



THE UNIVERSITY
of ADELAIDE



School of Economics
Postgraduate Research Handbook
2017

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seek LIGHT

1 INTRODUCTION

The School of Economics offers two research-focussed postgraduate programs: one leading to the Master of Philosophy (M.Phil) and the other to the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D). The Ph.D. program usually takes three to four years to complete. It is designed to prepare successful graduates for careers in academic institutions, government agencies, non-government organizations and the private sector. Students wishing to gain further preparation for Ph.D. studies in Australia and overseas may consider the two-year M.Phil program.

The first year of the M.Phil and Ph.D. programs provide students with training in modern microeconomics, macroeconomics and econometrics and in electives such as game theory, experimental economics, development economics, international trade, and public economics. The nature of these courses demands that entering students are expected to have a strong background in multivariate calculus, linear algebra, probability, and mathematical statistics. In the second year, students will devote their time to developing and conducting work on a specific research topic. M.Phil candidates are expected to complete their thesis by the end of the second year of their candidature. Ph.D. students are normally expected to complete a lengthier dissertation by the end of their third or fourth year of their candidature.

At the School of Economics, we place special emphasis on providing rigorous and structured training to our M.Phil and Ph.D. students. We have about 20 academic staff working in areas across microeconomics, macroeconomics, trade and development, and econometrics. Hence, the School is small enough to offer a collegial and supportive atmosphere to our research students, but diverse enough to meet most of our students' research interests and needs. We usually have about 20 higher degree research students in residence at any one time and the low ratio of research students to academic staff enables our students to enjoy highly individualized attention and mentoring when pursuing their research.

We take immense pride in the success of our graduates who have been placed in academia and in both public and private sectors including the Australian National University, University of Western Australia, University of Queensland, National University of Singapore, Wang Yanan Institute for Studies in Economics (China), the World Bank and the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization. Our graduates have also gone on to publish in international leading journals such as Economics Letters, European Economic Review, Games and Economic Behavior, Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control, Regional Science and Urban Economics, Review of Economic Dynamics, World Development, among others.

2. PROSPECTIVE APPLICANTS

The Adelaide Graduate Centre website is the first point of contact for prospective research students. The website address is <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/graduatecentre/>. This website provides information about the process of admission, scholarship applications and enrolment. Please read the following information in the website carefully before you apply for a place in the program.

2.1 Entry Requirements

For admissions and scholarships, our successful applicants usually have an equivalent of the first class honours degree and a one semester background in linear algebra, multivariate calculus, and mathematical statistics. They will also have taken advanced undergraduate level courses in

Microeconomics, Macroeconomics and Econometrics and have written a substantial thesis (15 University of Adelaide credit points of research or equivalent), with a score of 80% or higher in each. General information on the application requirements can be found in the *Adelaide Graduate Centre's Research Student Handbook* at <https://www.adelaide.edu.au/graduatecentre/handbook/>.

2.2 Potential Supervisor

We understand that prospective applicants are encouraged to identify an area of research and potential supervisors in their application (<https://www.adelaide.edu.au/graduatecentre/admission/>). If you are applying for the Chinese Scholarship Council award or the Australia Awards Scholarship, which requires in-principle support from the School, please contact the postgraduate coordinator directly and forward your thesis proposal, all available transcripts and a CV.

For all other applicants, please note that the School will not confirm the availability of an appropriate supervisor without a formal application lodged with the Adelaide Graduate Centre. Before you apply, please email Ms. Alisa Cameron (alisa.cameron@adelaide.edu.au) to express your interest in the M.Phil or Ph.D. program. Ms. Cameron will email you an acknowledgement message with which you can attach to your online application as evidence of communication with the School of Economics. If shortlisted, the postgraduate coordinator *may* contact the applicant to schedule an online interview before an admission decision is made.

2.3 Application

Prospective students apply online with no application fee. All the information about the required documents, such as English Proficiency requirements, as well as a step-by-step guide to the application process can be found on the Graduate Centre's website at <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/graduatecentre/admission/>.

2.4 Scholarships

The University of Adelaide offers scholarships to M.Phil and Ph.D. candidates on a competitive basis. No separate scholarship application is required. Information about scholarships can be found in <https://www.adelaide.edu.au/graduatecentre/handbook/02-financial-matters/>.

2.5 Living in Adelaide

The University of Adelaide provides numerous support services to international students through its International Student Centre (ISC) <http://international.adelaide.edu.au/life/>. If you have any questions regarding university issues, visas, health cover, life in Adelaide, or require one-on-one support, please contact them with the contact information provided in their website.

3. STRUCTURE OF THE M.PHIL/PH.D. PROGRAM

The postgraduate research program consists of the Core Component of the Structured Program (CCSP), a coursework component and thesis writing. Students are expected to fulfil several requirements at the thesis writing stage.

