

Higher Degrees by Research

If you're keen to make an original contribution to human knowledge by successfully completing a research project, a Higher Degree by Research (HDR) may be for you.

ECU conducts world-class research and our HDR programs cater for students with varying levels of research experience. Our two PhD level programs enable students to pursue a thesis in a range of disciplines, while our Master by Research programs are offered in select disciplines.

Doctor of Philosophy - PhD

Duration: 4 years full-time or part-time equivalent*

Campus: Joondalup, Mount Lawley, South West and Online*

Suitable for: Candidates with a strong research background, e.g. graduates of a Masters by Research, 1st/Upper 2nd class Bachelor Honours Degree, or other Masters qualification with 6 months or more full-time equivalent research experience.

→ See more information — ecu.edu.au/courses/L61

Doctor of Philosophy (Integrated) – PhD(I)*

Duration: 1 year foundation program (research preparation) + 3 year thesis development, or part-time equivalent*

Campus: Joondalup, Mount Lawley and Online*

Suitable for: High-achieving candidates from a coursework background, e.g. Master by Coursework, or those preferring a structured PhD.

→ See more information — ecu.edu.au/courses/J42

Masters by Research

Various course options

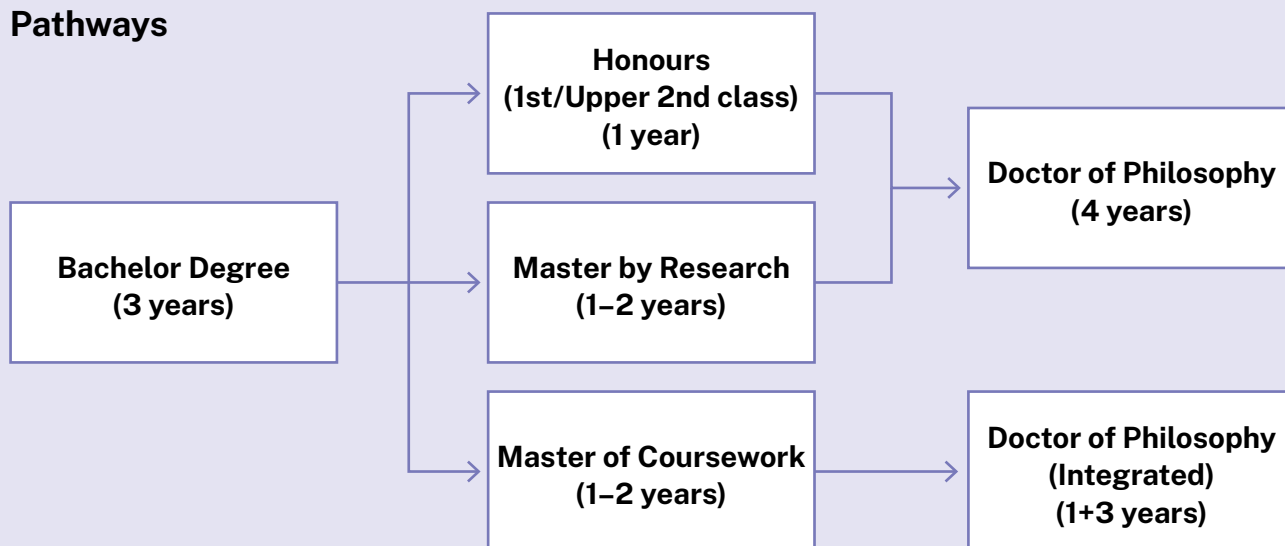
Duration: 1-2 years full-time or part-time equivalent*

Campus: Joondalup, Mount Lawley, South West and Online*

Suitable for: High-achieving candidates with at least a Bachelor degree in a cognate discipline.

*Off-campus enrolment and PhD(I) not available for all areas and disciplines; part-time enrolment is not available to International Student VISA holders.

ECU Research Degree Pathways



Information for potential HDR applicants

Applying for a Higher Degree by Research is a comprehensive process. Here are some tips to help you with your application:

1. Check your dates

With the exception of our L61 PhD (which is available for applications year-round), ECU's HDR programs have specific intakes, start dates and application deadlines. Please refer to our [important dates](#) page for more information. Application and processing times can take up to six weeks for domestic students and longer for international applications.

2. Know your topic

It's important to have a good idea of the research you want to undertake. As part of your application, you will need to prepare a 2-page research proposal outlining your research project. Please browse the [school research pages](#) to see key areas that ECU's researchers are working in, reach out to potential supervisors for a discussion and then develop your research proposal to capitalise on this expertise. For information about writing a proposal, please see our [Research Applicants FAQ](#).

3. Apply Online

Visit the [ECU Online Application Portal](#) to apply for your course and upload your documents. Please note that some Schools or courses may have additional evidential requirements (auditions, portfolio of works, pre-arrangement of supervision). Once you've applied, it's important to check your emails regularly, including spam/junk folders so that your application is not delayed.

4. Application Assessment

In the initial stages we'll review your qualifications, your topic and our research capacity and priorities in that area. This can take four to six weeks. If your application progresses, we'll consider supervision options and the strength of your application to determine whether we're able to make you a course offer. This can take another four to six weeks. Please be aware that all indicative time frames are dependent on academic staff availability.

5. Funding and Scholarships

ECU has a range of scholarships for HDR students. We recommend regularly checking our [Scholarships website](#) as new scholarships are posted throughout the year. For more information you can also refer to this [HDR Fees and Scholarships FAQ](#).

→ See more information — ecu.edu.au/degrees/research