Master of Applied Science (Research) (BN71)

Year offered: 2010
Admissions: Yes
CRICOS code: 007897G
Course duration (full-time): 1 year (minimum), 2 years (maximum)
Course duration (part-time): 2 years (minimum), 4 years (maximum)
Domestic fees (indicative): Aust citizens or PRs will be awarded an RTS/RTA place or a QUT sponsorship for tuition fees. If you exceed the max time, you will be charged - 2010: $12,000 per semester (indicative)
International Fees (indicative): 2010: $12,250 (indicative) per semester
Domestic Entry: At any time
International Entry: At any time
Campus: Gardens Point

Entry Requirements
A four-year degree in an appropriate discipline with Honours or equivalent qualification or a graduate diploma or masters degree in an appropriate discipline with a minimum grade point average of 5 with relevant experience or professional experience and/or other qualifications.

Part-time Study
QUT advises that International Students may only enrol in full-time studies.

Overview
From this research degree you acquire advanced knowledge of applied science research methods, applied to research problems in the built environment. As well as mastering relevant techniques, you can expect to develop high-level skills in investigation and critical thinking and extensive knowledge in a specialist area. Specialisations are available in Architecture, Interior Design, Industrial Design, Construction Management, Quantity Surveying, Property Economics, Project Management, Planning, Landscape Architecture and Surveying. Our Faculty staff are available to discuss your application with you. You are encouraged to approach them early in the development of the research proposal that forms part of your application. Master by Research studies normally include:
* assessed coursework
* participation in university scholarly activities such as research seminars, teaching and publication
* regular meetings with supervisors
* a program of supervised research and investigation
* preparation of a thesis.

Fees
Australian students enrolling after August 31 2000 in a higher degree by research are subject to the conditions of the Commonwealth Government's Research Training Scheme (RTS). Research Students who enrol at QUT will be awarded an RTS place, which is funded by the Commonwealth, or a QUT Research Training Award Scheme (RTA) place, which is a fee remission scholarship.

Research Masters students are entitled to two years full-time equivalent study under these schemes. Students who exceed this entitlement may apply to QUT for an extension, however the University may charge fees for the period of the program which exceeds the student's entitlement. The University determines the fee level.

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1 - General Conditions
1.1 The Council of the Queensland University of Technology was established in 1989 under the Queensland University of Technology Act 1988.
1.2 The Council's power to approve recommendations from Faculty Academic Boards regarding the registration, supervision and examination of research degree candidates and to develop policy and procedures relating to research degrees is exercised through a University Research Committee which is a subcommittee of University Academic Board.
1.3 University Research Committee has delegated responsibility for day-to-day administration of research masters degree courses to faculty academic boards. Academic boards shall report biannually to University Research Committee on progress made by Research Masters degree candidates.
1.4 This program is administered by the Academic Board of the Faculty of Built Environment and Engineering through its Faculty Research Committee. The program is offered in Architecture, Civil Engineering, Construction Management, Electrical and Electronic Systems Engineering, Industrial Design, Interior Design, Landscape Architecture, Mechanical, Manufacturing Engineering and Medical Engineering, Property Economics, Planning and Surveying.
1.5 In order to qualify for the award of the degree of Master of Applied Science (Research) or Master of Engineering a candidate must:
* have completed the approved program involving advanced work under the supervision of a Thesis Panel prescribed by the Faculty Research Committee of the Built Environment and Engineering Academic Board
have submitted, and the Faculty Research Committee accepted a thesis, together with reports and/or documents where applicable, prepared under the supervision of the Thesis Panel.

* have completed such other work as may be prescribed by the Faculty Research Committee, and
* submit to the Faculty Research Committee a declaration signed by the candidate that they have not been a candidate for another tertiary award without permission of the Faculty Research Committee.

2 - Registration

2.1 Applications shall be accepted subject to the availability of facilities and supervision.

2.2 Applications may be lodged with the Registrar at any time.

2.3 There is a six-month maximum period for domestic students and nine months for international students, between acceptance by the Faculty Research Committee and enrolment by the candidate in the Master of Applied Science (Research) or Master of Engineering before the offer of admission to the program lapses. Candidates are required to complete an enrolment form each semester.

2.4 The minimum academic qualifications for admission to the Master of Applied Science (Research) or Master of Engineering are:
* a four-year degree in an appropriate discipline in which the candidate has received at least second class Honours from the Queensland University of Technology, or
* a qualification judged equivalent by the Faculty Research Committee, or
* a grade point average of 5.0 or better in a graduate diploma program, in a relevant discipline, together with demonstrated potential for further study and/or evidence of professional standing, or
* a grade point average of 5.0 or better in a coursework masters degree program in a relevant discipline, together with demonstrated potential for further study and/or evidence of professional standing.

