

Doctor of Philosophy (DPHIL21)

1. Doctor of Philosophy

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) (DPHIL21) is a highly regarded research degree, in which students conduct independent research under the supervision and guidance of experts in their field. Through this research, students make a significant and original contribution to knowledge through thought leadership. The PhD requires the completion of a thesis of not more than 80k words, which demonstrates original thought, academic rigour, and a sustained program higher order thinking.

The Doctor of Philosophy comprises independent research, culminating in the submission of thesis in one of the following formats: standard narrative, publication, exegesis, or folio. Graduates of the PhD will have demonstrated cognitive skills including critical analysis, argument and problem solving to design a practical or theoretical proposition and apply intellectual independence to evaluate existing- or generate new knowledge.

Graduate employment opportunities

Graduates of the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) have a bright future. They will have demonstrated their preparedness for a career in research and analysis within government, higher education, research centres and private enterprises. Graduates will have demonstrated intellectual leadership, positioning them for roles such as those in the following areas:

- Policy research
- Research projects
- Research & development
- Academic research
- Industry and government advising

Course Overview

Course Title	Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) (DPHIL21)		
Study Options – Domestic Australian students	Face to Face delivery Online delivery Full-time and part-time options available.	Study Options – International students	International students on a student visa must not take any more than a third of their course online. They also must study at least one subject that face-to-face in each trimester. International students on a student visa are required to study full-time, that is, the student must complete a minimum of 1.0 EFTSL per year.
Start Dates	February, June, September For specific dates visit the website .	Course Length	Full-time: 3 years Accelerated: 2 years Part-time: 6 years
Payment Options - Domestic Australian students	Upfront payment This means tuition fees will be invoiced each trimester and payment is required on or before the due date. FEE-HELP FEE-HELP is Australian Government’s loan scheme for higher education degree courses. It can assist you in paying for all, or part of, your course fees. Repayments commence via the tax system once your income rises above a minimum threshold.	Payment Options – International students	Upfront payment This means tuition fees will be invoiced each trimester and payment is required on or before the due date.
Course study requirements	PhD students are expected to contribute 35-40 hours per week for 48 weeks per year (or equivalent part-time study) to their studies. Recreation leave of four weeks per calendar year applies and sick leave of two weeks is subject to the approval of the PVC Research.	Assessment	Research project or application proposal, research or process documentation, application outcome, essays, reports, critical reflections, journal entries, literature reviews, presentations, scenario and case studies, dissertations, and viva voce.
Locations	Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Online	Delivered by	Torrens University Australia
Provider	Torrens University Australia Ltd is registered as a self-accrediting Australian university by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA).	CRICOS Course Code	096608G

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Provider obligations	Torrens University is responsible for all aspects of the student experience, including the quality of course delivery, in compliance with the Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021	Accrediting body	Torrens University Australia Limited ABN 99 154 937 005, CRICOS Provider Code: 03389E. RTO No. 41343
Course Fees	For details, refer to the website .	Any other fees	For details, refer to the website .

2. Essential requirements for admission

The general admission criteria that apply to Torrens University Australia courses can be located by visiting the Torrens University Australia website - <https://www.torrens.edu.au/how-to-apply/admissions-criteria>.

3. Admission Criteria

Title of course of study	Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) (DPHIL21)
Applicants with formal study: Direct Entry	Successful completion of a Masters degree by research from an Australian university or equivalent Or Successful completion of a Masters degree by coursework with a substantial element of research work from an Australian university or equivalent Or Successful first- or second class Honours degree from an Australian university or equivalent
Applicants with work and life experience	Applicants not meeting the direct entry requirements may be considered for admission if the Higher Degree by Research Committee is satisfied that the applicant has significant scholarship or professional attainment Or Applicants may also be considered for admission to the Master of Philosophy (MPhil) or Graduate Certificate of Research Studies (GCRS).

