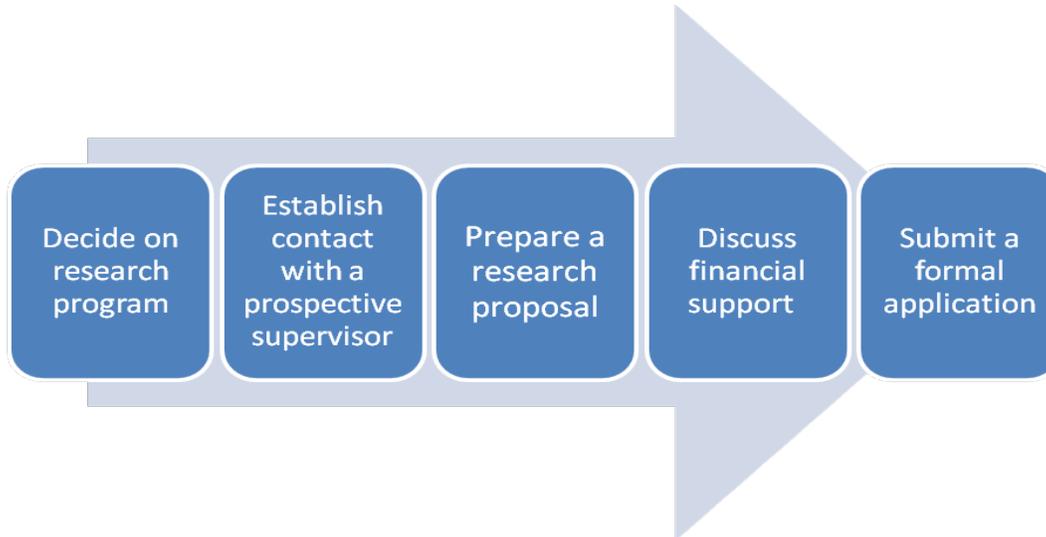


Applying to do a postgraduate research degree within the Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing (CHeBA), UNSW



Step 1: Decide on a research program

Depending on your interests, expectations and eligibility, there are two postgraduate research programs offered:

1. Masters by Research

The Masters by Research program is designed primarily as training in advanced work and comprises 100% research (please note, unlike US universities, 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 can apply to upgrade to a PhD program, subject to School and Faculty approval.

Eligibility requirements: <http://med.unsw.edu.au/entry-requirements>

For more information see: <http://www.handbook.unsw.edu.au/research/programs/2016/2880.html>

2. PhD

The PhD is designed as advanced research in a specialised area and comprises 100% research (please note, unlike US universities, 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).

Eligibility requirements: <http://med.unsw.edu.au/entry-requirements>

For more information see:

<http://www.handbook.unsw.edu.au/research/programs/2016/1800.html>

<http://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/conditionsPhDpolicy.html>

Please note: The continuing enrolment of PhD students is subject to confirmation. In order for your candidature to be confirmed, your progress must be assessed as satisfactory. This will take place at your first progress review between 6 and 9 months after enrolment. If you are a PhD candidate and your candidature is not confirmed because you have not made satisfactory progress, your candidature may be transferred to a Masters by Research degree.

For full details please see:

<https://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/documents/progressreviewandconfirmationofresearchcandidatesprocedure.pdf>

Step 2: Establish contact with a prospective supervisor

The first step for you is to establish contact with a prospective supervisor.

To find suitable supervisors, please see:

1. CHeBA staff listing: <http://www.cheba.unsw.edu.au/our-people>
2. UNSW staff listing: <http://research.unsw.edu.au/people?keys=>
3. School of Psychiatry staff listing: <http://psych.med.unsw.edu.au/our-people/our-staff>
4. Search Faculty of Medicine Staff by keyword: <http://med.unsw.edu.au/find-a-person>

Once a prospective supervisor is identified, you will need to contact them personally to ask if they would be willing to consider supervising you. **All research students require two supervisors.** Once you have one supervisor who is willing to consider supervising you, you should discuss an appropriate second supervisor with them.

Step 3: Check 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>

If you are an international student, the Australian Government operates an overseas student program (OSP) that allows people who are not Australian citizens or Australian permanent residents to study in Australia. Information about this can be found at: <http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Stud>

PLEASE NOTE: You cannot apply for a student visa until you have received a formal offer of admission from the Graduate Research School. Therefore you will need to submit your UNSW application well in advance of the deadline in order to allow enough time for both the UNSW and Department of Immigration & Citizenship application processes.

Step 4: Prepare a research proposal

Both a PhD and a Master by research are awarded on the basis of a thesis alone (this is quite different to US universities). This means that demonstrating a capacity for independent research, and a readiness to begin working on your chosen topic is an important part of the application.

Your 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

Your supervisor **MUST** have approved this research proposal before you submit it.

Step 5: Discuss financial support with your supervisor

While tuition fees do not apply for Australian permanent residents or Australian and New Zealand citizens, they do apply for international students: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/fees-to-pay>

International students are also required to pay for overseas health cover:

<http://www.international.unsw.edu.au/study/degree-programs/fees/>

However, all applicants should also consider how they will cover:

- Living costs
- Research costs (if applicable)

For guidelines about living costs in Sydney, please see:

<http://www.international.unsw.edu.au/why-unsw/australias-1st-international-university/>

A range of other scholarships for both the Master by Research & PhD program are available at:

<http://research.unsw.edu.au/postgraduate-research-scholarships>

<http://psych.med.unsw.edu.au/current-scholarships-psychiatry-unsw>

Step 6: Submit GRS application

The Graduate Research School (GRS) is the central administrative and support unit for all higher degree research students and their supervisors at UNSW.

All prospective students must submit an application to the GRS: <http://research.unsw.edu.au/how-apply-enrol-research-degree>

There are two application rounds each year. Applications can be submitted at any time, but to start in Semester 1, the application (for the degree only) must be submitted by **31 January**; to start in Semester 2, they must be submitted by **30 May**.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are also applying for a scholarship (e.g. main rounds for an APA/UPA or IPRS/UIPA), then the submission dates are a lot earlier. Check the key dates for application deadlines: <https://research.unsw.edu.au/key-dates>

Your application should include:

- Evidence of support from the proposed primary supervisor (this can be in the form of an email or letter from your primary supervisor confirming that they are happy to supervise you for the duration of your 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 your 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 your academic record (in English) for all tertiary study undertaken. This must show all courses attempted including failures, marks and/or grades and a statement, if appropriate, that all requirements for the degree or diploma have been satisfied. (A “course” is a subject, module or unit of study). If you are currently enrolled in a program at another university, you should also provide a certified copy of the official transcript of your results to date & send the rest of the results as soon as they become available.
- If you have changed your name & your documents are in your former name, you must provide evidence of your name change
- English language proof, if you are not an Australian or New Zealand citizen, or permanent resident (see: Step 3)