An applicant for the Master of Applied Science (Research) or Master of Engineering program without the minimum entry requirement may present a case for admission based on the submission of evidence of qualifications which demonstrate the applicant's capacity to pursue the course of study.

The case may be based on the following:
(a) three years professional experience in the general field in which the proposed work lies, or
(b) satisfactory completion of an appropriate Masters qualifying program including formal coursework and/or reading program in related fields stipulated by the Faculty Research Committee, or
(c) the submission of technical publications or other appropriate evidence which satisfies the Faculty Research Committee that advanced knowledge has been acquired in a branch of applied science relevant to the built environment or a division of engineering in which the applicant has worked as a professional practitioner in a position of responsibility. This knowledge should be relevant to the field of study proposed.

2.5 A candidate will be eligible to be registered as a graduate student if they are considered by Faculty Research Committee to meet the requirements for entry.

2.6 A candidate shall receive confirmed registration as a graduate student when they:
* have satisfied the requirements for admission and achieved by work and study a standard recognised by Faculty Research Committee, or
* have satisfied Faculty Research Committee that they are a suitable person to undertake the program, and
* have satisfied Faculty Research Committee that they can devote sufficient time to the research and study.

2.7 In considering an applicant for registration, the Faculty Research Committee shall, in addition to assessing the applicants suitability, be satisfied that:
* the proposed program is relevant to the aims and objectives of the University
* the proposed program has relevance to the needs of society or industry, and
* adequate resources are available to support the proposed program.

2.8 An application for registration should set out systematically and fully the candidates intended course of study including the following:
* a description of the area of study within which the candidates course lies
* a summary of the work to be undertaken, the proposed title of the thesis to be written, the aim of the proposed program, its background, the significance and possible application of the research program, and the research plan
* the location at which the work will be undertaken, the amount of time which will be devoted to it and the resources required
* details of academic qualifications and supporting evidence, including copies of results for each year of courses undertaken
* a brief account of industrial experience
* a list of publications
* sponsorship details
* statement of approval by Head of School and/or Postgraduate Research Coordinator, and
* any other relevant material.

2.9 The program is offered on a full-time or a part-time basis.
and may be undertaken externally. Part-time students normally will be employed in some professional capacity during the day and carry out their research projects on a part-time basis at QUT, in their place of employment or in a sponsoring organisation.

2.10 Full-time students may be on a scholarship from industry or QUT, and may carry out their research at QUT or in a sponsoring organisation. Normally full-time students would be expected to work on their research projects at QUT for not less than three-quarters of a normal working week, averaged over each year of candidacy. Such a candidate may not devote more than 300 hours annually to teaching activities, including preparation and marking.

2.11 A candidate may be based at QUT or at a place of employment or sponsoring institution. Normally, support of the sponsoring institution for the candidate's application is required for registration. A candidate may also be external where their residence is outside of Brisbane.

2.12 The Faculty Research Committee may cancel a candidate's registration if, after consulting a candidate's supervisor and having taken account of all relevant circumstances, the committee is of the opinion that the candidate either has effectively discontinued their studies or has no reasonable expectation of completing the course of study within the maximum time allowed (see Section 4).

2.13 A candidate whose registration has lapsed or has been cancelled, and who wishes subsequently to re-enter the course of study to pursue a research program which is substantially the same as the previous investigation may be re-admitted under such conditions as the Faculty Research Committee shall prescribe.

3 - Course of Study

3.1 A candidate for the degree of Master of Applied Science (Research) or Master of Engineering will undertake a program of research and investigation on a topic approved by the Faculty Research Committee.

3.2 All projects should be supported by outside agencies such as industry, government authorities and professional organisations, or by QUT itself. This provision is to ensure that programs are relevant to the aims of the University and the community. It is important that projects be primarily directed towards society or industry need.

3.3 The program must be such as to enable the candidate to develop and demonstrate a level of scientific competence significantly higher than that expected of a first degree graduate. The required competence normally would include mastery of relevant techniques, investigatory skills, critical thinking, and a high level of knowledge in the specialist area.

3.4 Where advised, a candidate may be required to complete satisfactorily a program of formal coursework in subjects relevant to the field of study up to a total class contact of 32 credit points.

