



# Professional Doctorate

UNDA Program Codes below  
CRICOS Codes below  
2018

## WHY STUDY AT NOTRE DAME?

The University of Notre Dame Australia is proud of its postgraduate research offerings and caring community atmosphere. Committed to excellence, social justice and the pastoral care of students and staff, Notre Dame empowers students to develop skills and confidence in order to succeed in their chosen field. Notre Dame empowers students to establish and refine their research skills and provides a connected and nurturing environment. Notre Dame's academic staff will guide and advise students throughout their journey toward completion of their research degree.

## INTRODUCTION

The Professional Doctorate seeks to improve the relationship between professional and academic knowledge. In particular, it aims to generate a research-based approach providing answers to questions relevant to the professions or industry and encouraging a systematic way of collecting, analysing and interpreting data. Consequently, prospective students must seek the support of a relevant professional body/employer/industry group in defining the research area to be explored.

The University's Fremantle Campus currently offers Professional Doctorates in the following areas:

- **Doctor of Business Administration**  
Program Code 6100      CRICOS Code 040396K
- **Doctor of Counselling**  
Program Code 6300      CRICOS Code 074299G
- **Doctor of Education**  
Program Code 6200      CRICOS Code 032064G
- **Doctor of Health Sciences**  
Program Code 6305      CRICOS Code 074300J
- **Doctor of Nursing**  
Program Code 6301      CRICOS Code 052527E
- **Doctor of Physiotherapy (Research)**  
Program Code 6003      CRICOS Code 075781A

## SUPERVISION

Each candidate is required to have a minimum of two supervisors who will provide support and academic guidance throughout the degree.

The supervisor will be complemented by a professional mentor, familiar with the intended topic area, who will come from the industry or profession relevant to the student's research area.

The candidate's supervisors and professional mentor will assist the candidate with the preparation of their research proposal. The professional mentor and research supervisors will continue to mentor and direct the candidate throughout the research phase and up to the point the thesis is put forward for examination.

Before submitting an application, prospective students are encouraged to contact the relevant School or the University's Research Office to arrange a discussion with a suitably qualified member of academic staff.

## PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The coursework component is comprised of four compulsory research training courses to be completed as a prerequisite to the student's individual research project. The coursework units will provide opportunities for candidates to formulate substantial elements of their planned research (e.g. topic refinement, identification and justification of the preferred research method(s), preparation of a draft proposal) and to develop personal competencies in critical analysis and scholarly writing relevant to their profession.

The completion of the coursework is facilitated by a course delivery schedule which takes into consideration that a majority of candidates will be in full-time employment during their candidature.

Coursework component (0.5 year full-time study) includes the following compulsory units:

- Quantitative Research Methods
- Qualitative Research Methods
- Developing a Research Proposal
- Scholarly Reading and Writing

The research component of the degree must be equivalent to a minimum of 2/3 of the degree (i.e. a minimum of two years full-time study)

## MODE OF STUDY AND ASSESSMENT

Candidates in the Professional Doctorate program can undertake the program in either a full-time or a part-time capacity. The standard time for completion (not including periods of approved leave of absence) will normally be three years for a full-time student and six years for a part-time student. The assessment of the coursework component consists of written assignments while the research component is assessed by examination of the thesis by external reviewers.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The following criteria are required for a student to be admitted to the Professional Doctorate:

- Completion of a Masters degree by thesis or dissertation appropriate to the professional field of the candidate; or
- Completion of a Masters degree by coursework appropriate to the professional field of the candidate to a superior standard; or
- Completion of a Bachelor's degree with honours (usually level 1 or 2A or equivalent); or
- An equivalent academic or professional background that is considered by the Dean of the School to be an appropriate preparation for independent study and research work at doctoral level.
- A minimum of three years of relevant professional experience;
- Formal support of an industry or professional mentor

An applicant may be required to demonstrate an ability to understand and communicate in both written and spoken English at a level adequate for the purpose of pursuing the program of study or as deemed appropriate by the Dean of the School.

## FEES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

### **Domestic Students**

In accordance with the *Commonwealth Scholarships Guidelines (Research) 2017*, domestic research students are eligible to have Higher Degree by Research (HDR) fees paid for by the Commonwealth Government through a Research Training Program (RTP) Fees Offset Scholarship.

Domestic students can also apply for stipend scholarships. These scholarships are very competitive and are awarded to students of exceptional research potential. The scholarships are for the purpose of assisting with general living costs for the duration of the research degree.

### **International Students**

All international research students are required to pay full fees for the length of their research degree. Please refer to the International Program Guide for current program fees.

The University is also keen to support high calibre international students. International students are also eligible to apply for Commonwealth Government Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarships (Fees Offset and/or Stipend) and the University *International Fee Remission Research Scholarship (IFRRS)*. For more information please refer to the International Prospectus or visit: [www.nd.edu.au/research/scholarships.shtml](http://www.nd.edu.au/research/scholarships.shtml).

## FURTHER INFORMATION

The information contained in this publication is designed as a basic program description. Further information pertaining to admissions, fees or the University itself can be found in the Notre Dame Postgraduate Course Guide. International students refer to the International Course Guide.

For more information please contact the Prospective Students Office on (08) 9433 0533 or at [future@nd.edu.au](mailto:future@nd.edu.au)

Visit the website at [www.nd.edu.au](http://www.nd.edu.au)