QUT adopts a project management approach. PhD candidates work closely with their supervisory team to meet collegially reviewed milestones leading to timely submission of a thesis for examination. QUT is proud of its record of timely completions and low attrition rates realised by this approach.

During candidature the supervisor and other key stakeholders will provide advice and direction to the candidate to encourage their participation in university scholarly activities such as research seminars, teaching and publication. The length of the thesis varies according to the topic, but should normally be no longer than 100,000 words, excluding bibliography.

**Entry requirements**

**Academic entry requirements**

You must have either:

- a completed recognised relevant honours degree or equivalent
- a completed recognised masters degree or professional doctorate (by research or coursework)

Masters and professional doctorate degrees by coursework must have a significant research component, normally not less than 25%. Holders of masters and professional doctorate by coursework must:

- have a minimum grade point average (GPA) score of 5.0 on QUT's 7 point scale;
- present evidence of research experience and potential for approval

Admission to the Doctor of Philosophy depends on an applicant's demonstrated research aptitude and the availability of supervision, infrastructure and resources needed for the proposed research project.

Once you've started your PhD, you'll need to complete your Stage 2 milestone to be fully admitted to your course. You'll usually complete this milestone within the first three months of study.

For more information on eligibility, read the admission criteria for the Doctor of Philosophy (PDF, 98.5KB).

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**Eleanor, PhD student**

**Flexible learning**

'I found QUT to be really flexible. I got offered an opportunity really early on in my degree, which was an internship at the National Institute of Biodiversity Research in Canberra. So I took a leave of absence from my degree, and this was no problem at all.'
Doctor of Philosophy (Hosted by Science and Engineering Faculty)

Minimum English requirements
Students must meet the English proficiency requirements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IELTS (International English Language Testing System)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listening</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>6.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaking</td>
<td>6.0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Course structure
Course design
Mandatory
- IFN001 Advanced Information Retrieval Skills
- Time based Thesis

Other units as agreed by student in negotiation with their supervisor and faculty.