

## Thinking about Doctoral study?

### **What's involved?**

An extensive piece of independent research that makes an original contribution to the field and is presented as a monograph, series of manuscripts for publication, or creative practice piece and exegesis.

### **Is it for you?**

Are you a creative thinker?

Do you enjoy intellectual challenges?

Are you resilient in the face of difficulties?

Do you enjoy managing a project: setting deadlines, working with teams of experts?

Can you see yourself developing from research apprentice to expert?

Do you like being the expert in your field

Can you work alone for extended periods of time?

How do you handle critique?

Are you prepared to work on your research for around 40-50 hours a week

### **Check your [eligibility](#)**

You must meet our entry criteria otherwise your application will be declined

### **Make sure you have funds**

You need to ensure you have sufficient funds for 4 years of study. This includes your fees and your living costs which will be significantly more in Wellington or Auckland, than the Manawatu. As a full-time student the time commitment makes working more than a few hours a week unrealistic. You will find further information [here](#)

### **Find a topic/find a supervisor**

It is really important that you find a topic that interests you and a supervisor that you can work with. It is a good investment of your time investigating Massey's key research areas and the supervisors that work in these areas. Here are some links to get you started:

Massey University has some key research [themes](#)

We have world class [Research Centres](#)

Find out about [Research at the College level](#) as well as the [department level](#)

Look for supervisors that work in the field you are interested in.

Search the expertise database

Look at the [researchers' profiles](#) on the departmental webpages

Check out the [programme areas](#) offered

Check out the [supervisor expertise database](#)

Email potential supervisors outlining your research interests, any experience you have of independent research (dissertation, publications etc.), your qualifications and how you will fund your study. Make sure you edit your email for grammatical/spelling mistakes and use the appropriate academic title for the researcher you are approaching before you send it.

### **Prepare all the required documents**

You will need a full set of documents relating to previous study, a soft copy of your passport, an academic CV, evidence of English language proficiency and the contact details for two referees.

#### Previous qualification documents

For every qualification, you will need a transcript, graduation certificate or evidence of eligibility to graduate and grading legend (the explanation of the grading system issued by the institution).

For each qualification, these need to be combined into one single file and uploaded to the relevant place on the application form. So, if you have a Bachelor degree and a Masters, you will have two files each containing all the relevant documents for each qualification.

#### Contact your referees

You will be asked to add the contact details, including email address, of two referees who can attest to your research capability. We expect one referee to be the supervisor of any previous thesis/dissertation you have completed. Referees should know you in a professional capacity rather than as friends. You will need to ask them to act as a referee and advise them that Massey will be in contact with them.

#### Apply using the online portal

- You can apply for your PhD through the Massey webpages. You will find an apply button on academic department pages and the Graduate Research School page. Here is a [link](#) to our page.

Your doctoral application for admission will be submitted through the student portal. You will then be able to log on to the portal to track the progress of your assessment using the same login that you set up to submit an application. If we require further information or documentation, you will receive an email asking you to go to the portal and complete the relevant task.

- Should you be approved and meet all the requirements for admission into the PhD, you will receive your Offer of Place in the student portal.

Please note: It can take up to 3 months for an offer to be issued.