

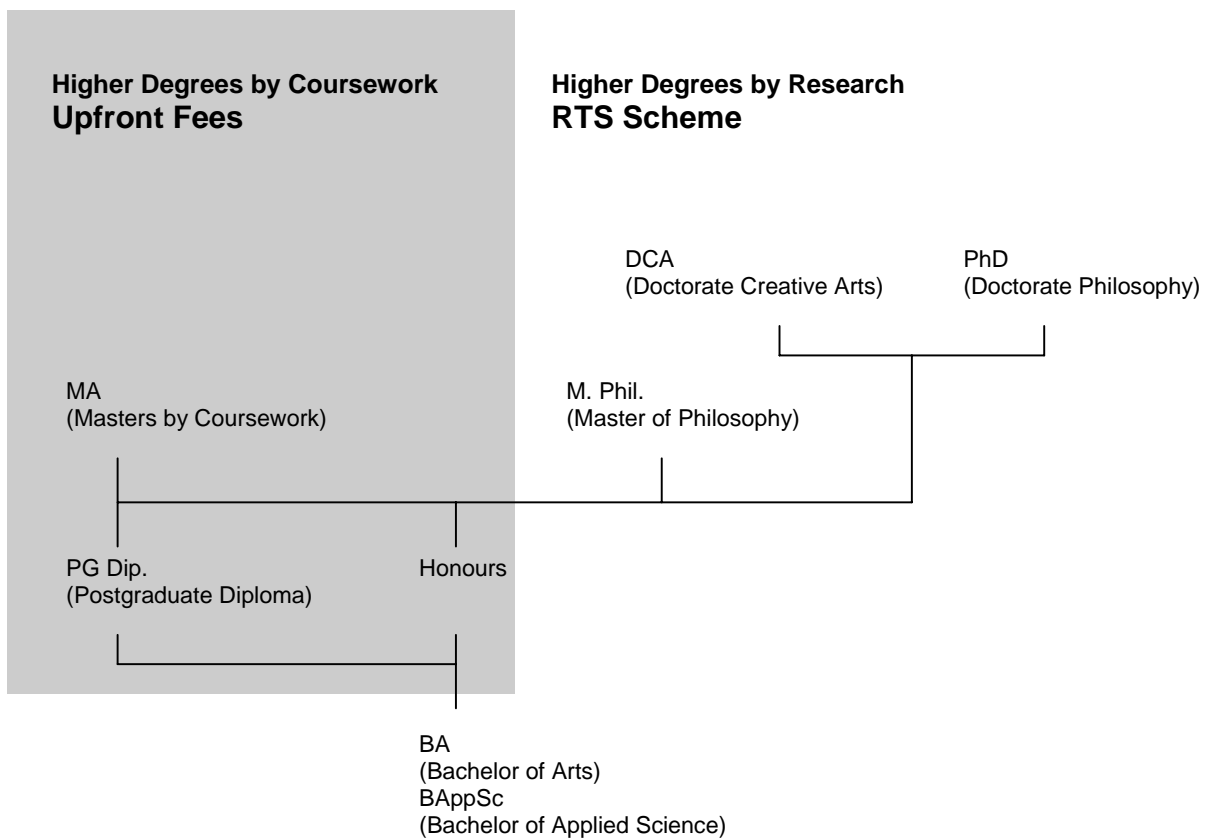
WHAT NEXT?

Advice for Students wishing to continue their studies in the Faculty of Built Environment, Art and Design

The following information provides advice on the courses available, the application process and handy hints for writing an application for students who wish to continue their studies in the Faculty of Built Environment, Art and Design. If you require further information about Honours or Postgraduate Studies please consult the relevant staff member in your own Department.

PATHWAYS

What Courses are available after my undergraduate years of study?



As the above diagram shows there are a number of pathways you may take.

Honours is usually a 4th year of study to extend projects in which the potential for further development has been established in preceding coursework. The program creates opportunities for independent research into theoretical studies and or creative practice within your discipline area. Honours studies are aimed at preparing the groundwork for future Masters or Doctoral research projects.

Postgraduate Courses available in the Faculty are either funded under the Research Training Scheme (RTS) or incur upfront fees. Those under the RTS scheme can be subject to quota. The Faculty of Built Environment, Art and Design will only accept the best applicants for these programs. Those courses that incur upfront fees are not subject to quota. Upfront fees must be paid by the student at the point of enrolment.

Postgraduate Studies by Coursework

Fee Paying / PELS

You will find information about the postgraduate programs offered by each Department on the Faculty web site at the following location:

<http://bead.curtin.edu.au/> Just follow the prompts to the particular Department's programs that you are interested in.

Postgraduate Studies: Higher Degrees by Research

RTS Scheme

Masters of Philosophy (M.Phil) (formerly known as Masters By Research)

The Faculty offers a range of Masters of Philosophy programs which provide an opportunity for students to carry out supervised research within a relevant discipline area. Knowledge in the field is advanced through independent investigation or the examination of a hypothesis and the development and presentation of a thesis or creative project and exegesis. Research topics must receive approval by the Humanities Division Graduate Studies Committee, and normally takes one year full-time or two years part-time study.