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Other Admission Requirements	Admission to the PhD program is contingent on the applicant's proposed field of study, the research being acceptable to the university and the availability of appropriate supervision. Applicants may be required to attend an interview and to provide additional information if required.
English Language Proficiency (applicable to international students, and in addition to academic or special entry requirements noted above)	Equivalent IELTS 7.0 (Academic) with skills band no less than 7.0 in writing and speaking and no less than 6.5 in listening and reading (or equivalent TOEFL, CAE or PTE).

4. How to apply

Applicants should first write directly to the *higher degrees by research (HDR)* office:

- hdr@torrens.edu.au

5. Advanced standing/academic credit/recognition of prior learning (RPL)

You may be entitled to credit for prior learning, whether formal or informal. Formal learning can include previous study in higher education, vocational education, or adult and community education. Informal learning can include on the job learning or various kinds of work and life experience. Credit can reduce the amount of study needed to complete a degree.

Applicants admitted based on prior higher education study may be eligible for Advanced Standing in the form of credit and/or recognition of prior learning (RPL) under the Torrens University Australia [Credit Policy](https://www.torrens.edu.au/policies-forms) (<https://www.torrens.edu.au/policies-forms>).

- Students with completed subjects may be eligible for specified credit and/or elective exemptions
- Students who have completed a qualification at AQF level 8 (Graduate Diploma) or above may be eligible for block credit (where a block credit agreement exists)
- Students with a mix of formal study and informal and/or non-formal learning may be eligible for recognition of prior learning in addition to any credit approved.

Credit will not be applied automatically. Applicants must apply for credit and/or RPL as early as possible prior to each study period, with applications not accepted after week 2.

For further information about credit and recognition of prior learning please see <https://www.torrens.edu.au/how-to-apply/course-credits>.

6. Where to get further information

- Torrens University Australia (TUA) Website
 - <https://www.torrens.edu.au/>

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7. Additional Information

Course Structure

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) (DPHIL21) course duration is three years' full-time or six years part-time and can be studied online or on-campus.

Course Rules

To qualify for the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) (DPHIL21), the candidate must pursue supervised research, leading to the submission of a thesis of not more than 80k words in English (unless the Associate Dean HDR approves submission of the thesis in a language other than English on academic grounds). The thesis will be reviewed by two external examiners of international standing in the field of enquiry. The thesis may be presented in the formats outlined in the table below.

A PhD candidate shall have a Principal Supervisor who is employed as an academic staff member of Torrens University Australia, including full-time, part-time, emeriti, and adjunct staff that are appropriately qualified to supervise research candidates. A PhD candidate shall also have an Associate Supervisor who may be internal or external to Torrens University Australia and must be a discipline expert in the field of research.

Thesis Formats

Allowable Thesis Formats
<p>Standard Narrative</p> <p>A standard narrative is a written work comprised of no more than 80,000 words, which demonstrates original and critical thought, is clearly and coherently written, and makes an original contribution to knowledge in the field of enquiry. The thesis is presented in typescript and divided into chapters with appendices as relevant, with a sustained argument developed across the whole. The thesis may include some previously published work but cannot include work submitted for the award of another degree at the University or another tertiary institution in any country.</p>
<p>Thesis by Publication</p> <p>A thesis by publication is comprised of material that has been published during the enrolment of the degree, accepted for publication during the enrolment of the degree and prepared in manuscript style for publication. A thesis by publication must meet the requirements of the PhD in that the manuscripts must form a coherent whole in both theme and structure and include the embodiment of a sustained argument. The following conditions apply when submitting a thesis by publication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all publications must derive from work undertaken during the period of higher degree candidature. Papers published prior to the period of higher degree candidature cannot be included. The papers forming part of the thesis must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a minimum of three fully developed, peer reviewed scholarly publications, including where two papers are accepted for publication in peer-reviewed journals as principal author and at least one additional scholarly paper under review. The candidate must be the major contributor and first author on all works; and ○ a minimum of two scholarly publications reporting original research, including one paper that may focus on theoretical discussion and critical review. Approval from the Associate Dean HDR must be sought for the inclusion of conference papers. • an introductory chapter including a comprehensive narrative that features background to the research, the relationship and linkage between the published papers and overarching research

