (for example if you already have a living allowance scholarship), you are applying for both tuition and living allowance scholarships.

Living allowance scholarships

- Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Stipend
- Griffith University Postgraduate Research Scholarships (GUPRS)
- Griffith University Indigenous Australian Postgraduate Research Scholarship (GUIAPRS).

Australian Government RTP stipend scholarships and Griffith-funded stipend scholarships (GUPRS and GUIAPRS) are available to research candidates in any academic discipline. These scholarships assist with research candidates’ general living costs by providing a fortnightly allowance for the duration of the scholarship.

Tuition scholarships

Below are the tuition scholarships offered by Griffith.

- Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) International Fee Offset Scholarships
- Griffith University International Postgraduate Research Scholarships (GUPRS).

Australian Government RTP International Fee Offset scholarships and Griffith funded tuition scholarships (GUPRS) are awarded to international candidates in conjunction with a GUPRS or other eligible living allowance scholarship.

The scholarships fully cover the research program tuition fees that would otherwise be payable by an international candidate for the tenure of the scholarship.

Other funded scholarships

Griffith also offers a range of scholarships sponsored by academic groups and research centres and institutes for research candidates linked with a specific research area or group. For more information about these scholarships visit griffith.edu.au/research-study/scholarships

Externally-funded scholarships are also available to support research candidates in specific research areas.

Each scholarship scheme has particular eligibility requirements and selection criteria which may include being of specified citizenship; enrolled in a particular program; demonstrating an outstanding academic background and a proven capacity for research and/or specific experience and research skills in a particular discipline.

Scholarship conditions

Check the scholarship conditions of award for a comprehensive outline of the benefits and conditions of each scholarship, including eligibility requirements, selection processes and scholarship duration.
Scholarship round ranking and selection process

The majority of scholarships are awarded in the annual scholarship round which opens at the beginning of July. You can view the annual scholarship round closing dates on the key dates website griffith.edu.au/research-study/scholarships/key-dates

Applications received at other times are considered on a case-by-case basis with scholarships awarded to high quality applicants. These include applicants from Australian institutions graduating in trimester/semester 1 who wish to commence in trimester 2.

Visit griffith.edu.au/research-study/scholarships/faqs-for-applicants to find out more about when to apply for a scholarship.

Criteria for scholarship consideration

Scholarship applications will initially be assessed against a number of criteria before progressing to the ranking stage. Criteria include:

- your award or expected award of an Australian bachelor honours degree with class I, or an equivalent level of attainment in accordance with Griffith University’s grounds for determining class 1 honours equivalence
- you must be undertaking the research program on campus at Griffith University
- your enrolment in the research program will be on a full-time basis
- you have not completed a degree at the same level or higher as the research program to which you are applying
- you have not previously held the same scholarship for which you are applying unless it was terminated within six months of commencement
- for international applicants, you have not held a Commonwealth Government Australia Award scholarship in the two years prior to the point of scholarship commencement.

For additional criteria along with further information on the criteria above, please refer to the Higher Degree Research Scholarship Policy.

International applicants: Provide evidence of ELP

In order for your application to be considered in the scholarship round, you must be able to provide evidence of meeting the University’s English language proficiency requirements by the closing date for applications (refer to English language requirements on page 07). Applicants who intend to meet ELP through completion of a GELI program may be considered for scholarship (subject to providing evidence of ability to fund the GELI program). Applications that do not provide this evidence will not progress for scholarship consideration.

Ranking criteria

Applications that meet the criteria for scholarship consideration above will then be ranked based on the following criteria:

- Academic merit
- Research background
- The international standing of the institution at which the qualification with the substantial research component was completed
- Quality of the research training environment, including the alignment of the proposed research project with strategic goals and areas of research strength within the University
- Supervisor recommendation.

Application ranking is necessary as there are fewer scholarships to offer than the number of quality applications received.

Scholarship Policy

The Higher Degree Research Scholarship Policy provides information on scholarship eligibility and selection criteria and processes. Visit policies.griffith.edu.au and type ‘higher degree by research’in the search box to view this policy.

For further tips on applying for a research scholarship visit griffith.edu.au/research-study/scholarships/application-tips

Applicants to certain research programs are not eligible to apply for a Griffith University Postgraduate Research Scholarship (GUPRS) or Griffith University International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (GUIPRS). Visit degrees.griffith.edu.au and check admission requirements for your chosen program and scholarship eligibility.

Please note: You may only apply a maximum of two times in a five year period for consideration in the scholarship ranking and selection process.

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1. The Griffith University Indigenous Australian Postgraduate Research Scholarship (GUIAPRS) and some Group-awarded scholarships have different eligibility requirements and selection criteria for consideration of award of scholarship. Please refer to the conditions of award for these scholarships to find out more.


