

Graduate Certificate in Research Studies



GENERAL INFORMATION

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College of Business

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Mode of Delivery

Internal mode.

Full-time over one session or part-time over two session (one year)

RATIONALE FOR THE COURSE

The proposed course Graduate Certificate in Research Studies is a qualifying program as 'front-on' for research degrees. Applicants who have an undergraduate degree or masters coursework and/or extensive professional experience with insufficient research training would be given admission to a research degree conditional on satisfactory completion of the Graduate Certificate in Research Studies, equivalent to one-session full time study. Doctoral applicants may be required to undertake this course as determined on a case by case basis.

Aims and Objectives of the Course

- To enable students to further develop their skills in critical thinking, research, oral and written articulation of information, creativity, and independent thought and argument;
- To devise and implement experimental protocols relevant to the students research objectives;
- To enable students to fine tune problem solving skills in a creative atmosphere where innovation and variation are actively encouraged;
- To develop requisite oral and written skills appropriate for the presentation of the student's research results;
- To produce professional researchers with highly developed research skills that will lead to positions of leadership and management or for a leading role in industry-relevant research, linking the University and industry;

- To produce graduates with the necessary discipline background, expertise, and research training to adequately prepare students for further research and higher studies;
- To encourage scholarship and productive research.

COURSE STRUCTURE

The Graduate Certificate in Research Studies consists of three units. To qualify for the degree of Graduate Certificate in Research Studies, a candidate must obtain an aggregate of 40 credit points. Study of this course will be associated with a conditional offer for admission to a research degree. The unit of Advanced Thesis Preparation, 20 credit points, is compulsory. Students take another twenty credit points from Research Skills units and Advanced Topic units. Students may take up to twenty credit points from Research Skills units and a maximum of ten credit points from Advanced Topic units.

Units and their focus

- 1) **Advanced Thesis Preparation (20 credit points).** A version of this unit will be associated with each College. The student will prepare a complete thesis proposal and a comprehensive literature review -to upgrade the research competence of the candidate. The unit will be used to assess the research 'preparedness' of the prospective candidate. Please see Appendix A for the unit template. This unit is compulsory.
- 2) **Research Skills (10 credit points):** Existing units on research methodology or alike across UWS at 400 level or above. Research Skills is a generic title for a suite of existing units. Students must take at least ten credit points from these units. The unit will be prescribed by a supervisory panel nominated for the candidate. Examples of such existing units are :
 - **300398 Methods of Researching (10cp):** This unit aims for postgraduate students to apply scientific methods to a variety of research situations and questions. The unit is taught through self-paced, self-directed learning.
 - **EH838A - Research Methods: Science in Context (10cp):** This unit introduces various schools of research and encourages students to think eclectically about exploration and investigation within their own interest areas. Rather than think of methods, for example, as quantitative or qualitative, this class will encourage students to work from the problem out.
 - **HT 401A Research Philosophy & Methodology (10cp):** The aims of this unit are to introduce students to philosophies of learning and to develop their understanding of different approaches to forming new ideas, solving problems and extending knowledge. In particular, the unit seeks to enable students to understand the links between knowledge and the communication of that knowledge. In addition, students learn about the philosophy and language of science through the contributions of senior researchers. Opportunities are provided for students to practice communicating their ideas through both written and oral presentations.
 - **200456 Business Research Methods (10cp):**

This unit provides training in research thinking and research methodology. It consists of research methods and techniques necessary for a successful honours thesis and future research involvement. These skills are also invaluable for jobs in industry, business, commerce, finance, management, economics and accounting that require the use of measurement theory, scientific method, research process,

hypothesis construction and testing, regression and experimental design, qualitative analysis, critical evaluation of business research, questionnaire construction, rating scales, sampling indices of validity and reliability, data collection, coding and reduction, computer analysis and the interpretation of statistical results. Presentation of research findings, table construction, report and thesis writing, and briefing of results are covered.

