

Deakin Graduate School Business

DBA Information – FAQs

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Q. *Does a masters degree in science count for entry into the DBA?*
- A. Yes. A masters degree in any discipline is acceptable.
- Q. *Can I study the DBA off-campus and from outside Australia?*
- A. This is not a problem for Stage 1 units, but all four Stage 2 units require you to attend two compulsory sessions (one full-day each) in Melbourne.
You will also need to organise how you will communicate with your supervisor. You should plan some face-to-face sessions as part of your working arrangements with your supervisor. Email and telephone communication are also valuable ways of keeping in touch.
- Q. *One of the selection criteria for the DBA is evidence of ability to do research at doctoral level. How can I demonstrate this?*
- A. You should provide information about any research, thesis or major report you've done as part of a higher education course. You may also have done investigative projects in the course of your work or major projects that include a written report. You should include information about these and explain your role in these if they were a team effort. Other skills you may have (such as quantitative analysis skills) are also relevant.
- Q. *Applicants are required to obtain two referee reports. If I haven't studied for many years, what is the best way to arrange an academic referee report?*
- A. The purpose of referee reports is to demonstrate your research capability. If you are not able to list an academic staff member who can attest to this (e.g., an honours thesis supervisor), you might list someone who can knowledgeably comment on your research activity an ability (e.g., a person with whom you have worked on a research project or have done research for) who has a research background or understanding themselves. We generally prefer referees who hold a doctoral qualification as this is good evidence of their own research background. If this requirement is proving difficult for you, consult the DBA Program Director for advice.
- Q. *Is there a way I can be admitted to the DBA if I don't have research experience?*
- A. Not directly. But if you have a good profile on all the other criteria, you may be accepted conditionally through a pathway that would allow you to demonstrate your research capability. This consists of enrolment in a research methods unit and a research report unit that entails the completion of an individual research project (with the guidance of a supervisor). You would prepare a report of approximately 15,000 words (as for an honours thesis). If this report is judged to be of the required standard (at least a Distinction or 70%), all the entry requirements will be satisfied and you can proceed with your DBA studies. The units undertaken as part of the pathway program are on a non-award basis and do not count as part of the requirements for the DBA course. The research undertaken as part of the pathway program can be on a topic closely related to your DBA research.

APPLICATION

Q. *When can I start the DBA?*

A. You can be admitted in any Trimester for Stage 1 units, depending on the availability of the units you wish to enrol in.

Q. *How difficult will it be for me to gain admission to the DBA?*

A. If you have met all the entry requirements (study and experience) you will have a good chance of being offered a place. However, there are limited places in this course and so entry is competitive. The selection panel considers each application carefully to ensure that those admitted to the program have an excellent chance of success.

Q. *What level of credit for prior learning am I able to get?*

A. You can gain credit for prior learning for Deakin MBA core units and any other recognised postgraduate units which correspond to the DBA Stage 1 core units if you have gained a grade of Distinction or High Distinction in them. If you have these units with a grade lower than a Distinction you will need to undertake substitute units from the DBA Stage 1.

Q. *Can I get credit for prior learning for a research masters degree?*

A. No. Credit is not available for any Stage 2 units.

Q. *How do I apply for credit for prior learning?*

A. You will need to apply for credit for prior learning as part of your application, supplying certified transcripts of results for all study not undertaken at Deakin. You may also be asked to supply information about the study you completed, including handbook description or unit outlines so that the University can make an accurate determination.

FEES

Q. *What are the fees for DBA units?*

A. Fees are paid on a credit point basis. This applies to thesis enrolment as well as to coursework units. You can check other relevant information regarding fees at www.deakin.edu.au/fees/
The DBA is a full fee-paying course. Students must pay the required fees for all enrolled coursework and research units in the DBA. Details can be found here: www.deakin.edu.au/future-students/fees/

Q. *Can I enrol in a Commonwealth place in the DBA and have access to HECS-HELP?*

A. No. However, FEE-HELP is available to DBA students. To check your eligibility for FEE-HELP see www.goingtouni.gov.au/

Q. *Are there scholarships available for the DBA?*

A. International students may be eligible for the Deakin University International Scholarships Program (DUISP). Further information can be found at www.deakin.edu.au/future-students/international/scholarships/duisp-2010.php
Students may apply for funding from the Faculty of Business and Law to assist in conducting their research.

RESEARCH

Q. *What can I research for my thesis?*

A. Your thesis topic will be developed *in conjunction with your supervisor*. At the point of entry, you need only to indicate the area in which you would like to conduct your research. This allows us to identify an appropriate person to supervise your research. You cannot conduct thesis research on a topic unless a Deakin staff member has expertise in the area, holds appropriate qualifications (i.e., doctoral degree) and is available to supervise you. To see the research expertise of the Deakin Graduate School of Business staff, go to www.deakin.edu.au/buslaw/gsb/staff/ browse individual staff pages.

Q. *What happens if my thesis project falls behind?*

A. Each year there is a report on your progress towards completion of your thesis. Continuing unsatisfactory progress could mean discontinuation of enrolment. If you're having difficulties, you should consult with your supervisor and/or the DBA course director to work out a way of bringing the project back on track. Where there are significant problems (e.g., non-routine work demands, health problems or family issues) you may want to consider intermitting your enrolment. If you are studying full-time you might want to change to part-time enrolment. The main thing is to alert us to any difficulties you're having as early as you can.

Q. *How can I make my research topic relevant to my work?*

A. All theses must meet academic standards of rigour and originality. This is not inconsistent with doing research that is valuable for your work – in fact, completing original research that can be applied to business practice is the hallmark of the DBA qualification. Your supervisor will help you craft your research program to meet academic standards and be relevant to your work. One way of doing this would be to collect data within your work organisation, particularly if you are involved in a major project.

Q. *Doesn't doing an individual research project get a little lonely and stressful?*

A. Well, yes, it can. But there are many ways of overcoming that, including forming good ties with other DBA students, attending Deakin research seminars, giving papers at academic conferences and communicating frequently with your supervisors. There is no reason this program can't be as enjoyable as it will be challenging.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Q. *Who can help me with my enrolment?*

A. Please make contact either by email via dba-enquiries@deakin.edu.au or phone on (03) 9244 5526.