Academic Course Rules for the Master of Philosophy

1. Qualification Requirements

To qualify for the degree of Master of Philosophy, the student must pursue a supervised program of research leading to the submission of a thesis.

Students are required to submit a thesis of 30,000-40,000 words, which demonstrates original and critical thought, and is clearly and coherently written.

The thesis may have a variety of formats depending on the field of study. The standard submission requirements are set out in the Thesis Submission and Presentation Guidelines, available from the Research Office and in the Research Student Handbook.

The thesis must be presented in English unless a written application to submit the thesis in a language other than English on academic grounds has been approved by the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic and Research). The thesis may include previously published work but shall not include work submitted for another degree at the University or another tertiary institution in any country.

2. Admission

2.1 A person may be considered for admission to study for the degree of Master of Philosophy if they have been awarded from the University or other approved institution:
   a) a relevant three- or four-year bachelor degree with a credit average GPA; or
   b) a relevant Honours degree; or
   c) a relevant Masters degree by coursework with a credit average GPA.

Applicants may be requested to attend an interview and/or provide additional information if required.

2.2 The University may accept a person who does not meet the requirements specified in Clause 2.1 for the degree of Master of Philosophy if the Research Committee is satisfied that the applicant has significant scholarship or professional attainments providing appropriate research preparation equivalent to AQF level 8.

2.3 A person may be accepted into the Master of Philosophy provided that:
   a) the applicant’s qualifications meet the provisions of Clause 2.1 or 2.2;
   b) the applicant meets the University’s English language requirements;
c) appropriate supervision as defined under Clause 4 is available; and

d) the applicant’s proposed field of research is acceptable to the University.

3. Transfer from Other Institution

The Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic and Research) may approve the admission of a student who has commenced a research degree at another institution to the degree of Master of Philosophy at Torrens University Australia. The course duration for a student in this situation may be adjusted in consideration of the time already spent on the research project. A student must be enrolled for the equivalent of at least one year of full-time study at Torrens University Australia before submitting a thesis for examination to qualify for the Master of Philosophy.

4. Supervision

A Master of Philosophy student shall have a Principal Supervisor who is employed as an academic staff member of Torrens University Australia. A Master of Philosophy student may also have up to two Associate Supervisors, who may be members of the academic staff of Torrens University Australia or discipline experts from outside the University. By definition, employment as a University staff member includes part-time, emeritus, and adjunct staff members. All supervisors will be appropriately qualified in accordance with the Research Higher Degree Programs Policy.

5. Course Duration

5.1 A student may proceed to the degree of Master of Philosophy by:

   a) full-time study with a duration of not less than one year and not more than two years; or
   b) half-time study, with a duration of not less than one year and not more than four years.

5.2 The course is deemed to commence on the date specified in the offer of admission and end on the date the thesis is submitted for examination. In the event that a student is required to resubmit the thesis in accordance with 8.4 (c), an extension of candidature of up to 6 months (12 months for part-time students) may be granted.

5.3 The Research Committee may, at the request of the student and on the advice of the Principal Supervisor, grant cumulative leave of absence from the course for up to 12 months, with a minimum period of one month. The period of leave shall not be counted as part of the course duration. Students will not be considered enrolled students during this period, but will retain access to their Torrens University Australia email and library resources.

5.4 Students are entitled to 20 days of recreation leave each calendar year and 10 days of personal leave each calendar year, which is counted as part of the course duration.

6. Prescribed Activities

Students shall:

   a) consult with their Principal Supervisor regularly;
   b) undertake structured activities as prescribed by their supervisor(s), such as coursework components or participation in lectures, workshops, seminars and skills training;
   c) present a research plan by the end of the first six months of study (12 months for part-time students); and
d) submit progress reports to the Research Committee in accordance with the Research Student Progress Procedure.