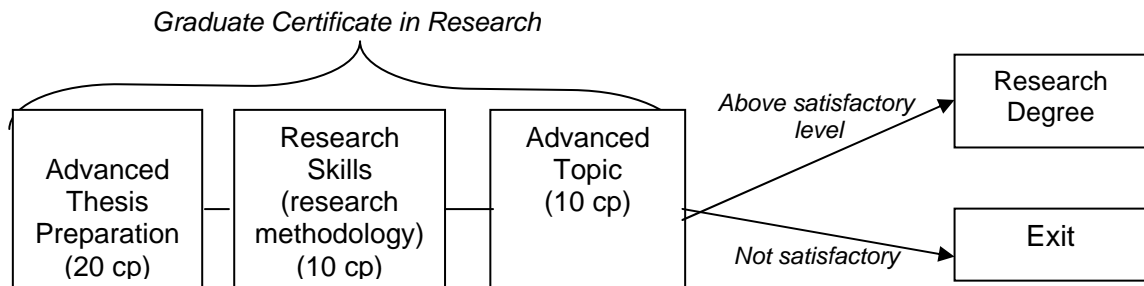
- **Advanced Topic (10 credit points):** One of the existing 400 levels or above units to upgrade the academic background of the students in the specific discipline area of proposed research. The unit will be prescribed by a supervisory panel nominated for the candidate. Examples of such units are as follows:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 300195 Numerical and Finite Element Methods ▪ 300397 Perspectives of Sustainable Development ▪ 300400 Managing for Sustainable Development ▪ 300390 Safety Management ▪ EY813A Management of Aquatic Environments ▪ EH827A Air Quality Assessment and Management ▪ 300152 Advanced Artificial Intelligent ▪ 300265 Advanced Topics in Database ▪ 300252 Advanced Topics in Networking ▪ 300153 Advanced Topics in E-Business ▪ 300140 Advanced Topics in Distributed Systems ▪ 300245 Intelligent Agents ▪ 300248 Software Architecture ▪ 300257 Software Verification and Validation ▪ 300256 Multimedia Communication Systems ▪ 300243 Emerging Issues in Computing ▪ 300385 Automated negotiation and E-Trading ▪ 300387 Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining ▪ 300443 Web Engineering ▪ 300446 Human-Web Interaction ▪ 300437 XML and Web Services ▪ 300441 E-Business Technology and Security ▪ 300238 Computing Research Project A ▪ 300239 Computing Research Project B ▪ 300258 Systems Analysis Methodologies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 300263 Electronic Business: Infrastructure and Applications ▪ 300268 Information Technology for Virtual Organisations ▪ 200444 Advanced Topics in Financial Accounting ▪ 200445 Advanced Topics in Mgmt Acc ▪ 200443 Adv Topic in Valn Methods & Value Creation ▪ DN804A Feasibility Studies ▪ MCB612 Property Fin & Taxn ▪ CO810A Property Portfolio Analysis ▪ 200492 Advanced Macroeconomics ▪ 200442 Advanced Microeconomics ▪ 200441 Advanced Political Economy Theory and Research Methods ▪ 200490 Advanced Topics in Finance: Nonlinear Analysis ▪ 200491 Advanced Topics in Game Theory ▪ 200440 Economics and Finance Research Methods ▪ 200447 Debates in Mgt Practice ▪ 200446 Debates in Mgmt Theories ▪ 20448 Issues I Workplace Reform ▪ 200450 Strategic Analysis and Organisation Decision Making ▪ 200449 Strategic Issues in Tourism and Hospitality Mgt ▪ 200371 Advanced Marketing Research ▪ 51014 Business Marketing Strategy ▪ 51003 Buyer Behaviour ▪ 510202 International Marketing ▪ 51002 Marketing Management ▪ 51015 Multinational Relationship Marketing ▪ 200455 Advanced Mathematical Analysis ▪ 299453 Advanced Mathematical Finance ▪ 200452 Advance Statistical Analysis ▪ 200451 Advanced Statistical Decision Theory ▪ 200454 Advanced Stochastic Process Modeling ▪ 300247 Management of IT |
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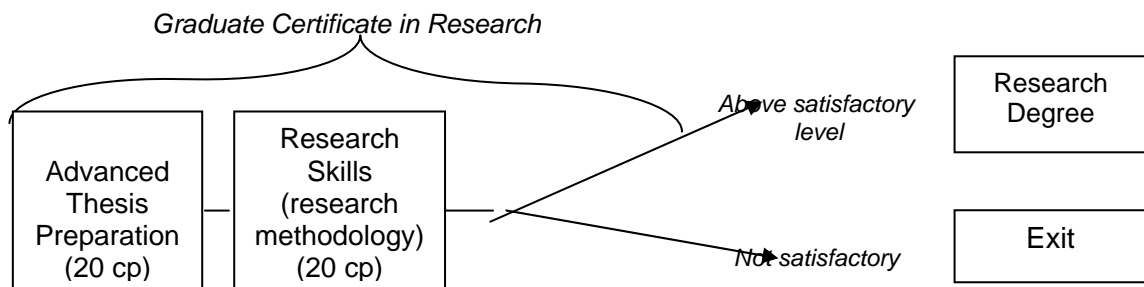
- 300442 Contemporary Issues in E-Busienss
- 300445 Enterprise Web Application Development
- 300264 Web Site Management and Security
- 300253 Distributed Systems and Network Security
- 300389 Wireless Networking
- 300255 Network Management
- 300249 Software Metrics
- 300269 Web Technology
- 300176 Advanced Robotics
- 300191 Mechatronic System Design
- 88131 Concrete Structures
- 85021 Environmental Engineering
- 300170 Advanced Automation
- 300199 Renewable Energy Engineering
- 300208 Variable Speed Drive Systems
- 3000196 Personal Communication Systems
- 300198 Radio Communication Techniques and Systems
- 300179 Design Management: Organisational Skills for Designers
- 300207 Sustainable Futures
- 88202 Strategic Thinking 1: Group Problem Solving Methodologies
- 300314 Designed Inquiry
- 300173 Advanced Data Networks
- 87111 Electronic Systems
- 300193 Multimedia Engineering
- 300212 Digital Image Processing Systems
- 300211 Digital Control
- 300174 Advanced Digital Systems
- 88121 Steel Structures
- 88122 Timber Structures
- 300192 Mobile Robotic Systems
- Drainage Engineering

