HIGHER DEGREES BY RESEARCH IN SOCIAL WORK: UNDERTAKING A PHD

Monash University is Australia’s largest University, with over 43,000 students. Established in 1961, Monash is widely regarded as one of Australia’s most important centres for research and scholarship. The Department of Social Work at Monash has postgraduate students from around Australia and overseas. Our innovative research is published widely in Australia and internationally.

The Social Work Department is located in the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences and offers postgraduate research programs at the PhD. It is a 100% research degree. From 2015 there is a coursework component for the PhD, which will be met via compulsory attendance at and participation in the twice yearly Higher Degree by Research conferences held by Social Work. Information about the HDR programmes can be found at: http://med.monash.edu.au/pgrad/research/index.html

The PhD is generally undertaken over three years (full time) or six years (part time). During this time, the student carries out independent research of high quality under supervision. At the completion of the study the candidate submits a major thesis for examination, which communicates the results of the research carried out by the candidate. Candidates who complete the Research Degree demonstrate a thorough understanding of relevant research techniques in their field through a review of the relevant literature, and the application of relevant research techniques to their chosen field of study. Candidates are encouraged to present high quality written work suitable for publication in appropriate scholarly journals.

Entry requirements: Doctor of Philosophy
Applicants for the Doctor of Philosophy degree require:
(a) A relevant undergraduate degree which includes an honours programmewith a grade of first (H1) or upper second class (H2A) honours; or
(b) A Master’s degree that includes a significant research component at least equivalent to (a) above: and,
Documentary evidence of prior research experience and research output.
Where an applicant has postgraduate study but does not have research training or a minordissertation, they are encouraged to enrol in the MSW subjects Social Work Research (SWM5190) and Special Study (SWM 5140). Undertaking these subjects and achieving an HD grade for these two research units provides eligibility for H1 equivalence.

2. Course structure
The PhD is a research degree encompassing quantitative and/or qualitativemethods which requires a candidate to submit a thesis. A candidate may include published work which is directly relevant to the argument of the thesis, provided such work has been written during the period of candidature. Monash University also permits the submission of a thesis based on published works; the thesis format includes papers that have been submitted, or accepted, for publication.

The thesis based on published works must reflect a sustained and cohesive theme, and framing or substantial linking text is normally required in introducing the research and linking the chapter/papers/manuscripts. The papers do not have to be rewritten for the thesis.

See:

3. Duration of candidature
The total permissible period of candidature is four years (full-time), or its equivalent in part-time candidature up to a maximum of eight years part-time, after which the candidature will lapse. The minimum period of candidature is 24 months (48 months part-time). The thesis is approximately 80,000 words.

Full-time candidates must be able to devote the equivalent of a minimum of four days a week to the pursuit of their research project. All part-time candidates must commit two full days a week to their studies. In the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences part-time students must have at least one of their study days on a week day.

Participation in Departmental research seminars and regular supervision sessions are expected. All candidates must attend the university for a set number of study days per annum.
Further information is available on:
http://www.mrgs.monash.edu.au/
or from the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences
Research Degrees Office:
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