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Allowable Thesis Formats

questions. The introductory chapter must clearly articulate how these papers form part of a detailed response to a specific research topic;

- a comprehensive literature review chapter, showing exhaustive coverage of the extant literature in the field and clearly identifying and justifying the future research direction;
- all publications must be accompanied by details of their status (i.e., published, accepted for publication, or otherwise); and,
- all authors must complete a statement of authorship outlining the candidate's contribution and co-authors must give written permission for the paper to be included in the thesis.

Exegesis

An exegesis is a critical explanation or interpretation of a major creative work. The exegesis is limited to 60,000 words and should describe the form of the major creative work, background to the inception, discussion on theoretical foundations positioning the work within the broader framework of the discipline area through theory and contextualisation with others' work and original contribution of the work to the field. The major creative component of the submission must demonstrate innovation, originality, and creativity in addition to advancing high level concepts and creative design. The exegesis must be supported by output which forms a major part of the submission including one or more of the following outputs: a patent, design, model, exhibition, musical or literary composition, performance, film, software, portfolio or work or multimedia presentation. An exegesis may include a *viva voce* demonstration or presentation as requested by a student, supervisor, or examiner. The thesis may have a variety of formats, depending on the field of study.

Folio

A folio of advanced professional practice should involve a significant contribution to the theory and advanced professional practice. The candidate must demonstrate the ability to conduct a substantial research program and to communicate the outcomes of this research effectively to both research and practice. Award of the degree is by examination of a written thesis and substantial workplace outputs in the form of a folio. Candidates choosing the folio pathway must demonstrate a substantial original contribution to the knowledge and practice in the discipline and industry chosen for investigation. To complete the PhD folio, the candidate must be championed by a workplace sponsor.

Candidates are required to:

- a) consult with their Principal Supervisor regularly;
- b) undertake structured activities as prescribed by their supervisor(s);
- c) present a research plan and proposal by the end of the first trimester of study (or part-time equivalent);
- d) submit progress reports in accordance with the Research Student Progress Procedure; and,
- e) present research findings to faculty as per the milestones outlined in the Student Progress Procedure.

Locations

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) (DPHIL21) can be studied in a combination of online and at the below Torrens University Australia campuses:

- Queensland (Brisbane)
- New South Wales (Sydney)
- Victoria (Melbourne)
- South Australia (Adelaide)

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Campus Facilities and Services

All campuses are designed to provide students with professional spaces in which to learn and work. They have been planned with student study needs in mind with well-equipped accessible learning spaces as well as student breakout areas for group work and spending time with friends.

A positive student experience

Torrens University Australia values the importance of a positive student experience, and therefore has robust processes to resolve student complaints. The Student Complaints Policy, and associated procedures, can be accessed from the website (<https://www.torrens.edu.au/policies-and-forms>).

Paying for your qualification

We offer two payment options for this course:

- **Upfront payment**

If you want to complete your qualification debt-free you can choose to pay as you go. This means tuition fees will be invoiced each trimester and payment is required on or before the due date using EFTPOS, credit card or direct transfer.

- **FEE-HELP**

FEE-HELP is Australian Government's loan scheme for higher education degree courses. It can assist you in paying for all, or part of, your course fees. Repayments commence via the tax system once your income rises above a threshold.

Further information about FEE-HELP, including eligibility, is available at:

- FEE-HELP website - <https://www.studyassist.gov.au/help-loans/fee-help>
- FEE-HELP booklets: - <https://www.studyassist.gov.au/need-more-information/help-publications>

Austudy and Abstudy

Students enrolled in this course may be eligible for government assistance, such as [Austudy](#) or [Abstudy](#).