

Doctor of Business Administration (DBAR) - DBA

	Distance education
Semester intake:	Semester 1 (March)
Fees:	Commonwealth supported place Domestic full fee paying place International full fee paying place
Standard duration:	5 years part-time, with an expectation that the degree will be completed in not more than eight years.
Program articulation:	From: Master of Business Administration ; Master of Project Management

Notes:

Where exemptions are granted, maximum and minimum duration will be adjusted in the same proportion as exemptions, for example, where the maximum of four exemptions is granted, maximum time will be four years.

Contact us

Future Australian and New Zealand students	Future International students	Current students
Ask a question Freecall (within Australia): 1800 640 678 Phone (from outside Australia): +61 7 4631 5315 Email: studybus@usq.edu.au	Ask a question Phone: +61 7 4631 5543 Email: international@usq.edu.au	Ask a question Freecall (within Australia): 1800 007 252 Phone (from outside Australia): +61 7 4631 2285 Email usqassist@usq.edu.au

Program focus

The focus of this program is to provide a high-level, vocationally-oriented program that gives students who are already business professionals sufficient theoretical and empirical understanding to enable them to identify and resolve business challenges in both the private and public sectors.

Program aims

The focus of this program is to provide a high-level, vocationally-oriented program that gives students who are already business professionals sufficient theoretical and empirical understanding to enable them to identify and resolve business challenges in both the private and public sectors.

Program objectives

On successful completion of the Doctor of Business Administration program students will be able to:

- apply relevant theoretical knowledge to contemporary business problems
- critique contemporary organisational practice in the light of relevant theory
- explain the principles of, and apply, a range of quantitative and qualitative research methods frequently used in business research
- determine and apply appropriate research methods to business management problems
- critically evaluate business research studies in order to assess their quality and applicability in improving the effective handling of business management problems
- acquire and utilise knowledge of behavioural, policy and strategic issues to improve the effectiveness of their own organisations
- identify, analyse and evaluate internal and external environmental influences on organisations in order to develop strategic plans for the management of change and development

- demonstrate superior oral and written communications skills relevant to business
- link the educational experience directly with their own workplace experience.

Admission requirements

Candidates for entry into the Doctor of Business Administration must meet each of the following entry criteria to the satisfaction of the DBA research program coordinator:

- (1) a coursework Masters degree or equivalent level from a recognised institution
- (2) five years full-time equivalent work experience, including at least two years full-time equivalent work experience in a managerial position, as determined by the DBA research program coordinator
- (3) submission of a satisfactory preliminary research proposal, as determined by the Higher Degrees Review and Admissions Committee.

Notes:

Admission to the Doctor of Business Administration is dependent upon the Faculty's capacity to supervise the proposed dissertation. Prospective candidates should consult with the DBA research program coordinator before preparing their preliminary dissertation proposals. Research concentrations within the Faculty of Business are updated periodically. The current list is available at the [Faculty of Business](#).

Candidates for admission to the Doctor of Business Administration must meet the University's English language proficiency requirements for postgraduate students. Please refer to Section 2.2.4 of the [Admissions Policy](#).

How to apply

International students

This program is offered to international students. An international student is a person who is not an Australian or New Zealand citizen and not an Australian permanent resident. Please refer to [USQ International](#) for information about entry requirements, visa arrangements and how to apply.

Domestic students

[Application for postgraduate programs](#) may be made directly to USQ. You should ensure you submit your application by the [closing dates](#).

DBA Selection Criteria

Please refer to the [DBA Selection Criteria document](#) for further details.

Program fees

Commonwealth supported place

A Commonwealth supported place is where the Australian Government makes a contribution towards the cost of your higher education and you as a student pay a [student contribution amount](#), which varies depending on the courses undertaken. You are able to calculate the fees for a particular course via the [Course Fee Finder](#). Commonwealth Supported students may be eligible to defer their fees through a Government loan called [HECS-HELP](#).

Domestic full fee paying place

Domestic full fee paying places are funded entirely through the full fees paid by the student. Full fees vary depending on the courses that are taken. You are able to calculate the fees for a particular course via the [Course Fee Finder](#).

Domestic full fee paying students may be eligible to defer their fees through a Government loan called [FEE-HELP](#).

International full fee paying place

International students pay full fees. Full fees vary depending on the courses that are taken and whether they are studied on-campus, via distance education/online. You are able to calculate the fees for a particular course via the [Course Fee Finder](#).

