



Course Brief

Doctor of Business Administration (AQF 10)

1. Duration

3 years (full time)	
<i>Minimum</i>	3 years (full time)
<i>Maximum</i>	6 years (part time)

2. Indicative student workload / volume of learning

240 credit points
Aligned with the volume of learning requirements of the Australian Qualifications Framework one AIB 10 credit point subject nominally involves 150 hours of study. Study-related activities may include formal classroom time, independent study, interaction with staff and peers, reflection, application in the workplace, assignment work, exam preparation and other.

3. Delivery modes

<i>Online</i>	No
<i>Blended (online supplemented with face-to-face classes)</i>	Yes
<i>Face-to-face</i>	Yes

4. Admission requirements

<i>Academic qualifications</i>	<p>Applicants should normally meet <u>one</u> 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; or a Bachelor's degree with Honours (AQF Level 8) with minimum second upper honours or equivalent.
<i>Work experience</i>	<p>Management or professional experience of 3-5 years</p> <p>All applicants must have access to a workplace for their assignments and research.</p>
<i>English language</i>	See Appendix A – English Language Requirements.

5. Course rationale

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 and specialized research skills for the advancement of learning in the context of professional practice to meet the needs of organizations, industry and the economy. The course aims to develop graduates who will be able to apply their original contribution and their specialized cognitive, technical and research skills in contexts requiring them to demonstrate autonomy, authoritative judgment, adaptability and responsibility as an expert and leading practitioner.

Graduates of the DBA could utilize their systematic and critical understanding of management practice and specialized 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.

6. Learning outcomes

On completion of this course students should be able to:

Knowledge	1	Demonstrate substantial contemporary knowledge of one or more management-related disciplines including knowledge about application to professional practice.
	2	Demonstrate substantial knowledge of research principles and methods relevant to management-related disciplines and to research in/about a professional workplace setting.
Skills	3	Independently plan and obtain stakeholder support and ethics approval for a systematic investigation in a management-related context in a business or professional workplace setting generating a significant contribution to knowledge in the context of professional practice.
	4	Search and critically evaluate the extant literature in one or more management-related disciplines addressing the needs of a workplace, an industry or the economy to identify original research questions.
	5	Describe and justify a research approach and methodology relevant to a research issue in a management-related field with application to the professional workplace.
	6	Independently conduct research leading to conclusions constituting a significant and original contribution to knowledge and also to professional practice.
	7	Communicate research through a substantial thesis which demonstrates expertise, contains logical and in-depth argument and is externally examined to international standards.
	8	Communicate all aspects of substantial research to stakeholders, peers, the workplace and the professional community.
Application	9	Demonstrate responsibility, accountability, initiative, and creativity in investigating and reporting on research and generating new knowledge in a workplace or industry setting.

7. Course rules

General	<p>A coursework component of 40 credit points and a research component of 200 credit points - consisting of 9904RMA Research Design and Methods, 9906PPROP Research Proposal and 1002TDBA_A, 1002TDBA_B, 1002TDBA_C, 1002TDBA_D Research Thesis (DBA) are compulsory.</p> <p>To qualify for the award of the degree of Doctor of Business Administration a candidate shall accrue 240 credit points including satisfactory completion of specified coursework subjects, 9904RMA Research Design and Methods and 9906RPROP Research Proposal subjects and satisfactory examination of</p>
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	1002TDBA_A, 1002TDBA_B, 1002TDBA_C, 1002TDBA_D Research Thesis (DBA).
Other protocols	<p>The 40 credit point coursework component, consisting of specified coursework subjects, may be customised to the individual candidate(s) where appropriate and with approval of the Research Director (or delegate).</p> <p>The Research Thesis will be an accurate account of the research conducted, will conform to the rules for the presentation of theses and will be assessed according to the rules for the examination of doctoral theses.</p> <p>The Research Thesis will be 50,000 to 80,000 words in length (excluding references and appendices).</p> <p>The DBA Research Thesis 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 give an Oral Presentation about their research and findings to colleagues/employer on completion.</p> <p>Candidates are required to conduct the research ethically and responsibly according to AIB research policies and procedures, to carry out research under the guidance of one or more 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.</p>

8. Course structure

Course Content		Subject Code	AQF Level	Credit Points
Coursework	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	Research Design and Methods	9904RMA	9	20
	Research Proposal	9906RPROP	9	20
	Research Thesis (DBA)	1002TDBA_A, 1002TDBA_B, 1002TDBA_C, 1002TDBA_D	10	160

Proportion of research	180 of 240 credit points = 75%
Nature of research	Complete Research Design and Methods subject, conduct research, write a substantial Research Thesis.