3.5 The course of study normally will include:

* additional requirements;
* participation in University scholarly activities such as research seminars, teaching and publication;
* regular face-to-face interactions with supervisors, and
* a program of supervised research, design, investigation, development, construction, or any combination thereof.

The course of study may also include a program of assessed coursework.

3.6 Coursework at masters level demands a capacity for critical analysis and a specialisation of research interests not normally appropriate for an undergraduate program. Such coursework may be conducted in a number of ways:

* as advanced lecture courses
* as seminars in which faculty and candidates present critical studies of selected problems within the subject field
* as independent study or reading courses, or
* as research projects conducted under faculty supervision.

Candidates will be encouraged to attend conferences where these are related to the field of the research.

In all cases, coursework will be based upon a formal syllabus setting out the educational outcomes expected from the course, a list of topics to be covered, the prescribed reading material and the method of assessment of progress through and at the end of the course.

3.7 Maximum and Minimum Coursework Requirements:

Thesis - 96 credit points minimum (at least two-thirds of the degree content)
* Maximum coursework requirement - 32 credit points
* Minimum coursework requirement - 4 credit points - IFN001 Advanced Information Retrieval Skills
* Maximum of 16 credit points per semester for each semester of the program

* Additional Requirements:
Attendance and participation in School of Research Centre seminars/workshops (compulsory).
Students must contact the Postgraduate Research Coordinator in their School to finalise any other coursework component of their program.

4 - Period of Time for Completion of Course of Study

4.1 The duration of study will normally be a minimum of one year and a maximum of two years or the part-time equivalent.

4.2 In order to encourage completion of research degrees within a reasonable timeframe, QUT has set a limit of two years on the length of time for which it will fund a faculty for full-time research masters degree candidates.

4.3 A registered full-time graduate student shall present the thesis for examination after a period of at least one year but not more than two years has elapsed from the time of confirmed registration. A registered part-time graduate student shall present the thesis for examination after a period of at least two years. The maximum time is four years from the time of confirmed registration. In special cases the Faculty Research Committee may approve a shorter period.
4.4 Time limits are measured in years from the time of first registration as a graduate student. Periods of exclusion or absence without approval are included.

4.5 Candidates who exceed these limits may be asked to show cause why they should not have their registration in the program terminated. Such candidates must make formal application to the Faculty Research Committee to have their registration extended beyond the normal time. Details of the candidate’s progress shall be presented to the committee together with the reasons for the delay in completing the course and the expected date of completion. Where the committee agrees to an extension, a time limit will be set for the maximum period of registration in the program.

4.6 Candidates are notified of termination by registered mail. They have right of appeal to the Academic Appeals Committee.

5 - Supervision

5.1 The Faculty Research Committee shall appoint at least one supervisor the principal supervisor and also at least one associate supervisor. Each member of the supervisory panel shall bring appropriate experience in the research area of the student.

5.2 The Principal Supervisor shall normally be from the academic staff of the QUT school in which the candidate is enrolled.

5.3 The Supervisory Panel shall supervise all aspects of the candidate’s work program, shall receive reports from the candidate on progress and shall recommend to the Faculty Research Committee both on successful and unsuccessful completion of components of the coursework incorporated in the candidate’s program, on progress on the thesis research project and on continued enrolment.

5.4 The Supervisory Panel shall receive a formal oral and written report from the candidate at least once every semester on progress on the research project.

5.5 Summary of Faculty Supervisory registration process: To ensure that students receive appropriate supervision from experienced supervisors and active researchers the Faculty has introduced a Supervisors Register which requires registered supervisors to demonstrate performance in three areas.

1. Practice - previous supervisory experience of at least five years.
2. Research - evidence of active research through grants and publications
3. Continuous development

6 - Place and Conditions of Work

6.1 The research program will normally be carried out under supervision in a suitable environment within Brisbane. However, external study is possible. External candidates will be required to spend a minimum of four weeks at QUT annually.

6.2 The Faculty Research Committee shall not admit a candidate to a program of research based at the University unless it has received:
* a supporting statement from the Head of the QUT School and/or Postgraduate Research Coordinator in the School in which the study is proposed indicating that, in their opinion, the applicant is a suitable person to undertake a research program leading to the masters degree, that the program is supported, that the school is willing to undertake the responsibility of supervising the work of the applicant and that resources are available to support the proposed research.