Program structure

The Doctor of Business Administration is a 24-unit program comprising four coursework courses from the [Master of Business Administration](#) specialisation courses, 4 units of research coursework and 16 units of research. Students are required to undertake:

- four coursework courses from the MBA specialisation courses. If a supervisor evaluates that the applicant should build more specific prior knowledge in a particular specialist area that is vital to the research topic, then the applicant can be required to complete up to four relevant specialisation courses from the MBA program
- [BUS8401 Research Methodology 1](#) and [BUS8402 Research Methodology 2](#) which must be completed successfully before progressing to the research dissertation
- plus [BUS8403 Research Methodology 3](#) and [BUS8404 Research Methodology 4](#) which must be completed successfully before progressing to the research dissertation
- plus an externally examined 16 unit research dissertation, comprised of eight 2 unit courses.

Note: The dissertation is structured as eight two-unit courses for accounting and administrative purposes. These courses are similar with respect to intellectual activity and the rate and direction of progress through them need not necessarily be hindered by individual courses synopses. Writing the dissertation is an ongoing process.

Note: Dissertation courses must be enrolled in 'sequentially', for example, [MGT9601](#) and [MGT9602](#), then [MGT9603](#) and [MGT9604](#), not [MGT9601](#) and [MGT9604](#), then [MGT9602](#) and [MGT9603](#).

Students will be provided with the relevant study books that provide guidelines for the preparation and examination of the Doctor of Business Administration Research Dissertation.

Refer to [DBA Course Progression diagram](#) for further details.

Required time limits

Students have a maximum of 8 years to complete this program.

IT requirements

For information technology requirements please refer to the [computer requirements section](#).

Other program requirements

Students must complete successfully all coursework before progressing to the research dissertation.

Should students wish to change their proposed research topic, they must apply for permission to do so to the DBA research program coordinator, stating their reasons and providing a new research proposal.

It is recommended that Australian students visit their supervisors at least once each year while they are completing their dissertation. For overseas students, visits by Faculty staff could be arranged through the University's agents/partners, subject to minimum numbers.

Exit points

Students must maintain good standing in this program. Please refer to Section 2 of the [Academic Standing, Progression and Exclusion Policy](#).

Students who do not maintain good standing in the Doctor of Business Administration program, *or* who fail [BUS8402 Research Methodology 2](#), *or* who do not meet the requirements for satisfactory progress in their research dissertation will be permitted to exit with a lesser qualification provided that they have met the requirements of the relevant program.

A student who completes successfully [BUS8401](#), [BUS8402](#), [BUS8403](#) and [BUS8404](#) may, upon application, exit with the Postgraduate Certificate in Business Research.

Exemptions

Normally no exemptions will be granted in this 24 unit research program. However, an applicant may have specialist knowledge built up in their previous Master's degree or in a MBA specialisation as well as extensive working experience in their area of interest. This will enable the DBA research program coordinator to give the candidate up to four exemptions for the MBA specialisation courses based on their completed postgraduate studies and relevant extensive experience.

Candidates exiting the DBA program with the Postgraduate Certificate in Business Research are not eligible for exemptions in the required courses.

Recommended enrolment pattern - full-time

The flexibility of the DBA program means that there will be a range of enrolment patterns and many students will have a unique enrolment pattern. Students requiring assistance should contact a Program Administrator. A suggested enrolment pattern for a student commencing in semester 1 is set out in the following table:

Course	Year of program and semester in which course is normally studied						Enrolment requirements	Comments
	On-campus (ONC)		External (EXT)		Online (WEB)			
	Year	Sem	Year	Sem	Year	Sem		
BUS8401 Research Methodology 1			1	1			OE	(Formerly MGT8401)
BUS8403 Research Methodology 3			1	1			OE	(Formerly MGT8403)
BUS8402 Research Methodology 2			1	2			Pre-requisite or Co-requisite: BUS8401 or MGT8401 OE	(Formerly MGT8402)
BUS8404 Research Methodology 4			1	2			OE	(Formerly MGT8404)
MGT9601 Doctor of Business Administration Dissertation A*			2	1			Pre-requisite: (BUS8401 or MGT8401) and (BUS8402 or MGT8402) and (BUS8403 or MGT8403) and (BUS8404 or MGT8404) OE	
MGT9602 Doctor of Business Administration Dissertation B*			2	1			Pre-requisite: (BUS8401 or MGT8401) and (BUS8402 or MGT8402) and (BUS8403 or MGT8403) and (BUS8404 or MGT8404) OE	
MGT9603 Doctor of Business Administration Dissertation C*			2	2			Pre-requisite: (BUS8401 or MGT8401) and (BUS8402 or MGT8402) and (BUS8403 or MGT8403) and (BUS8404 or MGT8404) OE	
MGT9604 Doctor of Business Administration Dissertation D*			2	2			Pre-requisite: (BUS8401 or MGT8401) and (BUS8402 or MGT8402) and (BUS8403 or MGT8403) and (BUS8404 or MGT8404) OE	
MGT9605 Doctor of Business Administration Dissertation E*			3	1			Pre-requisite: (BUS8401 or MGT8401) and (BUS8402 or MGT8402) and (BUS8403 or MGT8403) and (BUS8404 or MGT8404) OE	
MGT9606 Doctor of Business Administration Dissertation F*			3	1			Pre-requisite: (BUS8401 or MGT8401) and (BUS8402 or MGT8402) and (BUS8403 or MGT8403) and (BUS8404 or MGT8404) OE	