3.1 The Core Component of the Structured Program (CCSP)

The CCSP, which consists of a list of tasks, will have to be completed within six months into the candidature. International students or recent permanent residents will usually be required to undergo the Integrated Bridging Program – Research (IBP-R) (<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/red/ibp/>) offered by the University's Research Education Unit. Unless exempted, the IBP-R is required for the completion of the CCSP. For more information about the CCSP and a checklist of tasks to complete, please see <https://www.adelaide.edu.au/graduatecentre/handbook/05-candidature/06-monitoring-academic-progress/05-structured-program/01-core-component/>.

Students are encouraged to view the completion form of the CCSP downloadable from <https://www.adelaide.edu.au/graduatecentre/forms/milestones/core-component-structured-program/docs/ccsp.pdf>

3.2 Coursework

All M.Phil and Ph.D students are expected to complete the coursework component in the first two semesters into their candidature. The coursework component consists of three compulsory courses:

Econometrics IV, Macroeconomics IV and Microeconomics IV

and three electives, where **at least one** course has to be at level V, to be chosen among:

Advanced Time Series Econometrics IV, Behavioural Game Theory and Experiments IV, Economic Development IV, International Finance IV, International Trade IV, Public Economics IV, Advanced Econometrics V, Advanced Macroeconomics V, and Advanced Microeconomic Theory V.

Advanced Mathematical Economics (ECON 3519) is assumed knowledge. This course deals with optimization methods in economic models. The main technical tools are dynamic optimization and optimal control theory. The emphasis of the course will be on developing the tools of dynamic optimization methods such that the student will be able to represent any problem facing economic agents in a mathematically rigorous and coherent manner. If you are required to do this course, you must do it in addition to the other six courses.

You need to organize a meeting with your supervisors and the PGC to decide on your coursework plan. Students are expected to pass each course (that is your final grade in each course must be at least 50) and your average coursework grade must be at least 65. Failing this requirement may result in a review or termination of candidature.

Students who have recently completed the School of Economics Honours or Masters program and have taken these courses and obtained a score of 65 or above may have some or all of this coursework requirement waived.

3.3 Major Review of Progress

All students are required to undergo the major review of progress at 12 months or half-time equivalent from the commencement of candidature. The review will be undertaken by the Candidature Confirmation Committee, which comprises your supervisors and Postgraduate Coordinator. The major review of progress is an important milestone where the Committee will recommend if a student's candidature is to be confirmed. Confirmation is based on a number of criteria, e.g. completed the CCSP, met the coursework requirement, demonstrated a clear and feasible research direction, etc. For more information on how to prepare for the Major Review of Progress, see the postgraduate research handbook or <https://www.adelaide.edu.au/graduatecentre/forms/milestones/major-review/>.

3.4 Dissertation Writing

During the period of dissertation writing, students are expected to i) attend postgraduate research workshops, ii) attend seminars and Brainbag workshops, iii) complete the Annual Review of Progress, and iv) present in the Brainbag before thesis submission (Ph.D. candidates only).

3.4.1 Research workshop

Research workshops for M.Phil and Ph.D. students will be held during the academic year. Students are expected to attend **all** the research workshops and give a one-hour presentation at least once a year. First year students are expected to present a paper or papers and discuss what they plan to do in relation to the literature. Second and third year students are expected to present their research in progress.

3.4.2 Seminar and Brainbag Workshop

The School of Economics organizes the Monday weekly Brainbag workshops and the Friday weekly seminars. The Monday's Brainbag workshops are presentations given by internal academic staff and advanced Ph.D. students. The Friday's School of Economics seminar series will host speakers from around Australia and overseas. Attendance in the Brainbag workshops and seminars by postgraduate research students is compulsory.

3.4.3 Annual Review of Progress

Starting from the second year into their candidature, all students must participate in the Annual Review of Progress. The annual review of progress is undertaken by all M.Phil and Ph.D. students during September/October every year following their year of enrolment - accordingly, if you enrolled in this year, your first annual review will be late next year. Note that regardless of whether you are active in candidature or on leave of absence, the annual review must be submitted to the Adelaide Graduate Centre by the due date of 31 October.

For more information about the Annual Review of Progress, please see <https://www.adelaide.edu.au/graduatecentre/handbook/05-candidature/06-monitoring-academic-progress/07-annual-review/>

3.4.4 Presentation by Final Year Ph.D. Students in the Brainbag

Final year Ph.D. students who are planning to submit their dissertation must organize a Brainbag presentation at least one month before the intended submission date. This Brainbag presentation is meant to help the final year students prepare for the job market and should be treated seriously as a dry-run for the actual job talk. Please speak with the Brainbag coordinator in advance to make sure that you are able to secure a Brainbag slot for your talk.

4. GRIEVANCES

There is a formal procedure in place to address academic grievances. Further information can be found in the *Adelaide Graduate Centre's Research Student Handbook* and also in the Student Grievance Resolution Process website www.adelaide.edu.au/student/grievance/.