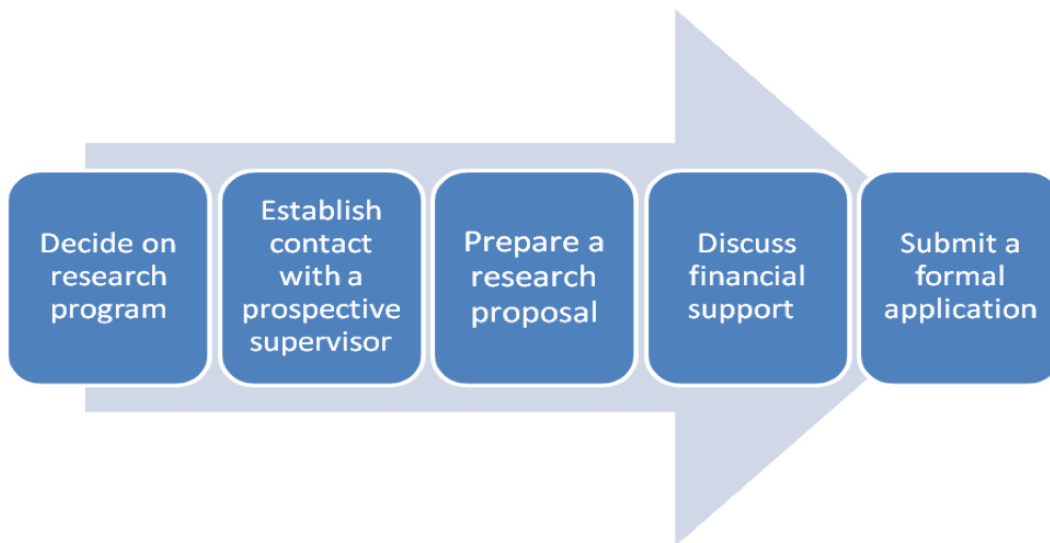


Applying to do a postgraduate research degree within the Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing (CHeBA) UNSW



Step 1. Decide on a research program

There are two postgraduate research programs offered at CHeBA:

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

The PhD is designed as advanced research in a specialised area and comprises 100% research (there is no coursework component). Candidates are expected to submit an original thesis which substantially contributes to knowledge in the field. The thesis is usually expected to be between 80,000 to 100,000 words, although students in some circumstances students may apply to submit their thesis as a series of publications instead. Submission is expected after 3 years full-time equivalent (up to a maximum of 4 years full-time equivalent).

Masters by Research

The Masters by Research program is designed primarily as training in advanced work and comprises 100% research (there is no coursework component). A thesis embodying the results of an original investigation or design must be submitted between 1.5 and 2 years full-time equivalent, comprising 40,000 to 75,000 words. Candidates may be able to apply to upgrade to a PhD program after one year of enrolment depending on their progress, subject to School and Faculty approval.

Entry requirements for admission to a PhD or Masters by Research

(see <https://med.unsw.edu.au/entry-requirements%20>)

1. Candidates with an Honours degree including a thesis (at least comparable to UNSW class 2 division 1) in a relevant discipline, or with a medical degree from an Australian or New Zealand university (MBBS or equivalent), are in general considered eligible for admission to a PhD program.
2. Candidates with a Masters degree with a significant research component and thesis in a relevant discipline are in general considered eligible for admission to a PhD program.

3. Candidates with Honours below class 2 division 1, or who have not been awarded an Honours degree or a Masters degree with a significant Research component, need to demonstrate appropriate research experience. They are in general considered eligible for admission to a PhD program if they are first author on at least one refereed paper in a journal of sufficient standing. However, first authorship on a publication is not an absolute prerequisite, and the eligibility of all such candidates is determined on a case-by-case basis.
4. Candidates with an MBBS or other medical degree from another country are in the first instance considered to be eligible to enrol for a research Masters program, with later transfer to a PhD if appropriate. Direct enrolment for a PhD may be approved on the basis of strong support from the proposed supervisor and the relevant School.
5. Candidates with a Bachelors degree (without an Honours degree or a Masters degree with significant research component) and relevant experience comparable to a UNSW Honours degree, but no first author publications in refereed journals of sufficient standing, may be eligible to enrol in a research Masters program on the basis of support from the proposed supervisor and the relevant School, with later transfer to a PhD if appropriate.

Self-Assessment

Potential applicants are encouraged to use UNSW's self-assessment tool as an indication of their admission eligibility and competitiveness for a scholarship into a Postgraduate Research Program (PhD or Masters by Research): <https://selfassessment.research.unsw.edu.au/>

It is highly recommended to complete this tool and consider the output before continuing with the application process. Using the applicant's official transcripts and research experience for responses, the tool will provide with one of the following indicative recommendations:

1. *Based on your submitted marks you may be eligible for admission and likely to be competitive for a scholarship*
2. *Based on your submitted marks you may be eligible for admission but unlikely to be competitive for a scholarship*
3. *Based on your submitted marks you may not be eligible for admission and will not be competitive for a scholarship*

Please note the self-assessment tool does not replace the actual admission assessment and scholarship scoring processes.

