



The Professional Doctorate

2010

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 the following professional doctorates:

- **Doctor of Business Administration**

Course Code 6100 CRICOS Code 040396K

- **Doctor of Counselling**

Course Code 6300 CRICOS Code 049376G

- **Doctor of Education**

Course Code 6200 CRICOS Code 032064G

- **Doctor of Natural Resource Management**

Course Code 6700 CRICOS Code 049378F

- **Doctor of Nursing**

Course Code 6301 CRICOS Code 052527E

MENTORSHIP AND SUPERVISION

Each candidate will be assigned University-based supervisors who will provide support and academic guidance throughout the coursework and research components of 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 professional mentor and research supervisors will assist the candidate with the preparation of their research proposal although the bulk of the work will be undertaken as part of the coursework unit *Developing a 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.

COURSE STRUCTURE

The professional doctorate comprises a coursework component and a substantial research component leading to the submission of a thesis. The coursework is comprised of four compulsory research training units 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 structure of the degree is as follows:

- Common Coursework (1/3 of degree; one year full-time study)
- Applied Research and Evaluation Methods (75 credits)
- Ethics for Professional Practice and Research (50 credits)

- Developing a Research Proposal (50 credits, plus an oral presentation)

- Scholarly writing and publication (25 credits)

Candidates will, ideally, complete the four coursework units within the first year of enrolment. The completion of the coursework is facilitated by a unit delivery schedule which takes into consideration the fact that the majority of candidates will remain in paid employment during this stage.

An appropriately high standard (a minimum of a Credit grade in each unit) must be achieved in the coursework as a prerequisite to proceeding to the research component. The research component of the degree is equivalent to 2/3 of the degree (two years full-time study).

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Normally, the following criteria are required for a student to be admitted to the professional doctorate:

- Completion of a Masters degree appropriate to the professional field of the candidate (or equivalent) at a high level of achievement;
- Normally, a minimum of 3 years of relevant professional experience;
- Formal support of an industry or professional mentor.

MODES OF STUDY

Each coursework unit will consist of a number of modules to be delivered via a sequence of weekend seminars in patterns spaced to maximise opportunities for participation.

Master of Professional Research

Students who are unsure whether they have a substantial topic or the time to complete a professional doctorate may wish to consider enrolling in the Master of Professional Research. Students in the Master of Professional Research complete all the coursework units of the professional doctorate, prepare and present a research proposal for a scaled-down research project, and undertake the research project for one full-time equivalent semester.

Students enrolled in this degree may apply to transfer into the professional doctorate and receive credit for the coursework completed. A new research proposal may be required.

Graduate Diploma in Professional Research

Students who complete the professional doctorate coursework but who do not achieve the required standard for progression to the research component will be eligible to exit the course with a Graduate Diploma in Professional Research. The Graduate Diploma is not available as a stand-alone course; it is only offered to students who have met the coursework components of the professional doctorate and are unable to proceed with the remaining research component.

PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS OFFICE

For further information on The University of Notre Dame Australia, contact the Prospective Students Office

Tel: (08) 9433 0533 • FREECALL 1800 640 500 • Fax: (08) 9433 0544

E-mail: future@nd.edu.au • Internet: www.nd.edu.au

23 High Street (PO Box 1225), Fremantle Western Australia 6959

ADMISSIONS OFFICE

For further information on the admissions process at The University of Notre Dame Australia, contact the Admissions Office

Tel: (08) 9433 0537 • Fax: (08) 9433 0769

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