Course	Year of program and semester in which course is normally studied						Enrolment requirements	Comments
	On-campus (ONC)		External (EXT)		Online (WEB)			
	Year	Sem	Year	Sem	Year	Sem		
MGT9607 Doctor of Business Administration Dissertation G*			3	2			Pre-requisite: (BUS8401 or MGT8401) and (BUS8402 or MGT8402) and (BUS8403 or MGT8403) and (BUS8404 or MGT8404) OE	
MGT9608 Doctor of Business Administration Dissertation H*			3	2			Pre-requisite: (BUS8401 or MGT8401) and (BUS8402 or MGT8402) and (BUS8403 or MGT8403) and (BUS8404 or MGT8404) OE	

Footnotes

* 2–unit course

OE Before enrolling in this course students must check that they have satisfied the 'Recommended prior study' or 'Other enrolment' requirements set out in the Other requisites section of the course specification.

Recommended enrolment pattern - part-time

The flexibility of the DBA program means that there will be a range of enrolment patterns and many students will have a unique enrolment pattern. Students requiring assistance should contact a Program Administrator. A suggested enrolment pattern for a student commencing in semester 1 is set out in the following table:

Course	Year of program and semester in which course is normally studied						Enrolment requirements	Comments
	On-campus (ONC)		External (EXT)		Online (WEB)			
	Year	Sem	Year	Sem	Year	Sem		
BUS8401 Research Methodology 1			1	1			OE	(Formerly MGT8401)
BUS8403 Research Methodology 3			1	1			OE	(Formerly MGT8403)
BUS8402 Research Methodology 2			1	2			Pre-requisite or Co-requisite: BUS8401 or MGT8401 OE	(Formerly MGT8402)
BUS8404 Research Methodology 4			1	2			OE	(Formerly MGT8404)
MGT9601 Doctor of Business Administration Dissertation A*			2	1			Pre-requisite: (BUS8401 or MGT8401) and (BUS8402 or MGT8402) and (BUS8403 or MGT8403) and (BUS8404 or MGT8404) OE	
MGT9602 Doctor of Business Administration Dissertation B*			2	2			Pre-requisite: (BUS8401 or MGT8401) and (BUS8402 or MGT8402) and (BUS8403 or MGT8403) and (BUS8404 or MGT8404) OE	
MGT9603 Doctor of Business Administration Dissertation C*			3	1			Pre-requisite: (BUS8401 or MGT8401) and (BUS8402 or MGT8402) and (BUS8403 or MGT8403) and (BUS8404 or MGT8404) OE	
MGT9604 Doctor of Business Administration Dissertation D*			3	2			Pre-requisite: (BUS8401 or MGT8401) and (BUS8402 or MGT8402) and (BUS8403 or MGT8403) and (BUS8404 or MGT8404) OE	
MGT9605 Doctor of Business Administration Dissertation E*			4	1			Pre-requisite: (BUS8401 or MGT8401) and (BUS8402 or MGT8402) and (BUS8403 or MGT8403) and (BUS8404 or MGT8404) OE	

Course	Year of program and semester in which course is normally studied						Enrolment requirements	Comments
	On-campus (ONC)		External (EXT)		Online (WEB)			
	Year	Sem	Year	Sem	Year	Sem		
							MGT8403) and (BUS8404 or MGT8404) OE	
MGT9606 Doctor of Business Administration Dissertation F*			4	2			Pre-requisite: (BUS8401 or MGT8401) and (BUS8402 or MGT8402) and (BUS8403 or MGT8403) and (BUS8404 or MGT8404) OE	
MGT9607 Doctor of Business Administration Dissertation G*			5	1			Pre-requisite: (BUS8401 or MGT8401) and (BUS8402 or MGT8402) and (BUS8403 or MGT8403) and (BUS8404 or MGT8404) OE	
MGT9608 Doctor of Business Administration Dissertation H*			5	2			Pre-requisite: (BUS8401 or MGT8401) and (BUS8402 or MGT8402) and (BUS8403 or MGT8403) and (BUS8404 or MGT8404) OE	

Footnotes

* 2–unit course

OE Before enrolling in this course students must check that they have satisfied the 'Recommended prior study' or 'Other enrolment' requirements set out in the Other requisites section of the course specification.