

Higher Degrees by Research Quick Start Guide

ECU's Higher Degrees by Research courses:

Doctor of Philosophy PhD - L61

Doctor of Philosophy Integrated PhD (Integrated) - J42

Masters by Research in a number of disciplines

1

Check your dates

Most of ECU's research courses have a specific start date and application deadlines. However, applications for the PhD are open all year round. ECU's Research Scholarships also have opening and closing dates. You can find many of these dates on our [Scholarships website](#).

Make sure you know the closing dates for all of your applications. We recommend you complete your application four to six weeks in advance of any deadline.

2

Know your topic

Once you've familiarised yourself with the important dates you can prepare a 300-word abstract and a two-page proposal on your topic. It's in your best interests to understand and reflect on ECU's research strengths in your proposal.

Your proposal is likely to change, in consultation with your supervisor if you commence with us. The initial abstract and proposal tells us about you, including how much you know about ECU, research in your area of study, how passionate you are about your subject, and how familiar you are with the prospective supervisor in the School. To find out more about our research strengths and our staff visit our [School website](#).

3

Prepare your documents

Unless you're an ECU Alumni, we'll need all of your transcripts, your CV and (potentially) copies of your Honours or Masters Thesis, publications and evidence of English competency. An incomplete application will be delayed, and you may not meet the required deadlines. Make sure each of your documents have your full name and contact details on them.

4

Apply directly to ECU

Visit the [Online Application Portal](#) to apply for your course, including uploading your documents. You can also track the progress of your application here. We'll communicate via your email address. It's important that you check your emails regularly so that your application is not delayed. This includes your spam and junk folders regularly in case emails from us end up there.

5

Wait for your initial assessment

We'll take an initial look at your qualifications, your topic and our research strength and capacity. This can take four to six weeks, depending on academic availability. During December and January this process may take longer. We'll inform you of the outcome of your application via email.

If you have any questions, please email [Admissions](#).

6

Progress your application

If your application has been progressed for further assessment, we may ask you for more information. At this stage your qualifications will be verified and a supervisor will be assigned to you. Processing time for the assessment of your application will vary based on academic availability, however, we advise that you leave four weeks for this stage and potentially more during December and January.

If you have any questions email [Admissions](#).

7

Outcome of your application

At this second stage, your application may still be declined if we cannot find a suitable supervisor or if we believe your qualifications aren't sufficiently competitive. However, if you're successful, you can then progress to accepting your offer or applying for a scholarship.

Read everything

Please read all correspondence from the University carefully. Make sure you're aware of all key dates. HDR processes take time, so it's very important to apply early, with a complete application.

Email is better than phone

Generally speaking, it's best to email the University rather than telephoning about your application. Specialist staff aren't always available by phone, but an email from you will get an answer in writing that you can refer to at a later date.

ECU will usually get back to you within two working days of an email request. Please direct your emails to one area only, as copying in more than one area will create delays in responding to you. If you email the wrong area we will redirect the email for you.

If you are considering studying a Research Degree at ECU, please email StudyECU@ecu.edu.au.

If you have already applied and have any queries regarding your application, please email Admissions@ecu.edu.au.