

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Admissions Policy and Procedure for: Doctor of Philosophy: Pathways to admission

I. Rationale and Principles

These guidelines apply to all domestic and international applicants for admission to the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and should be read in conjunction with the *University of Sydney (Higher Degree by Research) Rule 2011*.

The University of Sydney is committed to the highest standards of excellence in the research training and supervision of Higher Degree by Research students. Consistent with the University's educational objectives, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences admits students to HDR programs based on academic merit and the availability of suitable supervision and appropriate resources.

Research experience is mandatory for entry into all Higher Degrees by Research in the Faculty except for the Master of Arts (Research); this document is specifically concerned with the minimum academic standards for entry to the PhD, assessed according to the criteria described below.

II. Eligibility for Admission

Applicants wishing to undertake a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences must demonstrate that they possess the necessary academic background in the field of study they wish to pursue. In order to provide a quality assurance framework for entry, the Faculty offers the following three pathways to admission into the PhD:

1. H1. A student applying on the basis of a period of undergraduate study will be regarded as having demonstrated the required level of research potential if a first class honours degree in a relevant subject area has been achieved.
2. H1E. A student applying on the basis of a period of undergraduate study will be regarded as having demonstrated the required level of research potential if an equivalent to a first class honours degree in a relevant subject area has been demonstrably achieved. Equivalents comprise:
 - i. MASTERS BY RESEARCH. An applicant having completed a Masters degree by research in a relevant subject area with a thesis mark of 80% or above is deemed to have demonstrated a capacity for extended research and is eligible to apply for admission to the PhD.
 - ii. MASTERS BY COURSEWORK. An applicant having completed a Masters degree by coursework in a relevant subject area will have demonstrated a capacity for extended research by:
 - a. Achieving an 80% average or above for the coursework component *and*

- b. Achieving a mark of 80% or above for an independent research component comprising 25% of the requirements for the award of the degree (where the degree is a 2 semester course)
- iii. PUBLICATION. Certain major publications (e.g. a reviewed book, a suite of peer reviewed articles) may be deemed by the Associate Dean to constitute Hons 1 equivalence on a case-by-case basis.

Having satisfied the above requirements the applicant is eligible to apply to apply for direct admission to the PhD.

- 3. MPhil UPGRADE. Applicants achieving an honours class 2 (division one) or equivalent in a relevant subject area may be admitted to the degree of Master of Philosophy (MPhil). The student will have demonstrated a capacity for extended research after completing a minimum of two semesters full-time or equivalent part-time candidature in this degree by:
 - i. Meeting HDR progression requirements
 - ii. Completing 35,000 words of a thesis to the satisfaction of the department
 - iii. Providing evidence that their research is of a sufficient scope and depth to sustain a doctoral thesis

Having satisfied these requirements the student may apply to upgrade to the PhD.

III. Application for Admission

Applicants seeking admission to candidature must submit satisfactory evidence of eligibility to the Faculty. In accordance with the *University of Sydney (Higher Degree by Research) Rule 2011 (1.05)*, the Faculty will not admit an applicant to the PhD unless the person:

- i. Is eligible for admission to the course;
- ii. Applies for admission in accordance with the HDR Rule and specific course resolutions;
- iii. Accepts an offer made by the Faculty for admission to the course; and
- iv. Completes all requirements for enrolment in the course.

Admission to candidature is at the discretion of the Dean or Associate Dean made with reference to the guidelines outlined in this document. The *University of Sydney (Higher Degree by Research) Rule 2011 (1.06)* imposes no duty on the Faculty to admit, or offer to admit, a person to candidature for a higher degree by research and nothing in the Rule or these guidelines confers a right to admission.