3. The standing of the institution is assessed with reference to the most recent releases of the following internationally recognised ranking systems: Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), QS World University Rankings, CWTS Leiden Ranking, University Ranking by Academic Performance (URAP)
2. Choose a research topic

Now that you have established that you meet entry requirements for your preferred program, you need to clarify your chosen area of study and identify a research area and/or research question, clarify its importance and, in consultation with your supervisory team, prepare a research proposal to submit.

Your research question will provide the key research focus for the full duration of your degree so it is important that you consult a wide variety of resources and select a topic you feel highly motivated to investigate. Depending on your area of study and research, you may be starting at the very beginning or you may already have a research topic or area of focus from an already established research team.

How to develop a research proposal

1. Think carefully about your motivation to complete a research program—what are you passionate about, what topic or question or problem do you want to tackle? Remember you will be spending a lot of time on this topic so a keen interest is a must.

2. Find a connection with a Griffith school, department, research centre or institute to find a match for your research area and/or research question. Some research centres and institutes have proposed research projects and hot topics for prospective candidates. Further information is available via griffith.edu.au/research/centres-institutes

3. Narrow your focus to a single research topic. Once you have connected with your prospective supervisor (step 3 in this guide, page 13), it is important to seek their input and advice on your research proposal. Developing a research proposal is an iterative process, so expect to work on a number of drafts before you finalise your research proposal. You need to allow time to prepare multiple drafts and seek feedback along the way. Your potential supervisor is the best person to contact, so make sure you reach out to find one as soon as possible.

4. Your draft research proposal should include the following:
   - Student name
   - Dissertation/thesis title
   - Summary of project (maximum 100 words)
   - Rationale—brief review of relevant research in the field
   - Statement of the principal focus of intended research
   - Significance of the study
   - Intended methodology and project feasibility
   - Anticipated project costs (if required by your enrolling school or research centre)
   - Any requirements for specialist equipment or resources.

Your proposal should be no longer than 2–3 pages.

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Professors’ advice

Professor Sue Berners Price
Dean, Griffith Graduate Research School
‘Do something you’re passionate about—you will need that passion to sustain you while you’re on your research journey.’

Professor Andrew O’Neil
‘Pick a niche area so you can do really original work, and try to make sure it is significant and will make a contribution to the field of knowledge. Pitch it to friends and family and get feedback, be open to change as you develop your question.’

Professor Robert Sang
‘What you’re doing is something that nobody else has ever done before, so you’re going to come across problems that nobody has solved before.’

Professor Gerry Docherty
‘In preparing a research proposal for your application, keep in mind the objective, which is to demonstrate that you have thought about the topic deeply, have some interesting ideas about the topic, and have considered possible methodologies of research and the project’s feasibility. It is advantageous to show why you think that your chosen topic is significant or interesting.’
3. Find and connect with a research supervisor

With over 1,400 experts conducting research across all major academic disciplines in schools, research institutes and centres, Griffith researchers provide multidisciplinary and practical solutions for industry, government and community.

Choosing your supervisor is one of the most important things you’ll need to do when applying for a research program.

An effective working relationship between research candidates and their supervisors is crucial to the successful completion of your research program. You’ll need to find a supervisor who works in your area of interest by reviewing your potential supervisor’s profile to establish:

- Their research interests
- Academic background
- Previous publications
- Current research projects.

Once you’ve found a researcher whom you would like to work with, you will need to contact them directly to discuss your research proposal. It is crucial to look at the alignment between your potential supervisors and your proposed project.

1. Griffith Experts
Visit experts.griffith.edu.au to find and contact a research expert for potential supervision. Search by researcher name or field of expertise.

2. Griffith Academic Groups, Schools and Departments
Visit griffith.edu.au/research-study/find-a-supervisor and view our Academic Groups and Schools/Departments. Each research area has an HDR convenor who will be able to point you in the right direction of an academic staff member in your area of interest.

3. Griffith Research Centres and Institutes
Visit griffith.edu.au/research-centres to view over 30 research institutes and centres.

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Professor Rod Barrett received the 2019 Australian Council of Graduate Research Award for research supervision. During his Griffith tenure, Professor Barrett has supervised 24 research candidates to completion (10 PhD completions in the past five years and co-authoring 45 refereed journal articles with them). Twelve of his former students have secured academic appointments across four different continents and several have ongoing and senior positions in industry. ‘No two candidates are alike and you must be aware that at some point during their candidature the student will face challenges and you have to be able to relate and empathise with what they may be going through,’ he said.

Professor Rod Barrett
Winner of the 2019 ACGR Award for Excellence in Graduate Research Supervision
4. Submit your application online

Griffith’s online admission website is a safe and secure way to:

- Apply online for any research program and/or research scholarship
- Save and change your application details as needed before submission
- Track your submitted application.

