

The Faculty of Business and Law offers a three-year PhD program that includes a coursework component and a research component.

### **PhD admission requirements**

Entry to the PhD program is based on a demonstrated capacity to undertake significant independent research at a very high standard in the proposed field of study. Applicants applying to undertake a PhD must:

- Meet Deakin University's English language requirements; and
- Have completed an appropriate qualification in a relevant discipline from a recognised tertiary institution at the standard specified

#### *English language requirements*

A high standard of English is essential for a student to be considered for admission. As a minimum, applicants should have one of the following:

- **IELTS (Academic)** overall band score no lower than 7.0 (with no individual band less than 6.5)
- **Paper-based TOEFL** score no lower than 600 (with a writing score of at least 5)
- **Internet-based TOEFL** score no lower than 94 (with a writing score of at least 24)

The minimum entry requirements for other English language tests of proficiency can be found in “How to Apply for Research Degrees” [here](#). Scroll down to “Applying in eight Steps”, and then go to STEP 5 “Evidence of English Proficiency”.

Applicants may be exempted from these English language test requirements if they have:

- Completed their entire secondary and post-secondary studies in English and, since graduation, have had residency in a specified English-speaking country\*
- Completed a university degree of at least three years duration (full-time equivalent) within a specified English-speaking country\*, no more than two years prior to their proposed enrolment at Deakin

\*Australia, Canada, Fiji, Ireland, Kenya, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, United Kingdom (including Northern Ireland), United States of America, Zambia

#### *Appropriate qualification*

Having an appropriate qualification is only one factor in the decision to offer PhD candidature – other factors include the availability of supervision, the alignment of the proposed research project with University and Faculty strategic goals, and the quality of other PhD applicants. However, at a minimum, all successful applicants will have typically completed a:

- Research project in a related area of study, including a thesis which is equivalent to at least 25% of a year's full-time study at Level 8 or 9\* of the [Australian Qualifications Framework](#) and with mark for that project equivalent to a Deakin grade of 80% or higher.

OR

- Masters Degree (Research) in a related area of study

\*Level 8 and 9 of the Australian Qualifications Framework equates to a Bachelor Honours Degree and a Masters Degree, respectively.

#### *Applicants for the Department of Economics (only)*

Applicants wishing to complete a PhD in the Department of Economics are also asked to provide their [GRE](#) score.

### **PhD course fees**

Domestic students (Australian citizens and permanent residents, New Zealand citizens) are not required to pay any PhD course fees. PhD course fees for international students are available [online](#).

### PhD scholarships

Deakin scholarships are available and provide a living allowance (domestic and international students) and fee waivers (international students only; the fees of domestic students are covered by Deakin University). Scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic merit and alignment with University and Faculty strategic goals, and there is strong competition for these scholarships.

Two scholarship rounds are conducted each year: for the Trimester 1 (March) intake and the Trimester 2 (July) intake. Applicants interested in being considered for a PhD scholarship should specify this in the 'Scholarship/sponsor details' section of the Faculty Expression of Interest (EOI) form and submit this form prior to the EOI deadline associated with their preferred intake. More information about these submission deadlines can be found in the 'How to apply' section below.

### How to apply

The Faculty of Business and Law has two PhD intakes each year: one in Trimester 1 (March) and one in Trimester 2 (July).

*Please note: the Departments of Economics and Finance only accept PhD students in the Trimester 1 (March) intake.*

All applicants interested in undertaking a PhD within the Faculty of Business and Law must complete a Faculty EOI form and send it to [bl-phd@deakin.edu.au](mailto:bl-phd@deakin.edu.au) prior to the deadlines specified below. Applicants who submit an application through the [Deakin application system](#) without having first submitted a Faculty EOI form will be rejected.

Applicant	Faculty EOI submission deadline	Preferred intake
Domestic + international*	September 30	Trimester 1 (March)
Domestic + international*	February 15	Trimester 2 (July)

\*Visa processing times for international applicants are determined by the Australian government and are consequently outside the control of Deakin University. Typical visa processing times are available from the [Department of Immigration and Border Protection](#), although applicants from countries that have been [placed under sanction](#) by the UN and/or Australia are advised that they may face additional visa processing times. If you are from a country that has been placed under sanction, please submit your Faculty EOI form by the deadline for the intake preceding your preferred intake. For example, if you would like to be in the Trimester 1 2019 intake, please submit your Faculty EOI form by the deadline for the Trimester 2 2018 intake (i.e., February 15, 2018).

It is each applicant's responsibility to ensure that they provide all requested information in the Faculty EOI by the submission deadline. Failure to include all requested information may result in an application not being considered.

### What happens after I submit my Faculty EOI form?

Following each Faculty EOI submission deadline:

1. Applicants will be screened on the basis of the information they provided in their Faculty EOI form to determine whether:
  - a. They meet the PhD admission requirements
  - b. Supervision in their proposed project area is available
  - c. Their proposed project aligns with University and Faculty strategic goals
2. Applicants who pass this screening process will be interviewed by a selection panel in early

November (for those intending to start in Trimester 1) or late February (for those intending to start in Trimester 2)

3. Applicants who pass the screening process and complete the interview will be evaluated against each other to determine which applicants will be offered scholarships and/or candidature
4. Applicants who will be offered a scholarship and/or candidature will be given one month to submit formal, certified copies of the information they provided in the EOI form

### **What happens after I am admitted into the PhD program?**

All PhD candidates are admitted on a provisional candidature basis and must satisfy the Faculty's requirements for transferring to full candidature, which is referred to as confirmation of candidature. The confirmation process includes a Faculty presentation and meeting with a panel, which will include your Supervisors and other members of academic staff. The confirmation of candidature process must be completed within one year of candidature for full-time PhD candidates.

Candidates will also be required to complete a series of coursework units relevant to their discipline as part of their research program.

### **Alternative pathways and postgraduate coursework degree programs**

Applicants who do not meet the admission requirements for the PhD program are encouraged to consider the following discipline-specific pathway programs\*:

- Business analytics applicants: [Master of Business Analytics](#) (with [MPP704](#) as an elective unit)
- Law applicants: [Master of Legal Studies](#) (Research specialisation only) or [Master of Laws](#)
- Marketing applicants: [Master of Marketing](#) (Research specialisation only)

\*These programs provide applicants with an opportunity to complete a research thesis, which forms one of the key entry criteria for admission into the PhD program. However, applicants who complete these programs will still need to meet the normal intake requirements before they can be considered for the PhD program.