

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD) - 3 year expected completion time

QUT has an expectation that students will seek to complete their PhD within 3 years of full time study. This expectation guides students who have been awarded a 3 year living stipend which is commonly the case.

The 3 year journey at QUT is scaffolded by a series of milestones to guide the student and supervisory team on the journey. The milestones are:

- **Stage 1** Application for admission
- **Stage 2** at 3 months full-time after commencement: a preliminary research proposal of about 10-12 pages reviewed by key staff in the faculty including the supervisory team
- **Confirmation** at 1 year full-time after commencement: a full research proposal demonstrating that there is a suitably scoped project to allow a student to complete within 3 years full-time, that demonstrates the student has progressed the project and developed skills to enable this journey to be achievable. This is reviewed by the supervisory team, faculty and university.
- **Annual Progress Report** to be provided in September of each year: This will include a timeline and an update on progress. This is reviewed by the supervisory team, faculty and university.
- **Final Seminar at 3 months prior to lodgement for examination** (ideally completed at 2 years 9 months). This will be an opportunity for a final draft of the thesis to be reviewed by an internal panel for quality control purposes. It involves the panel reviewing the thesis and the student presenting their work in a public forum and answering questions.

Extensions

Where a student is unable to meet a milestone timeline as outlined above, they may apply for extension indicating the reasons for any research related delays that must be accounted for. Such extensions would be counted in calculating the term of candidature.

Where a student is ill or experiences personal difficulties there is provision for them to request leave from the program (can be paid or unpaid). Such leave periods would NOT be counted in calculating the term of candidature.

At 3 years 6 months where a student has still not lodged for examination they will be placed under review to thesis examination. This process is intended to ensure that the student is able to complete their work within the 4 year maximum candidate timeframe provided for within university policy.

Where a student is unable to complete within 4 years the university must make a determination about the suitability for the continuation of the student in the program.

International Student Arrangements

International students are routinely offered a four year PhD candidature in their letter of offer. This ensures that all students can apply for a four year visa and not incur any additional costs should their candidature exceed the expected completion time of 3 years.

Related links

- Manual of Policies & Procedures (MOPP) D/5.3 section 5.3.8 Progression
http://www.mopp.qut.edu.au/D/D_05_03.jsp#D_05_03.08.mdoc
- Doctor of Philosophy Course Regulations; and
Example timeline of a PhD
<https://www.qut.edu.au/study/phds-and-research-degrees/phds>