To apply online visit griffith.edu.au/research-study/apply. Alternatively, you can apply by visiting our Degree and Career Finder website degrees.griffith.edu.au

Search for your chosen degree, add to your shortlist, and then from your shortlist, click the ‘Apply’ button.

International applicants can apply direct or through a registered Griffith agent. Note that applicants from certain countries are required to apply through a registered agent, visit griffith.edu.au/research-study/apply/international for further information.

Before beginning your online application make sure you have all the documentation required by going through our application checklist, available at griffith.edu.au/research-study/apply

Remote candidature
For information on requirements for remote candidature please see griffith.edu.au/research-study/degrees

Application closing dates
When submitting your application for candidature (and) scholarship, please be aware of the application and scholarship closing dates—these are listed in Griffith Degree and Career Finder.

Visit degrees.griffith.edu.au to check application closing dates for candidature and scholarship for your specific program.

Further information regarding the scholarship schedule of dates is also available at griffith.edu.au/research-study/scholarships/key-dates
5. Be advised of your application outcome

Your application will be reviewed by the University’s team of academic staff once all required documentation has been received, including at least one referee report from your academic referees.

If you applied online you can login to track the status of your application.

If you applied through a registered Griffith agent, you can contact your agent to check the status of your application.

You will be advised of the outcome of your application for admission by email. We will only assess your application when we have all the required information and at least one referee report.

The average assessment period for a complete application is six to eight weeks, however if you have applied for a scholarship in the Annual Round, offers will be announced approximately two months after the round has closed.

The outcome of your application for admission will be advised at the same time as your scholarship application outcome. If you require an offer of admission before receiving your scholarship outcome, you will need to request it from the Griffith Graduate Research School.

Successful applicants will receive an offer of admission (and if applicable scholarship) by email. This will include the information needed to commence your program.

‘I see my PhD study as a natural extension of my clinical work. This research will enhance my clinical work and the qualification with broaden my career prospects immeasurably. Griffith has modern facilities, innovative research agendas and strong social justice underpinnings.’

Leda Barnett  
PhD candidate, School of Applied Psychology, Griffith University
University terms explained

Admission
Refers to the process of gaining entry to a program of study at the University.

Program
An approved course of study leading to an award (degree). A student is admitted to a program and on successful completion of all program requirements is awarded the degree to which the program relates.

Candidates
An early career researcher—also known as a student enrolled in a PhD or research degree at Griffith.

Candidature
Refers to the length of time you are enrolled with Griffith University completing your research program.

Coursework component
Those components of the program other than the research component (for example classes or assignments required).

Element
An academic unit of the University, comprising either a school, department or research centre/institute.

Griffith Graduate Research School (GGRS)
GGRS oversees and supports Griffith research candidates through the provision of high quality research programs, and research training, strategy and policy.

HDR (higher degree by research)
A higher degree by research (HDR) is a program at masters or doctoral level in which more than two-thirds of the program is research rather than coursework (otherwise known as a PhD or research degree).

HDR convenor
Each element has an HDR convenor who is responsible for managing and supporting research education and training within the element. Convenors can assist you with locating available supervisors in your research area.

Intake
Designated research program commencement date.

Stipend
A fixed regular sum paid as a salary.

Trimester
A trimester is a teaching period.

For more university terms explained visit AskUs griffith.edu.au/ask-us
The Griffith Graduate Research School (GGRS) at Griffith University is responsible for all aspects of research candidature and scholarships for domestic and international research candidates.

Contact GGRS for enquiries relating to research admission, candidature or scholarships.

Free call: 1800 303 603 (within Australia)
Phone: +61 (0)7 3735 3817
Email: hdr-enquiry@griffith.edu.au

Locations
Gold Coast campus
Griffith Graduate Research School
Griffith University
Academic 1 (G01) Room 3.46

Nathan campus
Griffith Graduate Research School
Griffith University
Bray Centre (N54) Room 0.20

Office hours (both campuses)
Monday to Friday, 9.00 am to 4.30 pm

Postal address (all campuses)
Griffith Graduate Research School
Griffith University
Bray Centre (N54) Level 0
170 Kessels Road, Nathan Qld 4111

Key dates

To help you take the next steps toward a research degree, there are a few important dates you need to remember.

Applications
Closing dates for applications vary between degrees. To check the closing date for your chosen degree, visit degrees.griffith.edu.au

Scholarships
For information on key dates, visit griffith.edu.au/research-study/scholarships/key-dates
Annual Scholarship Round applications open in July.

Intake dates
Griffith offers you the choice of four research intake dates. If your research program includes coursework, please also check the trimester start dates at griffith.edu.au/academic-calendar-key-dates

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intake</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>10 February 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>20 April 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>6 July 2020</td>
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<td>4</td>
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