

STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY (MPhil)

Definition of a Master of Philosophy (M Phil)	<p>The M Phil is an internationally recognised masters (by research) degree. It is designed for students to develop advanced skills in carrying out independent and sustained research. The thesis should demonstrate a critical application of specialist knowledge and make an independent contribution to existing scholarship in the area of research.</p> <p>On completion of the course students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrate advanced learning in research skills and mastery of appropriate techniques, such as the use of archival or primary evidence, analysis of data, judgment of conflicting evidence etc; • demonstrate specialist knowledge in the area of their research; • present the results of their research in publishable form or work towards incorporating their findings in further research; • gain access to certain types of employment through this specialist qualification; • apply the research skills acquired to other projects; • demonstrate an understanding of, and commitment to, research ethics or code of practice. 								
Entry criteria	<p>Minimum standards for entry to the MPhil</p> <p>MPhil applicants will be assessed using the criteria described below. The measures include an assessment of a candidate's knowledge of the discipline and evidence of their ability to complete a rigorous research project. Applicants are required to meet the minimum standards described for each of the 6 measures.</p> <p>In exceptional circumstances, the RHD Committee may consider for admission a person who does not have qualifications equivalent to a four-year honours degree, if it is satisfied that the person's experience in research and the results of that experience are so outstanding that the person is likely to have the ability to pursue the course successfully. In such cases, or where other minimum standards as specified below are not all met, the department may present an evidence-based case for admittance to the Chair Research Higher Degrees Committee.</p> <p>Normally, the evidence of research equivalence would take the form of a research publication record and/or additional significant research experience that would be equivalent to a fourth year. In the case of a three-year honours degree from the United Kingdom the sponsoring Department may also provide evidence about the quality of the institution and the quality of the degree, compared with a four-year honours degree.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Criteria for assessing applicants eligibility for MPhil candidature</th> </tr> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Criteria</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">1. Minimum qualifications</td> <td>Applicants are normally required to have completed at least a four-year honours degree at H2A standard from an Australian university, or a qualification or combination of qualifications considered by the RHD Committee to be equivalent.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">2. Minimum level of academic achievement</td> <td>Applicants should have achieved an overall H1 (80-100%) or H2A (75-79%) grade in the relevant honours or Masters degree.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Criteria for assessing applicants eligibility for MPhil candidature		Criteria	Description	1. Minimum qualifications	Applicants are normally required to have completed at least a four-year honours degree at H2A standard from an Australian university, or a qualification or combination of qualifications considered by the RHD Committee to be equivalent.	2. Minimum level of academic achievement	Applicants should have achieved an overall H1 (80-100%) or H2A (75-79%) grade in the relevant honours or Masters degree.
Criteria for assessing applicants eligibility for MPhil candidature									
Criteria	Description								
1. Minimum qualifications	Applicants are normally required to have completed at least a four-year honours degree at H2A standard from an Australian university, or a qualification or combination of qualifications considered by the RHD Committee to be equivalent.								
2. Minimum level of academic achievement	Applicants should have achieved an overall H1 (80-100%) or H2A (75-79%) grade in the relevant honours or Masters degree.								

		Applicants who have completed certain professional degrees such as MBBS, BVetSci, LLB, BPhysio and BArch and BLArch will be assessed individually.
	3. Relevance of the Degree	The completed degree must be in an area that is relevant to the intended MPhil, including sufficient specialisation such that the applicant will have already developed an understanding and appreciation of a body of knowledge relevant to the intended MPhil. Professional experience in the area of the intended M Phil may be deemed equivalent.
	4. Evidence of research ability	Applicants are normally required to have completed a research project/component that accounts for at least 25% of their year's work at 4 th year or at Masters level. Graduates of certain professional degrees at the University of Melbourne, including MBBS, BVetSci, LLB, BPhysio, BEng and BArch and BLArch are deemed to have met this requirement. In the absence of the final year research component, other evidence may be provided as to a student's ability to undertake research.
	5. Currency of applicant's knowledge of the discipline	The applicant's degree/s and/or professional experience must demonstrate that their knowledge of the discipline in which they plan to undertake their research higher degree is current. It is therefore expected that an applicant will have completed their tertiary studies and/or any relevant professional experience in the 10 years immediately prior to their intended entry to the MPhil.
	6. Assessment of level of commitment	Based on interview or other communication, an assessment should be made of the level of understanding, motivation and time commitment of the student for the proposed program of study. For example, a full-time student would be expected to devote at least 40 hours a week and a part-time student about half of this.
Structure of MPhil	All candidates for the MPhil will be examined on the basis of their thesis. A candidate will have appropriately experienced supervisor/s and an Advisory Committee who in consultation with the candidate, arranges a course of supervised research designed to suit the individual requirements and interests of the candidate. A candidate may be required to supplement their research program by attendance at, or enrolment in, additional subjects if considered necessary by the supervisor(s).	
Residency requirements	All MPhil candidates are required to complete the equivalent of at least 6 months full-time (12 months part-time) advanced study and research at the University (unless studying at an approved outside institution).	

