551AA Ph.D.- Medicine, Dentistry & Health Sciences

Year and Campus:	2011 - Parkville
CRICOS Code:	006670B
Fees Information:	Subject EFTSL, Level, Discipline & Census Date, http://enrolment.unimelb.edu.au/fees
Level:	Research Higher Degree
Duration & Credit Points:	Students are expected to complete this research in 3.00 years full time, or equivalent part time. Credit Points: 300
Coordinator:	-
Contact:	Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences MDHS Student Centre Level 1, Brownless Biomedical Library The University of Melbourne Victoria 3010 Australia Telephone: + 61 3 834 45890 Fax number: +61 3 9347 7084 Email: **sc-mdhs@unimelb.edu.au (mailto:sc-mdhs@unimelb.edu.au)** Web: **http://www.mdhs.unimelb.edu.au/ (http://www.mdhs.unimelb.edu.au/)** **http://www.gradresearch.unimelb.edu.au/ (http://www.sgs.unimelb.edu.au/)** Future Student Questions: **http://gradstudies-unimelb.custhelp.com/ (http://gradstudies-unimelb.custhelp.com/)**
Course Overview:	The degree of Doctor of Philosophy signifies that the holder has undertaken a substantial piece of original research, which has been conducted and reported by the holder under proper academic supervision and in a research environment for a prescribed period. The PhD thesis demonstrates authority in the candidate's field and shows evidence of command of knowledge in relevant fields. It shows that the candidate has a thorough grasp of the appropriate methodological techniques and an awareness of their limitations. The thesis also makes a distinct contribution to knowledge. Its contribution to knowledge rests on originality of approach and / or interpretation of the findings and, in some cases, the discovery of new facts. The thesis demonstrates an ability to communicate research findings effectively in the professional arena and in an international context. It is a careful, rigorous and sustained piece of work demonstrating that a research 'apprenticeship' is complete and the holder is admitted to the community of scholars in the discipline. In scope, the PhD thesis differs from a research Masters thesis chiefly by its deeper and more comprehensive treatment of the chosen subject. It is written succinctly, in English, unless approval has been given for the thesis to be written in a language other than English. The normal length of a PhD thesis is 80,000 words, exclusive of words in tables, maps, bibliographies and appendices. Footnotes are included as part of the word limit. The thesis should not exceed 100,000 words (or equivalent) without special approval from the Research Higher Degrees Committee.
Objectives:	See 'Graduate Attributes'
Course Structure & Available Subjects:	The Doctor of Philosophy degree is the major research degree offered within the faculty. Candidates undertake a research program which is likely to make an original and substantial contribution to their discipline. Supervision is normally through a supervisory panel with one principal supervisor. Candidates may write up to a 100,000 word thesis, which is examined externally. The PhD may be undertaken by approved graduates as a supervised research program in any of the departments of the School of Medicine or the research institutes affiliated with the faculty. Candidates should hold a recognised medical degree, or an honours or masters degree in science from an approved university. Intending candidates should first contact the head of the department in which they wish to work. International students interested in applying

