Macquarie’s new internationally recognised research pathway

MASTER OF RESEARCH

In 2013 Macquarie University will introduce a new postgraduate degree structure, making it the first Australian university to fully align with European, North American and Asian research training qualifications. With greater international recognition for their qualifications, graduates of the new degree will enjoy enhanced employment opportunities and pathways to further study overseas.

Consistent with the well-known ‘Bologna model’, the two-year full-time Master of Research (MRes) will replace most honours as the main pathway to a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and Master of Philosophy (MPhil).

The new model demonstrates Macquarie’s commitment to research excellence by providing a more intensive research experience for students before beginning doctoral study, as well as better articulation and joint-PhD options with overseas universities.

BOLOGNA MODEL

While the actual naming of the degrees vary from country to country, the typical structure has a three-year bachelor degree, followed by a two-year masters and a three-year PhD. For this reason, the model is sometimes referred to as 3+2+3.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

For admission to the program, candidates must have a bachelor degree from a recognised institution, at a specified level of performance, usually the equivalent of a credit average (65 per cent) in their final year. Some disciplines may have extra admission requirements such as a portfolio of work or a higher level of performance in bachelor study.

 Candidates who have completed an honours degree or a masters will receive up to 32 credit points towards the program, based on the content of their previous study.

STRUCTURE

The MRes will comprise 32 credit points in year one and 32 credit points in year two.

YEAR ONE

Units are advanced undergraduate coursework

- 6 x 4 credit point units of advanced disciplinary content
- 1 x 4 credit point Research Communications unit
- 1 x 4 credit point Research Frontiers unit, where candidates will survey the key ground-breaking and innovative research issues in their field

YEAR TWO

Units are at the masters postgraduate program level

Structured research training where candidates will:
- extend their knowledge of research innovations in their discipline;
- survey the current literature related to their research interest;
- study the latest research methods in their field;
- plan a major research project;
- receive training in project management, and
- complete an individual research pilot project of their own design.

EXIT QUALIFICATION

Candidates who successfully complete the first year of the program but decide not to continue will be awarded a Bachelor of Philosophy (BPhil).

FEES AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

For domestic students, year one of the program will be available on Commonwealth Supported Places. Year two will be supported by the Commonwealth Government’s Research Training Scheme, and will thus attract no fees. International students will pay fees.

All full-time domestic students who qualify for entry in the first-year of the program in 2013 will be eligible for a stipend of $8000. Domestic students who attain average grades of 75 per cent in the first year of the program will be eligible in the second year for a stipend of $16,000.

Macquarie will also offer a significant number of scholarships for international students who meet the entry requirements and who achieve a specified level of performance in the first year of the program. Supplementary scholarships may be available for those on other international awards.

HONOURS FOR THE FUTURE

Macquarie will continue to offer its four-year add-on honours program until the end of 2013. The last intake into most honours programs for full-time students will be in Session 1, 2013. The last intake for part-time students will be in Session 1, 2012.

Honours programs in areas where a four-year qualification is required for professional accreditation, such as psychology, will continue to be offered.

PATHWAY TO HIGHER DEGREE RESEARCH (PHD AND MPHIL)

In order to gain admission to a PhD, candidates will need to obtain a distinction average (75 per cent) or above in the MRes.

In order to gain admission to an MPhil, candidates will need to obtain an average result of 65 per cent or above in the MRes.

Domestic students who complete the MRes at a specified level of performance (high distinction average or 85 per cent) will be eligible to receive a three-year PhD scholarship including stipend.

Candidates commencing higher degree research at Macquarie prior to 31 December 2013 will be admitted under the present rules. Candidates commencing higher degree research after 1 January 2014 will need to have completed the Master of Research or equivalent.

The Masters/PhD program is compatible with many international scholarship schemes. Bundled offers of entry to the combined MRes/PhD program may be available for students sponsored by international scholarship schemes.

Degree CRICOS code is 076986B. CRICOS Provider Code 00002J.