

Course Brief

Doctor of Business Administration [DBA] (AQF 10)

1. Duration

| | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Minimum | 3 years (full-time) |
| Maximum | 6 years (part-time) |

2. Indicative candidate workload/volume of learning

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| 240 credit points |
| Aligned with the volume of learning requirements of the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) one AIB 10 credit point subject nominally involves 150 hours of study. Study-related activities for research higher degree awards may include directed learning such as workshops, webinars, independent study, interaction with staff and peers, reflection, regular engagement with research supervisors, individual study, research activities including in the workplace, assignment work and other. |

3. Delivery modes

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| Online only |
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4. Admission requirements

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| Academic Qualifications | <p>Applicants must meet one of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a Masters' Degree (AQF Level 9) at Credit or higher level Grade Point Average with an appropriate research component (for example, research methods subject or research project); or a Bachelor's degree with Honours (AQF Level 8) with minimum second upper honours or equivalent. |
| Work Experience | It is desirable that applicants have access to a workplace for their assignments and research. |
| English Language | See Appendix A – English Language Requirements . |

5. Course rationale

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| <p>The Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) is designed to provide graduates with a systematic and critical understanding of a substantial and complex area of management theory and practice, and specialised research skills for the application of theory in a professional context to meet the needs of organisations, industry and the economy. The course aims to develop graduates who will be able to apply their original contribution and their specialised cognitive, technical and research skills in contexts requiring them to demonstrate autonomy, authoritative judgment, adaptability and responsibility as an expert and leading practitioner.</p> <p>Graduates of the DBA could utilise their systematic and critical understanding of management practice and specialised research skills in leadership roles in the private, public, higher education or not-for-profit sectors or as consultants and/or executive managers in their own business.</p> |
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6. Course learning outcomes (CLOs)

The CLOs are mapped against the requirements of the AQF Level of this course as follows:

| On completion of this course candidates should be able to: | | <i>AQF Level Mapping</i> |
|--|---|---|
| 1 | Demonstrate substantial knowledge of the disciplinary and sector literature in one or more business-related disciplines including knowledge about application to professional practice and applied research methodologies. | Knowledge |
| 2 | Investigate and critically evaluate the literature in one or more business-related disciplines to formulate original research questions that address the needs of the workplace, organisation or industry setting. | Knowledge; Skills |
| 3 | Demonstrate responsibility, accountability, initiative, and creativity in investigating and reporting on research and generating new knowledge in a workplace, organisational or industry setting. | Application of Knowledge and Skills |
| 4 | Develop a proposal and obtain ethics approval for a systematic investigation in a business-related context in a professional workplace, organisational or industry setting, generating a significant contribution to knowledge in the context of professional practice. | Application of Knowledge and Skills |
| 5 | Communicate research through a substantial thesis which is externally examined to international standards. | Skills; Application of Knowledge and Skills |
| 6 | Independently conduct research leading to conclusions constituting a significant and original contribution to knowledge and professional practice. | Application of Knowledge and Skills |

7. Course rules

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| <i>General</i> | <p>To qualify for the award of the degree of Doctor of Business Administration a candidate shall accrue 240 credit points.</p> <p>Coursework subjects of 40 credit points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9911LRC Literature Review Critique • 9912ALAR Action Learning Action Research • 9001CSR Case Study Research • 9913MMR Mixed Methods Research. <p>Research subjects of 200 credit points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9904DPRDBA Draft Proposal (DBA); • 9906RPRDBA Research Proposal (DBA); and • 1002TDBA_A, 1002TDBA_B, 1002TDBA_C and 1002TDBA_D Research Thesis. |
| <i>Other Protocols</i> | <p>The Research Thesis will be 50,000 to 80,000 words in length (excluding references and appendices).</p> <p>The Research Thesis (DBA) will present an original contribution to knowledge in a business, commerce or management-related field – particularly in relation to professional or management practice.</p> <p>Candidates are required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a research proposal as part of their 9906RPRDBA Research Proposal (DBA) subject and are required to submit an oral presentation on their proposal to the Research Assessment Panel (in person or by video). • Give an oral presentation (in person or by video) of their Research-in-Progress at least once a year for the duration of their candidature. • Conduct the research project ethically and responsibly under the guidance of a minimum of two AIB-appointed supervisors and to make satisfactory progress with their research as assessed on a regular basis by the Principal Supervisor and according to AIB research policies and procedures. |