7. Transfer to the Doctor of Philosophy

The Research Committee may approve exceptional candidates for the Master of Philosophy to transfer to the Doctor of Philosophy after one year of study (two years for part-time students), subject to the following conditions:

a) satisfactory completion of progress report requirements in accordance with 6 (d); and
b) agreement of the Principal Supervisor that the Doctor of Philosophy can reasonably be completed with a further two years of study (four years for part-time students).

8. Appointment of Examiners

8.1 Students shall have the right to identify people they do not wish to examine their thesis.

8.2 The Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic and Research) shall appoint at least two examiners, at least one of whom shall be external to the University, taking into account any reasonable objections raised by the student under clause 8.1.

8.3 Each examiner shall submit an independent report to the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic and Research), who will refer it to the Research Committee for consideration. The Research Committee may appoint a third external examiner and/or an external arbitrator if required.

8.4 The Research Committee will determine that the thesis:

a) be accepted for the award of the degree unconditionally;
b) be accepted for the award of the degree subject to amendments specified in the examiners’ reports;
c) not be accepted for the award of the degree but the student invited to resubmit the thesis in a revised form; or
d) not be accepted for the award of the degree.

8.5 A student who has revised and resubmitted a thesis in accordance with Clause 8.4 (c) and who fails the re-examination shall not be eligible for any further examination.

9. Suspension of Study

9.1 A student’s study may be suspended by the Vice-Chancellor on the recommendation of the Research Committee for failure to comply with any formal requirement for the Master of Philosophy, including:

a) failure to abide by the responsibilities of research students as detailed in the Research Student Handbook;
b) failure to submit progress reports in accordance with 6(d);
c) taking leave without prior approval; and/or
d) non-payment of University fees and charges.

9.2 Reinstatement following suspension must be approved by the Vice-Chancellor on the recommendation of the Research Committee.

10. Termination of Study
A student's study may be terminated by the Vice-Chancellor on the recommendation of the Research Committee if:

a) progress is deemed unsatisfactory following a review of progress by the Research Committee;

b) the student has been suspended for more than 12 months; and/or

c) a determination has been made under the Student Misconduct Policy or the Staff Misconduct Policy arising from a breach of the Research Code of Conduct or other University policy.
OVERVIEW

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) is a higher degree by research which aims to develop students’ independent research skills under academic supervision. The standard duration is three years full-time or six years part-time. The course can be studied online or on-campus.

Academic Course Rules for the Doctor of Philosophy

1. Qualification Requirements

To qualify for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, the student must pursue a supervised program of research leading to the submission of a thesis.

Students are required to submit a thesis of 70,000-80,000 words, which demonstrates original and critical thought, is clearly and coherently written, and makes a contribution to knowledge in the area of research.

The thesis may have a variety of formats depending on the field of study. The standard submission requirements are set out in the Thesis Submission and Presentation Guidelines, available from the Research Office and in the Research Student Handbook.

The thesis must be presented in English unless a written application to submit the thesis in a language other than English on academic grounds has been approved by the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic and Research).

The thesis may include previously published work but shall not include work submitted for another degree at the University or another tertiary institution in any country.

2. Admission

2.1 A person may be considered for admission to study for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy if they have been awarded from the University or other approved institution:

   a) a relevant Masters degree by research; or
   b) a relevant first or second class Honours degree; or
   c) a relevant Masters degree by coursework which incorporates satisfactory research preparation, with a distinction average GPA.

Applicants may be requested to attend an interview and/or provide additional information if required.

2.2 The University may accept a person who does not meet the requirements specified in Clause 2.1 for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy if the Research Committee is satisfied that the applicant has significant scholarship or professional attainments providing appropriate research preparation equivalent to AQF level 9.
2.3 A person may be accepted into the Doctor of Philosophy provided that:

a) the applicant’s qualifications meet the provisions of Clause 2.1 or 2.2;
b) the applicant meets the University’s English language requirements;
c) appropriate supervision as defined under Clause 4 is available; and
d) the applicant’s proposed field of research is acceptable to the University.

