

PhD by Practice Based Research

Real world innovation through investigation

Overview

The PhD by Practice Based Research (PBR) provides senior leaders and executives with an opportunity to conduct innovative doctoral research while creating significant impacts in industry and society.

This innovative program attracts high-calibre managers and leaders from across industrial sectors who are highly-motivated, and can use their extensive industry knowledge, networks and experiences to explore critical gaps in knowledge and practice.

Community of practice model

We understand all industry-engaged, high-impact research relies on a collegial, supportive environment extending beyond the program itself. Our **Community of Practice model** means we focus on developing enduring relationships within our communities, creating a rich environment to pursue PhD research informed by current and future social and economic priorities.

The PhD by PBR is designed to support students at every stage of their research journey. Each yearly intake is arranged into a **cohort** group. This encourages students to remain connected to their peers throughout their research, allowing for greater ongoing peer-support, encouragement, and feedback opportunities.

This provides a perfect balance to the expert guidance offered by supervisors. Each student has a **supervision panel** comprised of leading research academics based at Swinburne. Supervisory experience, expertise and guidance ensures students have the one-on-one support they need to navigate each step of the PhD.

Combine research with work and address real-world challenges

Creating time for independent research during very busy schedules can be extremely challenging. The structure of the PhD by PBR has proven to be highly beneficial for candidates wanting to conduct research directly informed by real-world challenges.

"The Practice Based PhD was the next natural pathway for me as a practitioner in my field. I had worked around my research area for over 25 years, and it struck me that there was a problem that was not really being addressed. I can now address the issue with much more rigour and quality. I really enjoy combining both my practice and part time PhD research. It's the ultimate experience at Swinburne, they recognise the value that practice makes to research."

Helena Steel,
CAREER TRANSITION RESEARCHER
Doctor of Philosophy



Course structure

The PhD by PBR is a 6-year part-time program run through the Faculty of Business and Law.

In the first two years, we provide a custom training workshop program to ensure all students have mastery over the foundations of doctoral research. The training workshop is run four times per year on-campus by highly-experienced, internationally recognised researchers in their disciplines.

In third and fourth years, as you implement your research plan, collect and analyse data we offer more tailored training and support.

In the final two years, we focus on supporting you during the writing of your thesis. We offer writing workshops, presentation and peer-feedback opportunities as you prepare your thesis for examination.

PhD timeline

This is an overview of the stages and progress milestones in the PhD by Practice-based research. Typical activities are shown for each stage.

APPLICATION TO STUDY

YEAR 1 ·····

Research Training
Develop Proposal & Research Questions
Set up supervision panel
Writing Groups

····· YEAR 2

Research Training
Research Ethics
Develop literature review & methodology

CONFIRMATION OF CANDIDATURE

YEAR 3 ·····

Implementing your research plan
Begin Data Collection
Begin Data Analysis
Develop Contribution

····· YEAR 4

Data Collection
Data Analysis
Begin Writing-up/
Revisit Literature

MID-CANDIDATURE REVIEW

YEAR 5 ·····

Writing-up
Data Analysis
Preparing Research Publications

····· YEAR 6

Writing-up
Submitting thesis
Examination

PRE-SUBMISSION REVIEW

Expand your network

Research is highly inter-disciplinary, meaning candidates will be exposed to a range of professionals and academics throughout their studies. Our students use time on-campus to expand their networks as they pursue their research.



"For me, undertaking the PBR is about using my 35+ years of industry experience to distil insights that promote better ways for modern, networked organisations to work. The way the PBR runs, provides me with an incredibly rewarding journey of discovery that I am sharing with my peer group. I will use my unfolding insights and work experience to do more teaching and sharing with industry colleagues. What a fabulous way to round out a rich and rewarding career!"

Richard Rawling, SENIOR ADVISER, NOUS GROUP
PhD Candidate

New career opportunities

Career progression is also on the mind of many of our PhD by PBR candidates. By seeking innovative ways to improve their sector, candidates find themselves at the start of new chapters and opportunities in their professional lives.



"The program allowed me to pursue research that will benefit my industry sector in tangible ways. Its collegiate atmosphere provides excellent support, while enabling me to build meaningful depth as a researcher/professional practitioner. The programme has opened opportunities for me, both professionally and academically, that have exceeded my expectations."

Bradley Roberts,
MARITIME LIAISON OFFICER,
AUSTRALIAN MARITIME SAFETY AUTHORITY
PhD Candidate

Entry requirements

Applicants must have completed at least four years (or equivalent) of tertiary education studies in a relevant discipline at a high level of achievement, and must have been approved for the award of the degree(s) for which they studied.

Other relevant professional experience will also be taken into account when assessing applications. Learn more about this program's entry requirements on [the course page](#).

Scholarships

For those studying a practice-based PhD, a scholarship can be of great financial assistance. To see what is available and whether you are eligible visit the [Swinburne scholarships page](#).

How to apply

To apply for this degree follow the [step-by-step application process](#).

Applicants can also contact Course Director Dr Chris Mason to discuss their proposed research direction and to determine their suitability for the program.

Dr Chris Mason, course director:
03 9214 8401
cjmason@swin.edu.au

Further information

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