9. Pre-requisites or Assumed Knowledge

The coursework subjects must normally be undertaken before 9904RMA/801RMA Research Design and Methods and 9906RPROP/809RP Research Proposal subjects.

<i>AQF Level</i>	<i>Subject Code</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Pre-requisite (to be completed before attempting the subject)</i>
9	9913MMR	Mixed Methods Research	Case Study Research (9901CSR)
9	9906RPROP	Research Proposal	Research Design and Methods (9904RMA)
10	1002TDBA_A, 1002TDBA_B, 1002TDBA_C, 1002TDBA_D	Research Thesis (DBA)	Research Design and Methods (9904RMA), Research Proposal (9906RPROP) to be completed or be enrolled in concurrently.

10. Assessment approach

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

In the coursework component assessment consists of written reports and may include 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 project. Specifically, the assessment items are a Draft Research Proposal, a Research Proposal and Ethics Application and the final research thesis. The final thesis is examined externally as per the requirements set out in the AIB Research Policy and Procedures.

11. Exit points, articulation arrangements and pathways

Exit points	<p>Candidates who successfully complete the 40 credit points of coursework subjects can exit with the Graduate Certificate in Management.</p> <p>Candidates who successfully complete the Research Design and Methods and Research Proposal subjects may, if meeting requirements set out in AIB research policies and procedures, exit with a Graduate Certificate in Management (Research) and/or transfer to the Master of Management (Research) with advanced standing.</p> <p>Candidates who substantially complete the literature review and methodology but who don't complete the findings and analysis section of the thesis may, if recommended by the supervisor and if meeting requirements set out in AIB research policies and procedures, exit with a Graduate Diploma in Management (Research) and/or transfer to the Master of Management (Research) with advanced standing.</p> <p>Students who complete a thesis that is not approved by the supervisor or is failed by examiners may, if meeting requirements set out in AIB research policies and</p>
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	procedures, be awarded the Graduate Diploma in Management (Research) or the Master of Management (Research).
<i>Articulation arrangements</i>	None.
<i>Pathways</i>	None.



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.

	<i>Undergraduate (DipMgt, BBA)</i>	<i>Postgraduate (GradCert, MBA, MMgt)</i>	<i>Postgraduate Research (DBA, PhD)</i>
<i>Academic IELTS</i>	6.0 or better (with no individual band lower than 5.5)	6.5 or better (with no individual band lower than 6.0)	7.0 or better (with no individual band lower than 6.0)
<i>TOEFL</i>	550 or better	575 or better	600 or better
<i>TOEFL IBT</i>	80 or better	91 or better	94 or better
<i>TOEFL CBT</i>	213 or better	235 or better	250 or better
<i>PTE</i>	50 or better	58 or better	65 or better
<i>Cambridge English CAE and CPE (from 2015)</i>	169 or better	176 or better	185 or better
<i>CTC General Certificate of Education (GCE)</i>	A levels with D or better in English	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 Undergraduate and 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:

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

Category 3 – for Undergraduate and 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 undergraduate and 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.*

Category 4 – for Undergraduate and Postgraduate coursework

English Proficiency Assessment with evidence of work experience in an English-speaking environment

Completion of Online English Proficiency assessment, with a required result of C1 or above as determined by the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR).

AND

Documentary evidence of at least 2 years full-time-work experience in an English-speaking professional work environment in Australia, New Zealand, UK, USA, Republic of Ireland, South Africa or Canada within 2 years of admission into the AIB program OR at least 2 years full time professional employment in an English speaking multi-national company, within 2 years of admission into the AIB program***

***Applicants will be required to provide a letter from employer stating their position title, duties undertaken, employment duration, level of spoken and written English. Relevant supporting documents from employers may also be requested by AIB.