

# Research Higher Degrees

Avondale College offers three postgraduate courses by research only. Two research masters, the Master of Theology and the Master of Nursing (Research) have been approved by the New South Wales Department of Education and Training. Other research masters degrees are currently in the developmental process and prospective students interested in other areas are advised to inquire with the Faculty Dean or Vice President (Administration and Research).

The Doctor of Philosophy is a doctoral degree by research as described in the Australian Qualifications Framework. The Avondale PhD degree is accredited by the New South Wales Department of Education.

## Supervisors

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Vivienne J Watts  
BSc Andrews (USA), MA Andrews, GradDipTeach BCAE, PhD  
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## Doctor of Philosophy

Course Coordinator: Dr Vivienne Watts

*Course code 5001*

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) is a course of supervised research and study leading to the submission of a thesis that makes a significant original contribution to knowledge. The new knowledge may be the form of new knowledge per se, or be a significant and original adaptation and interpretation of existing knowledge. The delivery of the course is governed by the Rules of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy that provide details regarding all aspects of admission, progression, submission and examination of the thesis, and the storage of completed theses in perpetuity.

## Duration

Doctoral candidates normally conclude their work in no less than three years by full-time study and no less than four years by part-time study. Doctoral candidates are not permitted to extend their candidature beyond five years full-time or eight years part-time study.

## Mode of delivery

Full-time or part-time on campus  
Full-time or part-time distance education mode

## Abbreviation of course title

PhD

## Accreditation

The course is accredited by the New South Wales Department of Education and Training.

## Entry requirements

A person may be admitted to candidature who has:

- 1 been awarded a Masters degree either by research, or with a substantial element or research work within it, in an accredited higher education institution; *or*
- 2 qualified for the award of a Bachelor's degree in an appropriate discipline with First Class Honours or Second Class Honours Division A, in an accredited higher education institution; *or*
- 3 been enrolled for a Masters degree either by research at Avondale College for not less than one year as a full-time candidate or two years as a part-time candidate, and the Dean of the Faculty certifies that the applicant's work as a Masters degree candidate is of such a standard

- as to justify candidature for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy; or
- 4 qualifications that the Academic Board deems are equivalent to those prescribed above.
  - 3 provide documentary evidence that an IELTS score of 7.0 has been achieved with no individual band score less than 6.5.

### Advanced standing and credit transfer

Candidates who have completed higher education studies by research prior to the lodgement of their application may submit an application for advanced standing. Determination will be made on the basis of equivalence of the candidate's:

- 1 prior award to the requirements of the PhD;
- 2 time spent in obtaining or studying towards the prior award;
- 3 level of the prior award;
- 4 theoretical level of work already completed;
- 5 prior experience as a professional in the field.

### Research topics

Avondale College is able to support doctoral study in areas in which research expertise and resources are available. These areas include Australian history, history of the local area, denominational history, a variety of areas in educational research, health research and theological research. Students may be accepted for PhD study in which both research infrastructure and staff experienced in doctoral supervision are available to support research in each of these areas.

Applications may be lodged at any time of the year. Prospective candidates complete the requisite form which may be submitted in hard copy to the Registrar at Avondale College. Intending applicants should discuss their plans with the Vice-President (Administration and Research), the Dean of the relevant faculty, and/or potential supervisors before submitting an application. Applications normally are accompanied by a brief proposal (8–10 pages) outlining the proposed research field to be pursued.

Acceptance is dependent on:

- a the applicant's qualifications;
- b the availability of appropriate supervision; and
- c the availability of appropriate infrastructure.

### English language proficiency requirements

Courses at Avondale College are delivered in the English language. In order to complete the courses successfully, applicants from a country where English is not the first language must demonstrate proficiency in English in one of the following ways:

- 1 provide documentary evidence that a significant part of the education was conducted in the English language;  
*or*
- 2 Successful completion of at least two years of tertiary study conducted in the English language in Australia or another country in which English is the official language within the last two years; *or*

### International students

Overseas applicants are required to satisfy Australian Government visa requirements (see the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA) website at [www.immi.gov.au/study](http://www.immi.gov.au/study)).

### The PhD thesis

The PhD thesis normally will report a research investigation including findings. As a general rule the thesis should be no more than 100,000 words or 400 pages. However the actual length of the report rests with the student after discussion with the supervisor and is somewhat dependent on the topic and the purpose of the research. The thesis follows a sequence suitable to the study and includes objectives, methodology and methods employed in the study.

### Thesis binding

Completed theses are bound in black binding upon which the lettering appears in gold.

### Academic regalia

The PhD regalia comprises a guardsman red doctoral gown with two gold front panels; a hood of gold, a doctoral floppy hat upon which is mounted a guardsman red and gold tassel.