Conversion to PhD	Students who have completed 6 months or more of the MPhil degree and who are qualified for admission to the PhD program may apply for conversion to confirmed PhD candidature. Converting candidates are required to undertake the same confirmation process as probationary PhD candidates. An unfinished Masters degree or other doctorate normally cannot contribute to meeting the eligibility requirements for admission into the PhD.
Duration	Duration of candidature is 18 months. Two extensions of three months each may be allowed. RTS is available for a maximum of 2 years.
Progress reports at six month intervals	MPhil candidates are required to submit six monthly progress reports. Completion of progress reports is required for the continuation of enrolment and any scholarship held. The first six month progress report will serve as the confirmation hurdle for the MPhil in which candidates will also be required to give a 15 minute presentation of their work.
Advisory Committee	Supervisory arrangements and Advisory Committees will need to be established for MPhil students based on the Advisory Committee structure for PhD students. See details at http://www.sgs.unimelb.edu.au/phd/enrolcandid/phd/bk/candidature/advisorycommittee.html .
Word limit	Candidates should aim to write a thesis of approximately 30,000-35,000 words. The word limit is exclusive of words in tables, maps, bibliographies and appendices. Footnotes are included as part of the word limit. Appendices must be limited to supporting material genuinely subsidiary to the main argument of the thesis. Candidates may write up to 40,000 words without seeking special permission from the RHD Committee. In exceptional circumstances, application can be made to the RHD Committee to submit theses longer than 40,000 words. The application must be made prior to submission of the thesis. It must include the justification for the request, the expected length of the thesis and be supported by the supervisor and head of department, who must also certify that the proposed examiners do not object to examining a longer thesis.
Creative component	In the case of creative arts disciplines where the thesis may take the form of creative works and a dissertation, the integrated thesis should normally represent the equivalent of 30,000-35,000 words. The creative work component will be determined between the candidate and supervisor and be relevant to the proportion of the thesis submitted as creative work. The length of the dissertation will also depend on what proportion of the thesis it constitutes, but will normally be at least 50% of the integrated thesis, between 15,000-20,000 words.
Completion Seminar	All MPhil candidates will be required to make a public presentation of their research findings at the University towards the end of their candidature and prior to submitting their thesis for examination. The Seminar should present the objectives, methods, findings and significance of the candidate's MPhil thesis research.
Nomination of examiners	Two examiners, together with a reserve name for use should a third or replacement examiner be required, are appointed. The examiners shall be external to the University and must not have any formal association with the University within the last 5 years. Formal association is normally interpreted as meaning employment at the University in teaching and/or research as either a full-time, part-time or sessional staff member, or in an honorary capacity or through direct involvement with the candidate's research project (including reading drafts or discussing the research). Examiners must be of international standing in an area of research relevant to the thesis. All examiners must be from different institutions. Normally no more than one examiner may be from Victoria. Examiners should be or have been a member of a university or research institution within the last 5 years.

<p>Expected requirements of a MPhil</p>	<p>The MPhil thesis demonstrates the ability of a candidate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • read the literature critically and identify a research question that can be addressed; • state the research question in a form suitable for investigation, then carry out these investigations; • analyse the information arising from the investigations using techniques appropriate to the research question; • critically discuss the results of these analyses and their significance, and how they relate to the research question; • consider what further work may arise from their conclusions; • express the thesis in correct English and present it in a form consistent with the conventions for the discipline(s).
<p>Examiner's report</p>	<p>Examiner's report</p> <p>Examiners will consider the development of critical argument in the reading of the literature, the approach to the research investigation and the logic of the evaluation of the study.</p> <p>Examiners are requested to submit a written report on the thesis and to award a result from the following scale from 1 to 5. The 5 recommendations available to examiners when submitting a first report are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be awarded the degree without further examination or amendment. 2. Be awarded the degree without further examination, subject to inserting in the thesis the minor corrections and/or additions as I have specified and which may be subsequently carried out to the satisfaction of the Chairperson of Examiners, without further reference to me. 3. Be awarded the Degree, subject to revising part or parts of the thesis to either (a) the satisfaction of the Chairperson of Examiners or (b) my satisfaction. 4. Not yet be awarded the degree, but be permitted to re-submit the thesis in a revised form for re-examination. Areas requiring major amendment are identified in my attached report. 5. Not be awarded the degree of Master of Philosophy and not be permitted to submit for re-examination. <p>The thesis will be assessed and given a mark out of 100. The following scale is provided for guidance to the examiners.</p> <p>Outstanding (H1) 90-100%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outstanding in exposition and scholarship; • includes significant original work; • significantly exceeds the requirements specified above; • expected to be of publishable quality in premiere journals. • would be in the top 5% of theses examined <p>Excellent (H1) 85-89%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • excellent in the exposition and scholarship; • includes original work of exceptional quality; • significantly exceeds the requirements specified above; • expected to be of publishable quality.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • would be in the top 10% of theses examined <p>Very Good (H1) 80-84%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • excellent in exposition and scholarship; • exceeds the requirements specified above; • expected to be of publishable quality. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • would be in the top 20% of theses examined <p>Good (H2A) 75-79%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • very good in exposition and scholarship; • meets the requirements specified above; • publishable quality but with minor amendments required. <p>Adequate (H2B) 70-74%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • meets the requirements specified above; • substantial amendment to the thesis required for publication; • qualified encouragement to proceed to a higher degree • may lead to published works with significant modification <p>Pass (H3) 65-69%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • barely meets the requirements specified above; • major amendment to the thesis required for publication; • not encouraged to proceed to a higher degree. <p>Failed <65%</p>
Grade requirement	An MPhil candidate must receive an average grade of at least H3 (65%) or better to be eligible for the award of the degree.
MPhil by Submission of papers	<p>MPhil by Submission of papers (previously known as Section 9 for Master of Science degree)</p> <p>Eligibility</p> <p>Candidates submitting a collection of papers must be either Bachelor (or equivalent) graduates of the University of Melbourne with a minimum of four years since graduating from their bachelor degree and/or applicants who have a substantial connection with the University of Melbourne and can provide documented evidence such as research publications while an employee of the University of Melbourne.</p> <p>Structure</p> <p>Candidates submitting a collection of papers (either published or unpublished), need to include a general introduction, a literature survey, a general discussion, and a summary.</p> <p>Course fee</p> <p>Candidates submitting a collection of papers are not covered by the research training scheme and must pay a course fee of \$ 2,500.</p>