8. Course structure

| <i>Course Content</i> | | <i>Subject Code</i> | <i>AQF Level</i> | <i>Credit Points</i> |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|------------------|----------------------|
| Coursework subjects | Literature Review and Critique | 9911LRC | 9 | 10 |
| | Case Study Research | 9901CSR | 9 | 10 |
| | Action Research Action Learning | 9912ARAL | 9 | 10 |
| | Mixed Methods Research | 9913MMR | 9 | 10 |
| Research subjects | Draft Proposal (DBA) | 9904DPRDBA | 9 | 20 |
| | Research Proposal (DBA) | 9906RPRDBA | 9 | 20 |
| | Research Thesis (DBA) | 1002TDBA_A, 1002TDBA_B, 1002TDBA_C, 1002TDBA_D | 10 | 160 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <i>Proportion of research</i> | 200 of 240 credit points = 83% |
| <i>Nature of research</i> | Complete Draft Proposal (DBA), Research Proposal (DBA), conduct research, write a substantial Research Thesis (DBA). |

9. Pre-requisites or Assumed Knowledge

The four coursework subjects must be completed before a candidate can enrol into the research subjects 9904DPRDBA Draft Proposal (DBA) and 9906RPRDBA Research Proposal (DBA).

| <i>AQF Level</i> | <i>Subject Code</i> | <i>Title</i> | <i>Pre-requisite (to be completed before attempting the subject)</i> |
|------------------|---|-------------------------|---|
| 9 | 9904DPRDBA | Draft Proposal (DBA) | 9911LRC Literature Review Critique 9912ALAR Action Learning Action Research 9901CSR Case Study Research 9913MMR Mixed Methods Research |
| 9 | 9906RPRDBA | Research Proposal (DBA) | 9904DPRDBA Draft Proposal (DBA) |
| 10 | 1002TDBA_A, 1002TDBA_B, 1002TDBA_C, 1002TDBA_D | Research Thesis (DBA) | 9904DPRDBA Draft Proposal (DBA), 9906RPRDBA Research Proposal to be completed or be enrolled in concurrently |

10. Assessment approach

Assessment is based on the expert review of written work. In all assessment AIB emphasises the application of knowledge and skills. Assignments focus on a work-based issue or enable the candidate to use a workplace as the focus of the assignment.

Assessment items in coursework subjects comprise of an appropriate mix of assignment tasks which could include projects, reports, presentations, forum posts, reflective pieces, time-bound tests, quizzes and oral presentations.

In the research component, all assessment is customised to the candidate's research and designed to help the candidate progress with their research thesis. Specifically, the assessment items are a Draft Research Proposal presentation, a Draft Research Proposal, a Research Proposal, an Ethics Application, and the final Research Thesis. The final Research Thesis is examined externally as per the requirements set out in the AIB research policy and procedures.

11. Exit points, articulation arrangements and pathways

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|----------------------------------|--|
| Exit Points | Candidates who successfully complete the 9904DPRDBA Draft Proposal (DBA) and 9906RPRDBA Research Proposal (DBA) subjects may, if meeting requirements set out in AIB research policies and procedures, exit with a Graduate Certificate in Management (Research). |
| Articulation Arrangements | Refer to the Articulation Register. |
| Pathways | <p>The Master of Management (MMgt) can provide a pathway to the Doctor of Business Administration (DBA). There is a direct pathway and a conversion pathway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful completion of the Master of Management at Credit level or above provides a pathway to the DBA. • MMgt candidates are eligible to convert to the DBA if the following conditions are met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) completed all coursework subjects at Credit level or above; (ii) completed 9905DPRMMgt Draft Proposal and 9907PPRMMgt Project Proposal at Credit level or above. |