	for a PhD are advised to enter into written communication with a prospective supervisor to clarify and develop their research proposal prior to making a formal application.
Entry Requirements:	The criteria for assessing applicants' eligibility for PhD candidature are: 1 **Minimum qualifications** Applicants are normally required to have completed at least a four-year honours degree at H2A standard from an Australian university, or a qualification or combination of qualifications considered by the RHD Committee to be equivalent. For particular disciplines applicants are also required to complete, at an appropriate level, a Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT) or a Graduate Record Entry (GRE) test. 2 **Minimum level of academic achievement** Applicants should have achieved an overall H1 (80-100%) or H2A (75-79%) grade in the relevant honours or Masters degree. 3 **Relevance of the degree** The completed degree must be in an area that is relevant to the intended PhD, including sufficient specialisation such that the applicant will have already developed an understanding and appreciation of a body of knowledge relevant to the intended PhD. 4 **Evidence of research ability** Applicants are normally required to have completed a research project/component that accounts for at least 25% of their year's work at 4th year or at Masters level. Graduates of certain professional degrees at the University of Melbourne, including MBBS, BVSc, LLB, BPhysio and BEng are deemed to have met this requirement. 5 **Currency of applicant's knowledge of the discipline** The applicant's degree/s and/or professional experience must demonstrate that their knowledge of the discipline in which they plan to undertake their research higher degree is current. 6 **Assessment of level of suitability** Based on interview or other verbal communication, an assessment should be made of the level of understanding, motivation and time commitment of the student for the proposed program of study. For example, a full-time student would be expected to devote at least 40 hours a week and a part-time student about half of this. Applicants must also meet the University's **English Language requirements (http://www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/courses/pgenglishreq.html)** .
Core Participation Requirements:	All PhD candidates are required to complete the equivalent of at least 12 months full-time (24 months part-time) advanced study and research in the University unless studying at an outside institution approved by the Research Higher Degrees Committee (RHDC). The RHDC will not approve entirely distance supervision or entirely on-line supervision for research higher degree students.Throughout their candidature candidates are expected to attend the University in order to benefit from planning, conducting and writing up their research within a University community and environment.The residency requirement is deemed especially important during the period of probationary candidature. During probationary candidature the student is expected to interact on a regular basis with the supervisor, the department (including staff and other research students) and the University, so as:to build the skills and knowledge necessary to carry out the proposed research programto acquire an understanding of the standards and requirements for a PhD awarded by the Universityto make use of support programs and facilities provided by the Melbourne School of Graduate Research throughout candidature.It is University policy to take all reasonable steps to minimise the impact of disability upon academic study, and reasonable adjustments will be made to enhance a student's participation in the University's programs. Students who feel their disability will impact on meeting the requirements of this course are encouraged to discuss this matter with a Faculty Student Adviser and the Disability Liaison Unit.
Graduate Attributes:	Doctoral degrees at the University of Melbourne seek to develop graduates who demonstrate academic leadership, increasing independence, creativity and innovation in their research work.The University expects its doctoral graduates to have the following qualities and skills:an advanced ability to initiate research and to formulate viable research questions;a demonstrated capacity to design, conduct and report sustained and original research;the capacity to contextualise research within an international corpus of specialist knowledge;an advanced ability to evaluate and synthesize research-based and scholarly literature;an advanced understanding of key disciplinary and multi-disciplinary norms and perspectives

	relevant to the field;highly developed problem-solving abilities and flexibility of approach;the ability to analyse critically within and across a changing disciplinary environment;the capacity to disseminate the results of research and scholarship by oral and written communication to a variety of audiences;a capacity to cooperate with and respect the contributions of fellow researchers and scholars;a profound respect for truth and intellectual integrity, and for the ethics of research and scholarship;an advanced facility in the management of information, including the application of computer systems and software where appropriate to the student's field of study;an understanding of the relevance and value of their research to national and international communities of scholars and collaborators;an awareness where appropriate of issues related to intellectual property management and the commercialisation of innovation; andan ability to formulate applications to relevant agencies, such as funding bodies and ethics committees.The University provides a variety of opportunities in addition to the supervised research program, to facilitate a students' acquisition of these attributes.
Links to further information:	www.gradresearch.unimelb.edu.au
Notes:	Application Procedure Detailed information for prospective PhD students regarding the application process, including the application form is available at **http://www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/grad/research (http://www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/grad/research)** . It is important to note that there is a separate application form for local and international students. PhD applicants should discuss their research interests with a potential supervisor at the department in which they would like to enrol prior to submitting an application. The **Find an Expert (http://www.findanexpert.unimelb.edu.au/)** website may assist you to find an appropriate supervisor. Prospective PhD candidates should also investigate department websites for information on current research and contact details. Department websites are easily accessed from **faculty homepages (http://www.unimelb.edu.au/az/faculties.html)** . Applications are accepted year-round. Which scholarship can I apply for? Students can find information about graduate research scholarships offered by the University of Melbourne at the **Melbourne Scholarships Office (http://cms.services.unimelb.edu.au/scholarships/pgrad/)** . Facilities and Supports: The Melbourne School of Graduate Research makes available a broad range of **Programs & Services (http://www.gradresearch.unimelb.edu.au/programs/)** available to graduate research students.