For students to be permitted to move to the research program they would have to achieve an acceptable satisfactory level in the Graduate Certificate in Research Studies. The course structure is shown below.

PATH 1



PATH 2



Assessment Requirements for the Course

There are no course-wide assessment requirements, other than those specified in the individual units that students undertake, and the general requirements of the UWS *Policies and Procedures*. Students admitted to the course Graduate Certificate in Research Studies and complete three units; their progression to the research degree is dependent upon the grade awarded:

- Students who obtain a satisfactory grade (criterion referenced) in Advanced Thesis Preparation and at least pass for the other twenty credit points will qualify for the award of Graduate Certificate in Research Studies and the progression to the award of a research degree subject to the approval of the College Research Committee.
- Those students whose performance is unsatisfactory will not qualify for the award of the Graduate Certificate in Research Studies. Students with a fail grade may be able to repeat the units to be able to be awarded the Graduate Certificate Research Studies. Students following this pass will not qualify for progression to candidature in the research program

Specific Admission Requirements

- Study of this course will be associated with a conditional offer for admission to a research program.
- Normally applicants will have qualified at UWS or another tertiary institution for the award of a relevant pass bachelor degree.
- International applicants will normally have a bachelor's degree equivalent to an Australian degree. The College Research Committee will consider special circumstances on a case-by-case basis.
- Conditional admission to the research program is subject to the availability of suitable supervisory panel for the applicant.

Applications

The course can be applied for directly through UAC or by completing an application for research enrolment, closing dates Jan 31st and May 31st.