

PhD by h Publication

– Information for Prospective Applicants

What is a PhD by h Publication?

The PhD by Prior Publication targets established researchers who do not already hold a doctoral level qualification. It provides a mechanism for the formal recognition of standing within a field, on the basis of a significant, historical record of academic publication at doctoral standard. During the program, the candidate must develop a thesis for examination comprising an integrated body of their published work that demonstrates both a capacity for independent research and a significant, original, scholarly contribution to knowledge.

This is not a short-cut to a PhD. Admission to the program requires the demonstration of a significant body of quality academic publication that will be drawn together, with minimal additional research, as a doctoral thesis. It is important also to differentiate this program from a doctoral candidature throughout which research is undertaken and a series of publications may be generated.

Who is eligible for admission?

Applicants must meet the entry requirements for admission to a CSU doctoral program as outlined in Section D1 of the Academic Regulations. Admission to the PhD by Prior Publication also requires the submission of additional detail that demonstrates an appropriate academic publication history prior to enrolment: “A candidate is expected to be an experienced researcher with a significant refereed publication record of doctoral standard”.

The identified field of research needs to be one in which CSU has supervisory expertise and capacity. This is determined by the Faculty.

Who approves admission to the PhD by h Publication program?

The Research Advisory Committee (RAC) approves doctoral candidates in accordance with the University’s Academic Regulations. PhD by Publication admission applications have additional information requirements to support the RAC decision process. This includes detail of the peer-reviewed publications that are to be considered as the basis of the candidature, plus a short statement from the applicant that includes (among other points) information about:

- the way in which the work has developed;
- the contemporary relevance of each publication;
- the way in which the publications make an original scholarly contribution to knowledge;
- a thematic overview which serves to link the individual publications into an integrated whole; and
- whether or not additional research activity may be required in order to convert the publications to an integrated whole.

Following their preliminary evaluation of a candidates admission application, the relevant Faculty provides a recommendation to the RAC regarding admission of candidates to the program. Independent, external assessment of the applicant's statement and publications forms an important part of the admission approval process. External assessors are nominated by the Faculty (with advice from the School and/or discipline leaders) for candidates who meet all other enrolment requirements. External assessment focuses on the academic quality, scope and appropriateness of the body of published work presented by the applicant. This input is utilised as advice about suitability for admission only; it is not part of the examination process.

What is required to be undertaken during the candidature?

There are minimum and maximum enrolment requirements which guide the length of enrolment. Enrolment would normally be for six to twelve months full-time-equivalent. In this period, the candidate will prepare a thesis that incorporates their previously published research and a substantial integrating essay, which may involve additional introductory and concluding chapters. While some minor research element may be permitted in this period, the primary focus of the candidature is preparation of the thesis for examination.

The requirements for the research to be reported in a PhD by Prior Publication thesis are described in the Academic Regulations: "A Doctoral of Philosophy by Publication candidate is required to demonstrate the originality and significance of the published research presented in the thesis. In the published research and the thesis, candidates must have demonstrated advanced theoretical and methodological knowledge and have demonstrated how the research has made an original and significant contribution to knowledge or understanding".

The size of the integrating essay or additional chapters is prescribed to be not more than 20,000 words for print theses and not more than 50,000 words for non-print (eg multi-media, portfolios).

How is the PhD by h Publication examined?

Examination of the thesis is undertaken by three examiners, at least two of whom are external to the University. Examiners are nominated by the Principal Supervisor, endorsed by the Faculty and approved by the Research Advisory Committee. Included in the examination criteria is the requirement that: "A doctor of philosophy by publication thesis must be an original and significant contribution to knowledge of the subject".

More information and how to apply

Please refer to <http://www.csu.edu.au/research-csu/research-higher-degrees> for information about programs, admission requirements, contacts and how to apply.

Alternatively, you are welcome to contact the appropriate [Faculty Sub-Dean](#) to discuss your options in more detail.

CSU also offers a free-call contact number for course information – phone **1800 334 733**.