Course Brief

Doctor of Philosophy [PhD] (AQF 10)

1.	AQF Qualification Type

Level 10 Doctoral Degree (Research)

2.	Duration

Standard Full time: 3 years
Standard Part time: 6 years
Candidates have a maximum of 4 years (full-time) or 8 years (part-time) to complete this course.

3.	Indicative Candidate Workload/Volume of Learning

The Doctor of Philosophy course accounts for 240 Credit Points.

Aligned with the volume of learning requirements of the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF), one AIB 10 Credit Point subject nominally involves 150 hours of study. Study-related activities for Research Higher Degree awards may include directed learning such as workshops, webinars, independent study, interaction with staff and peers, reflection, regular engagement with research supervisors, individual study, research activities including in the workplace, and other.

4.	Delivery modes

Online only

5.	Admission Requirements

Applicants must meet one of the following Academic Qualifications criteria:
- A Master's in Philosophy; or
- A Master's Degree (AQF Level 9) in Business and Commerce or related discipline area at Credit or higher-level Grade Point Average with an appropriate research component (minimum 40%); or
- A Bachelor's Degree (AQF Level 8) in Business and Commerce or related discipline area with minimum upper second class honours or equivalent.

Applicants must meet English language requirements: See Appendix A – English Language Requirements.

Work Experience: It is desirable that applicants have access to a workplace for their research.

6. Course Rationale

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) is designed to provide graduates with a systematic and critical understanding of a substantial and complex area of management/business related theories and practices, together with the specialised research skills to equip them to make a significant and original contribution to knowledge. The course aims to develop graduates who will be able to apply their original contribution and their specialised cognitive, technical and research skills in contexts requiring them to demonstrate autonomy, authoritative judgment, adaptability and responsibility as an expert and scholar.

Graduates could utilise their systematic and critical understanding of management and specialised research skills in leadership roles or in highly skilled research roles in the private, or public sector.

7. Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

The CLOs are mapped against the requirements of the AQF Level of this course as follows:

No.	On completion of this course candidates should be able to:	AQF Level Mapping
1	Demonstrate substantial knowledge of the disciplinary theory and sector practices in one or more business-related disciplines.	Knowledge
2	Demonstrate substantial knowledge of the literature related to the identified research problem and critically evaluate the existing knowledge base, demonstrating the gap in knowledge for which the research project detailed in this proposal will offer original contributions.	Knowledge; Skills
3	Demonstrate responsibility, accountability, initiative and creativity in investigating and reporting on research and generating new knowledge related to the identified problem and expressed through research questions, aims and objectives.	Application of Knowledge and Skills
4	Communicate research through a substantial thesis which is externally examined to international standards.	Skills; Application of Knowledge and Skills
5	Justify the need for the proposed substantial and original piece of research, including where and how it contributes new knowledge to the discipline or sector. Analyse and explain the significance of that knowledge in relation to disciplinary theories, practices and/or associated policies.	Application of Knowledge and Skills
6	Independently conduct research leading to conclusions constituting a significant and original contribution to knowledge in a discipline (or cross-disciplinary field).	Application of Knowledge and Skills

8. Course Rules

General Rules:
- All subjects in the course are compulsory, that is 'Core'.
- To qualify for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, a candidate shall accrue 240 credit points comprising satisfactory completion of 9921RPRPhD Research Proposal (PhD) subject and satisfactory examination of 1001TPhD Research Thesis (PhD).

Other Protocols:

- The AIB Research Orientation Module is mandatory and must be completed within 4 weeks from the commencement of the course.
- The 1001TPhD Research Thesis (PhD) will:

1. Be an accurate account of the research conducted;
2. Conform to the rules for the presentation of theses and will be assessed according to the rules for the examination of doctoral theses;
3. Be 70,000 to 100,000 words in length (excluding references and appendices); and
4. Present an original contribution to knowledge in a business, commerce or management-related field.

- As an important, pivotal milestone, candidates must prepare a research proposal as part of their 9921RPRPhD Research Proposal (PhD) subject, in close consultation with the Research Supervisory Panel. An oral presentation of the Research Proposal will be required to be presented prior to submission of the Research Proposal to the Research Assessment Panel.
- Candidates are also required to give an oral presentation of their Research-in-Progress to the AIB academic community at least once a year for the duration of their candidature.
- Candidates are required to conduct the research ethically and responsibly according to AIB research policies and procedures, to carry out research under the guidance of the Research Supervisory Panel and to make satisfactory progress with their research as assessed on a regular basis by their Research Supervisory Panel and according to AIB research policies and procedures.
- The 1001TPhD Research Thesis (PhD) contains sub-codes used to operationally represent administrative, financial and academic progression milestones within this subject [1001TPhD_A, 1001TPhD_B, 1001TPhD_C, 1001TPhD_D, 1001TPhD_E]; further details are provided for Candidates in the HDR Candidate Handbook.

9. Course Structure

Subject Type	Subject Title	Subject Code	AQF Level Credit	Points
Core Subject	Research Proposal (PhD)	9921RPRPhD	Level 9	40
Core Subject	Research Thesis (PhD)	1001TPhD	Level 10	200

Proportion of Research: 240 of 240 Credit Points = 100%
Nature of Research: Complete 9921RPRPhD Research Proposal (PhD)
Conduct Research and Write a substantial Research Thesis (PhD) 1001TPhD.

10. Pre-Requisites or Assumed Knowledge

AQF Level	Subject Code	Title	Pre-requisite to be completed before attempting the subject
9	9921RPRPhD	Research Proposal (PhD)	Assumed knowledge of facilitator-lead research gained through academic admission requirements.
10	1001TPhD	Research Thesis (PhD)	9921RPRPhD Research Proposal (PhD) to be completed.

