

Introduction to the Offshore PhD in the School of Business and Law

The Doctor of Philosophy

Candidates have the option of completing the PhD in Australia through attendance at a CQU campus or as an offshore student. This is the same program of study for both categories; the course rules specify as follows:

A Research Doctoral degree (leading to the award of Doctor of Philosophy) shall involve a volume and quality of work that makes a significant and original contribution to knowledge. Candidates in a PhD will undertake a program of independent supervised study that produces significant and original research outcomes culminating in a thesis, dissertation, exegesis or equivalent. Research in the program of learning will be for at least two years and typically two-thirds or more of the qualification.... Research in a PhD may be of pure, exploratory, experimental or creative nature.

Applications

Applicants for the offshore PhD will be expected to be able to demonstrate relevant, recent research experience, as evidenced by research publications, professional citations and/or testimonials from with their professional peer group. Further details of the eligibility criteria for the PhD are available on the CQUiversity website (<https://www.cqu.edu.au/international-students/entry-requirements>).

Applications can be made at any time of year though it is preferable that we establish a cohort of approximately 10 students in the same city.

The process of application will proceed on the basis of a brief expression of interest followed by a fully developed proposal using the CQU template. In developing the expression of interest applicants will be guided in the choice of topic so as to achieve optimal alignment between the research interests of the applicant and the supervisory team. The School of Business and Law will provide a list of research specialisations and potential thesis topics to assist potential candidates in developing their research proposal.

Nature of the program

CQU will provide an equivalent experience for candidates to that provided to candidates studying in Australia. There are three elements to consider in this regard:

Supervision

Candidates will have at least two supervisors with the principal supervisor normally being based in Australia. Ideally, the supervision team will also include a local

supervisor so that there is ongoing face to face support. Thus, an associate supervisor will normally be appointed from among suitably qualified academics employed by one of the major local universities with which we have established a working relationship. Supervisors will be selected by CQU in accordance with our normal processes having particular regard to ensuring that the supervisory team has the best possible mix of skills and research experience as appropriate to the choice of topic. In order to become an accredited supervisor with CQU a person will have to apply online at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Cqu_supervision_register to be appointed as a supervisor and be accepted as meeting the minimum requirements to be a supervisor, including a requirement to hold a degree that is equivalent to an AQF Level 10 (research doctorate) qualification; and demonstrated research activity relevant to the proposed topic area. Supervisors will be required to be familiar with and to comply with the relevant CQU policies and procedures.

Training and development

All candidates are required to complete the unit, RSCH20001 Prepare for Confirmation, which is designed to guide candidates through the process of preparing the Confirmation of Candidature document. In addition, there are a range of short training units to be completed via video-conferencing.

An optional coursework unit, English for Research, is also available on a term-by-term basis (enrolment is free for research candidates).

Progress monitoring and reporting

This is accomplished in two ways; firstly through the confirmation of candidature process (CoC) which is the guided development of the initial proposal into a document that provides an overview and a detailed plan for the execution of the thesis and more generally is regulated by the Research Higher Degree (Offshore) Course Rules Policy and Procedure. The CoC is typically completed within six-eight months of commencement but must be completed within the first year of full-time study or part-time equivalent. The second element is progress reporting on the thesis development every 6 months (April and September) until submission of the thesis.

Program duration

The standard duration is 4 years full-time (EFTSL) but the program may be completed in a shorter period. Candidates may enrol on a full- or part-time basis. Minimum course duration is 2 EFTSL, that is, two years full-time equivalent enrolment.

Candidates should be reminded that they may not enrol in another course of tertiary study, concurrently with a research degree, unless with the permission of the Dean, Graduate Studies.

Modalities of the program

All research, thesis preparation and administrative tasks undertaken within these Course Rules must be conducted in English.

Regular supervisory meetings will be held online and should occur at least once a month. These meetings will typically involve both supervisors. A record of meeting dates and outcomes should be kept by the student.

CQU makes available a range of training for its doctoral students and mostly this can be undertaken via online as explained above.

The minimum requirements for attendance at the University will be described in the Letter of Offer, at time of admission. As a guideline, this shall require two short-term visitations to a CQUniversity campus, or other agreed location, during the degree but this will vary with the circumstances of each case. Typically, the visits should coincide with key milestones in the thesis development (for example, ensuring the thesis question and finalising the dissertation for submission) but may also involve 'presentation at an appropriate scholarly or professional venue'.

The University provides an allocation of up to \$A10500 for approved research support which will normally be allocated as follows:

- Visitation fund: \$6000
- Project support: \$2000
- Conference fund: \$2000

Funds will not be available to fund the purchase of items of capital equipment and conference attendance will only be supported for the purposes of presenting a paper.

Professor Julian Teicher
Deputy Dean (Research)

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Letterhead Overview

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