

# FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES - DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY PATHWAYS TO ADMISSION PROVISIONS 2015

---

## 1. Rationale

These provisions apply to all domestic and international applicants to the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and should be read in conjunction with the [University of Sydney \(Higher Degree by Research\) Rule 2011](#).

Consistent with the University's educational objectives, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences admits students to HDR programs based on academic merit and the availability of suitable supervision and appropriate resources.

Research experience and demonstration of the necessary academic background in the field of study they wish to pursue is mandatory for entry into all Higher Degrees by Research in the Faculty except for the Master of Arts (Research). These provisions are specifically concerned with the minimum academic standards for entry to the PhD, assessed according to the criteria described below.

## 2. Eligibility for Admission

- (1) The Faculty offers two pathways to admission into the PhD:
  - (a) direct entry; and
  - (b) Indirect entry.
- (2) **Direct Entry**
  - (a) To be eligible for direct admission by the Dean or Associate Dean to candidature for the Doctor of Philosophy, an applicant must have completed all the academic requirements for:
    - (i) a Master's degree in a relevant subject with an overall pass average of 75% or above; or
    - (ii) a Bachelor's degree, in a relevant subject, with first or second class Honours.
  - (b) Candidates who do not meet these criteria may still be eligible for direct entry if appropriate experience, and alternative qualifications, in the chosen field of study can be demonstrated.
  - (c) The Coordinator of the PhD program may, at his or her discretion, require a candidate to enrol initially in one of the University of Sydney Masters degrees in an appropriate area of study rather than the PhD.
  - (d) Individuals who have qualifications that are borderline on the minimum requirements for entry should consult with the appropriate PhD Coordinator before making an application.
- (3) **Indirect entry**
  - (a) An applicant who has been awarded an honours second class, first division (2:1) in a relevant subject area may be admitted into the PhD.

- (b) Such applicants must :
- (i) complete a minimum of one academic year, full-time (or part-time equivalent) of a Master of Philosophy (MPhil);
  - (ii) meet all applicable progression requirements for the MPhil program;
  - (iii) complete 25 000 words of a thesis to the satisfaction of the department; and
  - (iv) provide evidence that their research is of a sufficient scope and depth to sustain a doctoral thesis
- Note:** Consistently with the [Coursework Policy 2014](#) and the [Master of Philosophy course resolutions](#), students awarded an honours second class, second division (2:2) are not eligible for entry to the MPhil program.
- (c) Candidates who do not meet these criteria may still be eligible if appropriate experience, and alternative qualifications and/or performance relevant to the chosen field of study can be demonstrated

### 3 Application for Admission

- (1) Applicants seeking admission to candidature must submit satisfactory evidence of eligibility to the Faculty.
- (2) In accordance with the [University of Sydney \(Higher Degree by Research\) Rule 2011](#) (4.03), the Faculty will not admit an applicant to the PhD unless the person:
  - (a) is eligible for admission to the course;
  - (b) applies for admission in accordance with the [University of Sydney \(Higher Degree by Research\) Rule 2011](#);
  - (c) accepts an offer made by the Faculty for admission to the course; and
  - (d) completes all requirements for enrolment in the course.
- (3) Admission to candidature is at the discretion of the Dean or Associate Dean made with reference to the guidelines outlined in this document.

### NOTES

#### Faculty of Arts and Social Science - Doctor of Philosophy Pathways to Admission Provisions 2015

Date adopted: 31 August 2015

Date commenced: 1 October 2015

Approved by: Professor Barbara Caine, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Signature:

Related documents:

[University of Sydney \(Higher Degree by Research\) Rule 2011](#)