11. Assessment Approach

Assessment is all individual.

In the research component all assessment is customised to the candidate's research and designed to help the candidate progress with their Research Project. Specifically, the assessment items are a Research Proposal

including an oral presentation, an Ethics Application (if applicable), and the final Research Thesis. The final thesis is examined externally as per the requirements set out in the AIB research policy and procedures.

12. Exit Points, Articulation Arrangements and Pathways

Exit Points:
Candidates who successfully complete the Research Proposal (PhD) subject may, if meeting requirements set out in AIB research policies and procedures, exit with the Graduate Certificate in Research Methodologies.

Candidates who complete a thesis that is not approved by the supervisor or is failed by examiners may, if meeting requirements set out in AIB research policies and procedures, be awarded the Graduate Certificate of Research Methodologies or, where applicable, Masters of Management, subject to approval by the Academic Board.

Articulation Arrangements: Refer to the Articulation Register.

Pathways: Current Candidates can only apply for an upgrade from a MMgt or DBA to PhD. Conversion from a DBA to PhD must occur before the final year of full-time candidature.

The Master of Management (MMgt) can provide a direct and conversion pathway to the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) as set out in AIB research policies and procedures:

- Direct pathway eligibility: Successful completion of the Master of Management at Credit level or above provides a pathway to the PhD.
- Conversion pathway eligibility: MMgt candidates are eligible to convert to the PhD if the following conditions are met during their course:
    1. Completed all coursework subjects at Credit Level or above; and
    2. Completed 9919PPRMMgt Project Proposal at Credit Level or above.

The conversion pathway for Master of Management (MMgt) or Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) to the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), as set out in AIB research policies and procedures, involves assessment by an Assessment Panel of a written application of upgrade endorsed by the Research Supervisory Panel.

13. Constructive Alignment

The Course Learning Outcomes are as per section 6 of this Course Brief.

Graduate Qualities[1]	CLO1	CLO2	CLO3	CLO4	CLO5	CLO6
Commit to ethical practice, professional integrity and principled behaviour			x	x	x	x
Communicate effectively in all mediums and genuinely listen to the views of others.			x	x	x	
Critically evaluate information from diverse sources to make informed and timely decisions.	x	x				x
Be curious and adaptive; seek out new knowledge and ideas and be receptive to different approaches and perspectives.	x	x		x	x	x
Engage respectfully and effectively with others and embrace and welcome diversity.		x			x	x

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[1] Graduate Qualities as per *Graduate Qualities Policy*, V6 (29 September 2022).

Graduate Qualities[1]	CLO1	CLO2	CLO3	CLO4	CLO5	CLO6
Be strategic, resilient and authentic leaders, mindful of the impact of decisions and behaviours of others.			x	x	x	
Be committed to social, cultural, business and environmental sustainability.			x		x	x

Appendix A – English Language Requirements

Applicants must meet the English Language Requirements in one of the following categories:

CATEGORY 1
Applicants whose First language is not English need to demonstrate proficiency in English with a score[1] as outlined in the table below.

English Language Test	Postgraduate (GradCert, MBA, MMgt)	Postgraduate Research (DBA, PhD)
Academic IELTS	**6.5 or better** *(with no individual band lower than 6.0)*	**7.0 or better** *(with no individual band lower than 6.0)*
TOEFL	**575 or better**	**600 or better**
TOEFL IBT and TOEFL Special Home Edition	**85 or better**	**94 or better**
TOEFL CBT	**235 or better**	**250 or better**
PTE	**58 or better**	**66 or better**
Cambridge English CAE and CPE (from 2015)	**176 or better**	**185 or better**
CTC General Certificate of Education (GCE)	**A levels with C or better in English**	**A levels with A in English**

CATEGORY 2 – For Postgraduate Coursework
Evidence of successful completion of Secondary Education in English

Applicants who have successfully completed Secondary Education (equivalent to Australian Senior Certificate of Education) that was taught and assessed in English in one of the countries listed below where English is the first language:

- Australia
- Canada (except Quebec)
- New Zealand
- Republic of Ireland
- South Africa
- UK - England
- UK - Northern Ireland
- UK - Scotland
- UK - Wales
- United States of America

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[1] English Language Test results are valid for three years up to the date of commencement at AIB, until December 2022. At this stage, validity of tests will revert to two years.

CATEGORY 3 – For Postgraduate Coursework and Research
Evidence of successful completion of Tertiary Education in English

Applicants who have successfully completed Tertiary Education (equivalent to AQF Level 5 or above for Postgraduate Coursework and equivalent AQF Level 8 or above for Postgraduate Research) that was taught and assessed in English in one of the countries listed below where the medium of instruction was in English[2].

American Samoa	Mauritius
Antigua and Barbuda	Namibia
Australia	Nauru
Bahamas	New Zealand
Barbados	Nigeria
Belize	Papua New Guinea
Bermuda	Philippines
Botswana	Republic of Ireland
Cameroon	Samoa
Canada	Seychelles
Cook Islands	Sierra Leone
Dominica	South Africa
Falkland Islands	Solomon Islands
Fiji	St Kitts and Nevis
Gambia	St Lucia
Ghana	Tanzania
Gibraltar	Trinidad & Tobago
Grenada	Uganda
Guyana	UK – England
Jamaica	UK – Northern Ireland
Kenya	UK – Scotland
Kiribati	UK – Wales
Singapore	United States of America
Liberia	Vanuatu
Malawi	Zambia
Maldives	Zimbabwe

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[2] Medium of Instruction in English is assessed against the Country Education Profiles on Australian Education International (AEI) or the National Academic Recognition Information Centre (NARIC UK). English Instruction will only be accepted if AEI or NARIC UK states that English is the language of instruction relevant to the country, education level or Institution.