6.3 The Faculty Research Committee shall not admit a candidate to a program of research based at a sponsoring establishment unless it has received:
* a supporting statement from the employer or director of the sponsoring institution that they are aware of the course rules and are prepared to sponsor and support the applicant, that the applicant will be provided with facilities and time to undertake the research project and that they are willing to accept responsibility for supervising the applicant’s work, and
* a supporting statement from the head of the QUT school or Postgraduate Research coordinator in which the study is proposed indicating that, in their opinion, the applicant is a suitable person to undertake a research program leading to the Masters degree, that the program is supported, and that after examination of the proposed external facilities and supervision, the school is willing to accept the responsibility of supervising the work.

7 - Thesis

7.1 In the form of presentation, availability and copyright, the thesis shall comply with all the requirements of the document Requirements for Presenting Theses (Appendix 51 in the Manual of Policies and Procedures).

7.2 A candidate shall submit the title of their thesis for approval by the Faculty Research Committee with their application, and after approval has been granted, no change will be made except with the permission of the committee.

7.3 The candidate shall give two months’ written notice of their intention to submit their thesis through the Principal Supervisor.

7.4 The thesis shall comply with the following requirements:
* a significant proportion of the work described (as determined by the Faculty Research Committee) must have been carried out subsequent to initial registration for the Masters degree.

* it must be a program of work carried out by the candidate and must involve either an advanced contribution to the knowledge of the subject or an advanced application of existing knowledge.

* it must reach a satisfactory standard of literary presentation.

* it shall be the candidate’s own account of the work. Where work is carried out conjointly with other persons, the Faculty...
Research Committee shall be advised of the extent of the candidate’s contribution to the joint work.
* the thesis shall not contain as its main content any work or material which the candidate has previously submitted for another degree or similar award.
* the thesis may consist primarily of reports, plans and/or documents or may be supported by these if they have a bearing on the subject of the thesis. Other supporting documents such as published papers may also be submitted with the thesis.
* the thesis shall contain an abstract of not more than 300 words.

7.5 Except with the specific permission of the Faculty Research Committee, the thesis must be presented in the English language. Such permission must be sought at the time of application for registration, and will not be granted solely on the grounds that the candidate’s ability to satisfy the examiners will be affected adversely by the requirement to present the thesis in English.

7.6 Subject to QUT’s Intellectual Property policy, the copyright of the thesis is vested in the candidate.

7.7 Where a candidate, supervisor or the sponsoring establishment wishes the thesis to remain confidential for a period of time after completion of the work, application for approval must be made to the Faculty Research Committee when the thesis is submitted. The period normally shall not exceed two years from the date on which the examiners recommend acceptance of the thesis, during which time the thesis will be held on restricted access in the QUT Library.

7.8 Except where confidentiality of the thesis is necessary, students shall submit their thesis electronically after completion of the examination process and any corrections required to the QUT Library for inclusion in the Australian Digital Thesis Project.

8 - Examination of Thesis

8.1 The Faculty Research Committee shall appoint three examiners, at least one of whom shall be from outside of the University. No supervisor of the candidate shall be appointed as one of the examiners.

8.2 Normally, examiners must agree to read and report upon the thesis within two months of its receipt.

8.3 A candidate may be required to make an oral defence of the thesis.

8.4 On receipt of the reports from the examiners, the Faculty Research Committee shall:
(a) recommend that the thesis be accepted without modification, and to Academic Board that the candidate be awarded the degree, or
(b) recommend to Academic Board that the candidate be awarded the degree, after any minor amendments requested by the examiners have been made, or
(c) recommend that the thesis not be accepted until major revisions have been made. Such revisions might be rewriting one of the sections, with or without additional work,
(d) not accept the thesis and terminate the candidate’s registration.

8.5 If the examiners’ reports are conflicting, the Faculty Research Committee may, after appropriate consultation with the Thesis Panel, resubmit the thesis to the examiners with copies of the examiners’ reports and/or seek the advice of a further external examiner. After due consideration of further reports from the examiners, a majority decision will be accepted by the Faculty Research Committee.

Further Information

The Faculty of Built Environment and Engineering: Phone +61 7 3138 1424, Fax +61 7 3138 8381, e-mail: bee.research@qut.edu.au
WEB address: http://www.bee.qut.edu.au/research

Potential Careers:
Architect, Art Project Manager, Artist, Community Education Officer, Community Worker, Construction Manager, Contract Administrator, Environmental Health Officer, Exchange Student, Industrial Designer, Landscape Architect, Manager, Medical Equipment Sales, Project Developer, Project Manager, Property Development, Property Economist, Public Servant, Quantity Surveyor, Real Estate, Secondary School Teacher, Teacher, Urban and Regional Planner, Urban Designer.