3. Transfer from Other Institution

The Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic and Research) may approve the admission of a student who has commenced a research degree at another institution to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at Torrens University Australia. The course duration for a student in this situation may be adjusted in consideration of the time already spent on the research project. A student must be enrolled for the equivalent of at least one year of full-time study at Torrens University Australia before submitting a thesis for examination to qualify for the Doctor of Philosophy.

4. Supervision

A Doctor of Philosophy student shall have a Principal Supervisor who is employed as an academic staff member of Torrens University Australia. A Doctor of Philosophy student may also have up to two Associate Supervisors, who may be members of the academic staff or discipline experts from outside the University. By definition, employment as a University staff member includes part-time, emeritus, and adjunct staff members. All supervisors will be appropriately qualified in accordance with the Research Higher Degree Programs Policy.

5. Course Duration

5.1 A student may proceed to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy by:

a) full-time study with a duration of not less than two years and not more than three years; or
b) half-time study with a duration of not less than two years and not more than six years.

5.2 The course is deemed to commence on the date specified in the offer of admission to the student and end the thesis is submitted for examination. In the event that a student is required to resubmit the thesis in accordance with 8.4 (c), an extension of candidature of up to 6 months (12 months for part-time students) may be granted.

5.3 The Research Committee may, at the request of the student and on the advice of the Principal Supervisor, grant cumulative leave of absence from the course for up to 12 months, with a minimum period of one month. The period of leave shall not be counted as part of the course duration. Students will not be considered enrolled students during this period, but will retain access to their Torrens University Australia email and library resources.

5.4 Students are entitled to 20 days of recreation leave each calendar year and 10 days of personal leave each calendar year, which is counted as part of the course duration.

6. Prescribed Activities

Students shall:

a) consult with their Principal Supervisor regularly;
b) undertake structured activities as prescribed by their supervisor(s), such as coursework components or participation in lectures,
workshops, seminars and skills training;
c) present a research plan by the end of the first six months of study (12 months for part-time students); and
d) submit progress reports to the Research Committee in accordance with the Research Student Progress Procedure.

7. Appointment of Examiners

7.1 Students shall have the right to identify people they do not wish to examine their thesis.

7.2 The Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic and Research) shall appoint at least two examiners who are external to the University, taking into account any reasonable objections raised by the student under clause 7.1.

7.3 Each examiner shall submit an independent report to the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic and Research), who will refer it to the Research Committee for consideration. The Research Committee may appoint a third external examiner and/or an external arbitrator if required.

7.4 The Research Committee will determine that the thesis:
   a) be accepted for the award of the degree unconditionally;
   b) be accepted for the award of the degree subject to amendments specified in the examiners’ reports;
   c) not be accepted for the award of the degree but the student invited to resubmit the thesis in a revised form; or
   d) not be accepted for the award of the degree.

7.5 In the case of Clause 7.4(d), if the Research Committee is satisfied that the research is of suitable merit, it may recommend the award of a Master of Philosophy degree, subject to the acceptance of that degree by the student and such conditions as specified by the Research Committee.

7.6 A student who has revised and resubmitted a thesis in accordance with Clause 7.4 (c) and who fails the re-examination shall not be eligible for any further examination.

8. Suspension of Study

8.1 A student’s study may be suspended by the Vice-Chancellor on the recommendation of the Research Committee for failure to comply with any formal requirement for the Doctor of Philosophy, including:

   a) failure to abide by the responsibilities of research students as detailed in the Research Student Handbook;
   b) failure to submit progress reports in accordance with 6(d);
   c) taking leave without prior approval; and/or
   d) non-payment of University fees and charges.

8.2 Reinstatement following suspension must be approved by the Vice-Chancellor on the recommendation of the Research Committee.

9. Termination of Study
A student’s study may be terminated by the Vice-Chancellor on the recommendation of the Research Committee if:

a) progress is deemed unsatisfactory following a review of progress by the Research Committee;
b) the student has been suspended for more than 12 months; and/or
c) a determination has been made under the Student Misconduct Policy or the Staff Misconduct Policy arising from a breach of the Research Code of Conduct or other University policy.