12. Constructive alignment

| Graduate Qualities¹ | Course Learning Outcomes as per section 6 of this Course Brief | | | | | |
|---|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | CLO1 | CLO1 | CLO1 | CLO1 | CLO1 | CLO1 |
| Engage in critical analysis and utilise data and information from a range of sources to make informed and timely decisions. | x | x | | | | x |
| Pursue continuous learning and be open to new ideas, approaches and techniques. | | | x | | | x |
| Understand and commit to ethical and principled conduct and professional integrity. | x | x | | x | | |
| Communicate clearly, concisely and confidently in all mediums, including digital environments. | | | | x | x | |
| Demonstrate adaptive and resilient collaborative and leadership capabilities. | | | x | | | |
| Embrace change and be willing to challenge the status quo. | | | x | | | |

¹ Graduate Qualities as per [Graduate Qualities Policy](#), V5 (12 April 2019).



Appendix A – English Language Requirements

Applicants must meet the English language requirements in one of the following categories:

Category 1

Applicants whose first language is not English need to demonstrate proficiency in English with a score* as outlined in the table below.

| | Postgraduate (GradCert, MBA, MMgt) | Postgraduate Research (DBA, PhD) |
|---|---|--|
| Academic IELTS | 6.5 or better <i>(with no individual band lower than 6.0)</i> | 7.0 or better <i>(with no individual band lower than 6.0)</i> |
| TOEFL | 575 or better | 600 or better |
| TOEFL IBT | 91 or better | 94 or better |
| TOEFL CBT | 235 or better | 250 or better |
| PTE | 58 or better | 65 or better |
| Cambridge English CAE and CPE (from 2015) | 176 or better | 185 or better |
| CTC General Certificate of Education (GCE) | A levels with C or better in English | A levels with A in English |

*English Language Test results are valid for two years up to the date of commencement at AIB.

Category 2 – for Postgraduate coursework

Evidence of successful completion of secondary education in English

Applicants who have successfully completed secondary education (equivalent to Australian Senior Certificate of Education) that was taught and assessed in English in one of the countries listed below where English is the first language:

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|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Australia | Republic of Ireland |
| Canada (except Quebec) | Scotland |
| England | South Africa |
| New Zealand | United States of America |
| Northern Ireland | Wales |

Category 3 – for Postgraduate coursework and Research
Evidence of successful completion of tertiary education in English

Applicants who have successfully completed tertiary education (equivalent to AQF Level 5 or above for postgraduate coursework and equivalent AQF Level 8 or above for postgraduate research) that was taught and assessed in English in one of the countries listed below where the medium of instruction was in English**:

| | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Antigua and Barbuda | Botswana | Kiribati | Singapore |
| Australia | Cameroon | Liberia | Solomon Islands |
| New Zealand | Cook Islands | Malawi | St Kitts and Nevis |
| United States of America | Dominica | Maldives | St Lucia |
| Great Britain | Falkland Islands | Mauritius | Tanzania |
| Canada | Fiji | Namibia | Trinidad & Tobago |
| South Africa | Gambia | Nauru | Uganda |
| Republic of Ireland | Ghana | Nigeria | Vanuatu |
| American Samoa | Gibraltar | Papua New Guinea | Zambia |
| Bahamas | Grenada | Philippines | Zimbabwe |
| Barbados | Guyana | Samoa | |
| Belize | Jamaica | Seychelles | |
| Bermuda | Kenya | Sierra Leone | |

***Medium of Instruction in English is assessed against the Country Education Profiles on Australian Education International (AEI) or the National Academic Recognition Information Centre (NARIC UK). English Instruction will only be accepted if AEI or NARIC UK states that English is the language of instruction relevant to the country, education level or Institution.*