



STUDY
DOCTOR OF
PHILOSOPHY





Postgraduate

Doctor of Philosophy

The Doctor of Philosophy degree is an advanced academic research degree which students may undertake in any of the major fields offered by Avondale College. The primary purpose of the PhD course is to educate men and women with advanced knowledge in research skills with which they are prepared to serve the academic, church and wider communities.

During the period of candidacy students are also prepared to serve in areas that require specialised academic training. The Dean in the appropriate Faculty will assist applicants to determine eligibility for admission, to identify possible areas of research, and ascertain the availability of suitable supervisors.

Duration

On admission to candidature, the candidate shall, in no less than three years, nor more than five years full time (or not less than four years, nor more than eight years, for a part-time candidate), pursue a supervised program of advanced research and study, as approved by the Academic Board, leading to the submission of a thesis.

Entry Requirements

A person may be admitted to candidature for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy if the person:

- has been awarded a Masters degree either by research; or with a substantial element of research work within it, from Avondale College or any other approved institution; or
- has qualified for the award of a Bachelors degree in an appropriate discipline with first class or second class honours Division A conferred by Avondale College or any other approved institution;
- or has been enrolled for a Masters degree by research at Avondale College for not less than one year as a full-time candidate or two years as a part-time candidate, and the Dean of Faculty certifies that the applicant's work as a Masters degree candidate is of such a standard as to justify candidature for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy;
- or holds, from an institution of tertiary education, qualifications that are deemed by the Board to be equivalent to those prescribed above.

Advanced Standing

Prospective students are encouraged to consult Avondale's Advanced Standing/Credit Transfer policy located on the College website (<http://www.avondale.edu.au>). Students who consider that prior completed studies should be taken into consideration in association with their application for candidature, should complete the Advanced Standing/Credit Transfer Form and attach documentary evidence in support of their claim. This application, evidence and the current policy will be considered at the time students apply to enrol in the degree and students advised of the outcome of the decision in a Letter of Offer.

In assessing requests for advanced standing, Avondale College will consider: equivalence of the candidate's prior award to the requirements of the PhD; time spent in obtaining the prior awards; level of the prior awards; theoretical level of work already completed; prior experience as a professional in the field.

Course Structure

The PhD is a course of supervised advanced research and study leading to the submission of a thesis. In participating in the approved course of skill development and research, a candidate shall be required to: attend the College for consultation with supervisors and mentors as necessary, and for other purposes such as research seminars, conferences as recommended by the supervisor; participate in lectures and seminars and perform such practical work as prescribed by the Research Committee; and; present at an appropriate scholarly or professional venue, a seminar in the approved area of research.

Students who wish to make a significant departure from the approved course of study (as presented in their proposal) shall be required to submit a revised proposal.

The thesis shall normally be submitted within the period of candidature prescribed in the rules. A candidate may apply to the Research Committee, through the principal supervisor, for an extension of the period of candidature. Such extension shall normally be granted only where the Research Committee is satisfied that the program of research has been prolonged owing to circumstances beyond the candidate's control. An extension of up to twelve (12) months (or 2 years for part-time) may be granted.

Credit Transfer

Credit will be offered for partly completed Doctor of Philosophy courses, based on appraisal of the particular stage of course, theoretical learning and experience. Credit transfers will be assessed on an individual basis on account of the wide differences between the courses offered by other institutions of higher learning.

Recognition of the Course

The degree is accredited by the NSW Department of Education and Training.

Course Content and Assessment Methods

In preparing graduates to undertake discovery-oriented academic pursuits, students are required to:

- differentiate known from unknown knowledge, and critically analyse the existing knowledge;
- understand the dimensions of the unknown and from this understanding focus on a manageable field of endeavour;
- understand and use various ways of locating new knowledge;
- merge new knowledge with existing concepts;
- interpret and make sense of the new knowledge and communicate the findings of this process to assist others to merge the new knowledge into existing conceptual schema in various disciplinary fields; and
- envisage the implications of findings.

A Doctor of Philosophy degree is designed to prepare students to demonstrate a substantial original contribution to knowledge in the form of new knowledge or significant and original adaptation, application and interpretation of existing knowledge.

Thesis

A thesis will normally consist of a research investigation (including findings). As a general rule, PhD theses should be no more than 100,000 words or 400 pages. However, the actual length of the report rests with the student after discussion with the supervisor, and is somewhat dependent on the research topic chosen and methodology adopted.

The thesis shall be a coherent exposition of the research study and follow an ordered sequence in which the research objectives, methodology and strategies employed, and the results obtained, are identified. The main text shall include a critique and conclusions of the results.

It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that they have complied with the guidelines for submission of the thesis. It is the principal supervisor's responsibility to read the thesis and certify that the thesis is in a form acceptable for examination.



Facilities, equipment and learning resources

Lake Macquarie Campus

Students studying on the Lake Macquarie Campus have access to computing and audio-visual facilities, a well-resourced library, *private study rooms*, and recreational facilities such as a pool, gym, squash courts, and basketball courts. On campus there is a bookshop, cafeteria, church, post office, banking, and ample parking space. Transport is available to Morisset railway station. Childcare, medical services and shopping are available in close proximity.

Sydney Campus

Students studying on the Sydney Campus have access to the Sydney Adventist Hospital Library, which is within the Faculty of Nursing and Health, and serves the needs of the doctors, medical and nursing staff as well as the Avondale College nursing students. Computing and audio-visual facilities are also available. Additional facilities include a conference room and student common room.

Distance Education Students

Students studying at a distance receive materials at appropriate times throughout their course. Contact with lecturers is by telephone, email or discussion group.

Library resources and services are available on the library website: **<http://library.avondale.edu.au>**
Specific library resources to which PhD students are entitled are located at **http://library.avondale.edu.au/services/doctoral_students.php**

Location and Living Costs

Avondale College (Lake Macquarie Campus) is located in a rural setting about one hour north of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia .

Accommodation is available on campus at a cost of \$175 per week (\$25 per night). Meals are available in the Cafeteria, subject to individual variations. (Accommodation prices are correct at the time of publication but are subject to change without notice.)

Off-campus houses in close proximity to the campus are available in the range of \$230-280 per week. Flats are available in the range of \$95-160. (Phone First National Real Estate 61-2-49773999 for current availability and prices.) Students could expect to pay \$100 per week per person for food purchased from shopping centres.

For short-stays, guest rooms with ensuites are available for booking in both the ladies and mens residences. Prices vary from \$40-\$50 per night.