English language requirements

The language of instruction at UNSW is English. Applicants who are applying on the basis of qualifications not conducted in the English language must provide proof of their competence in English.

See English Language Requirements at: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/english-requirements-policy>

Step 2. Establish contact with a prospective supervisor

All research higher degree candidates must be supervised by a supervisory team with at least two UNSW Sydney researchers. The supervisory team must include a primary supervisor who works within the preferred School/Faculty, and either a joint or secondary supervisor.

Most Faculties require prospective students to contact potential supervisors independently, while others require to submit an Expression of Interest, after which they will connect the student to appropriate supervisors. The primary supervisor will help identify a secondary or joint supervisor to join the team.

Once a student has identified a supervisor in their chosen research area, the student must participate in a pre-admission interview to discuss their proposed research project and determine whether appropriate resources will be available. The interview can be face-to-face or via Zoom/Skype (or other such video messaging).

Once supervision is confirmed, the student will need to develop a research proposal and fulfil any additional Faculty requirements before submitting an application for admission.

For more information, please refer to the [HDR Supervision Procedure](#).

To find suitable supervisors, please see: <https://research.unsw.edu.au/finding-supervisor>

CHeBA staff listing: <https://www.cheba.unsw.edu.au/our-people>

School of Psychiatry staff listing: <https://psych.med.unsw.edu.au/our-people/our-staff>

Search Faculty of Medicine Staff by keyword: <https://med.unsw.edu.au/find-a-person>

Step 3. Prepare a research proposal

The PhD and a Master by Research degrees are awarded on the basis of a thesis alone. This means that demonstrating a capacity for independent research, and a readiness to begin working on the chosen research topic is an important part of the application.

The research proposal should be a maximum of 2 pages long and include:

1. A statement of the research problem and its significance
2. An outline of the method to be used to analyse the problem
3. The names of any academics you have contacted in the School (i.e. your supervisors)
4. Details of previous publications and/or research undertaken in your nominated area of interest

The supervisor MUST have approved this research proposal before it is submitted.

Step 4. Discuss financial support with your supervisor

Scholarships

CHeBA encourages prospective students to consider applying for a scholarship when applying for a higher research degree. Scholarship applications can be made at the same time as applying for a PhD; prospective students can apply for both in the same application. However, eligibility/admission into the PhD program does not automatically mean that a scholarship would be granted on this basis. Scholarships are quite competitive and having peer-reviewed publications may help as part of the selection criteria.

More information can be found here:

<https://student.unsw.edu.au/scholarships>

<https://research.unsw.edu.au/postgraduate-research-scholarships>
<https://psych.med.unsw.edu.au/current-scholarships-psychiatry-unsw>

Student Fees

Please see: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/fees-to-pay>

PLEASE NOTE: International student applicants cannot apply for a student visa until a formal offer of admission from the Graduate Research School has been received. Therefore, applicants will need to submit their application well in advance of the deadline in order to allow enough time for both UNSW and the Australian Government Department of Home Affairs to process the application.

Information regarding visas can be found here: <http://www.international.unsw.edu.au/visas> and <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/Trav/Stud>

All applicants should also consider how they will cover:

- Accommodation: <http://www.international.unsw.edu.au/accommodation>
- Cost of living: <http://www.international.unsw.edu.au/cost-of-living>

Step 5. Submit an application

All prospective students must submit an online application: <https://research.unsw.edu.au/submit-application>

The application should include:

- Evidence of support from the proposed primary supervisor. This can be in the form of an email or letter from the primary supervisor confirming their willingness and availability for the duration of the degree.
- A nomination by the proposed primary supervisor of a joint or secondary supervisor.
- A research project title.
- A research proposal (maximum of 2 pages).
- A Curriculum Vitae (CV) outlining the applicant's academic qualifications, relevant work experience and any research output (conference presentations, journal publications, etc).
- Evidence of research done.
- A certified copy of the full official transcript of the applicant's academic record (in English) for all tertiary study undertaken. This must show all courses (subject, module or unit of study) attempted including failures, marks and/or grades and a statement, if appropriate, that all requirements for the degree or diploma have been satisfied. If the applicant is currently enrolled in a program at another university, they should also provide a certified copy of the official transcript of results to date and send the rest of the results as soon as they become available.
- If the applicant has changed their name and the documents are in the former name, evidence of the name change must be provided.
- Evidence of the applicant's English proficiency e.g. IELTS (academic) results, if the applicant is not an Australian or New Zealand citizen, or permanent resident.

Key Dates

<https://research.unsw.edu.au/key-dates>

In order to ensure enough time for acceptance and enrolment to take place, applicants should submit their application by the application deadline for the study period when they intend to commence their candidature.

Please be aware that all scholarship applicants must submit the required supporting documents, including satisfactory evidence of having met the [UNSW English language requirements](#), by the scholarship deadline. For more information on the admission requirements, please visit [Submit an Application](#).