The following Masters of Philosophy programs are available in the Faculty:

- **Master of Architecture**
- **Master of Arts (Cultural Heritage Studies)**
- **Master of Arts (Design)**
- **Master of Arts (Planning)**
- **Masters of Interior Architecture (by Research)**
- **Master of Science (Building Studies)**

Masters of Philosophy (Creative Arts) (formerly known as MCA)

The Masters of Philosophy (Creative Arts) is a research degree offering distinctive and rigorous practical / creative work which combines research/production (75%) with coursework (25%). It is a two-year, full time advanced practice -based program supported by in depth theoretical studies designed to enable students to undertake concentrated research in an area of creative production. A creative body or work (understood in its broadest sense from creative writing, film, art exhibition etc) with supporting exegesis (10,000words) is required at the conclusion of the program for assessment by two examiners external to the University.

Doctorate of Creative Arts (DCA)

The Doctorate of Creative Arts is a doctoral degree offering intensive research in practical /creative work which combines research/production (75%) with coursework (25%). It is a four year full time program of advanced practice based research with associated theoretical studies designed to enable students to undertake significant research in the area of creative production. A substantial body of creative work with supporting exegesis (40,000words) is required at the conclusion of the program for assessment by two examiners external to the University.

Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD)

The Doctorate of Philosophy is a doctoral degree offering candidates the opportunity to undertake advanced level research in theory or a combination of theory and creative production on a nominated topic. It is normally a four-year full time period of independent research culminating in a significant contribution to contemporary knowledge. Either a thesis (80,000 words) or a creative body of work with supporting exegesis (40,000 words) is required at the conclusion of the program for assessment by two examiners external to the University.

What is the difference between Coursework Degrees and Higher Degrees by Research?

Coursework Degrees are usually assessed on a semester basis and students are required to submit assignments or attend lectures, seminars and workshops according to the requirements of the units in which they are enrolled. By contrast Research degrees require the student to work under supervision on a self-initiated project. It is assessed by external examiners at the end of the research.

Coursework degrees at postgraduate level are administered by the individual Department whereas Higher Degrees by Research come under the auspices of the University Office of Research and Development and are overseen by the University Graduate Studies Committee and the Division of Humanities Graduate Studies Committee. Students enrolled in Masters of Philosophy (M.Phil), DCA or PhD programs need to have their research application and supervisory arrangements approved by the Division of Humanities Graduate Study Committee before they can proceed to enroll. Once enrolled, students have 3 – 6 months to write a candidacy proposal which fully outlines their research project. This proposal needs Committee approval before the student can be considered a candidate in the course in which they are enrolled.

Is there financial assistance available for me to undertake further study?

For students intending to study Honours, the program normally comes under the HECS award. You will need to contact the HECS Office to ascertain if you are eligible for HECS assistance.
Freecall: 1800 020 108 or www.hecs.gov.au

For students intending to study postgraduate programs by Coursework, the Government has implemented PELS (Postgraduate Education Loans Scheme). You will need to contact the HECS Office at the above address to find out if you are eligible.

For students intending to study at Masters or Doctoral level you may be eligible to apply for various National or local scholarships. Full details of Scholarships available to students at Curtin can be found on the Curtin website: <http://scholarships.curtin.edu.au/>

Please check this site regularly for updated information. If you need further assistance contact either:

Faculty Postgraduate Coordinator Dr Ann Schilo
Tel: 9266 3560
Email: A.Schilo@curtin.edu.au

or

Scholarships Office

Ms Delia Giggins
Tel: 9266 3119
Email: D.Giggins@curtin.edu.au or Scholarships@curtin.edu.au

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply for Honours or Postgraduate Coursework programs you need to submit a formal application. Application forms are available from Student Services in Humanities building 209.

Each Department may require additional information to accompany the application. Please check with the relevant Departmental staff member for advice regarding the application process.

Applications are judged according to:

- Student's academic record
- Quality of the proposal
- The ability for the student to carry out study at that level
- The ability of the Department to support / supervise the proposed study

To apply for Higher Degree by research programs, you will need to consult with the Faculty postgraduate coordinator to discuss your research intention and supervisory needs. A potential supervisor may be identified with whom you should discuss your project. Once you have consulted appropriate staff you will then need to submit a formal application. These can be downloaded from the Graduate Studies web site:

<http://research.curtin.edu.au/graduate/graduate.html>

If you are planning to submit a formal application please consult staff in your discipline area to discuss your proposal and seek advice about potential supervisors.

Commonwealth Government Scholarships:

Students who have an excellent academic record and have achieved outstanding results in their Honours year, may be eligible for APA, CUPS or other Scholarships so that they can undertake Higher Degrees by Research. Application details and closing dates can be found on the Curtin website:

<http://www.curtin.edu.au/corporate/research/scholarships>.

Scholarship Ranking Process

All applications for APAS / CUPS Scholarships are received by the Office of Research and Development where they are collated and administered. The applications from the Faculty Built Environment Art and Design are forwarded to the Faculty for assessment and ranking in November. The Faculty Graduate Studies Committee reviews these applications and ranks them according to merit. These rankings are then sent to the Division of Humanities where applications from the Faculty are ranked against applications from all other Faculties in the Division. The Division of Humanities Graduate Studies Committee holds a special ranking meeting in early December when all applications from the Division of Humanities are ranked. These rankings are then sent to the University Graduate Studies Committee where the same process is carried out again but this time the Humanities applications are ranked against all those from the other Divisions in the University.

Students are notified of the success of their application in January.

Ranking Criteria

A first class Honours or equivalent is a necessary prerequisite for an APAS/Curtin Scholarship. However, just because you have gained a first doesn't mean you automatically get a scholarship. This mark is read in context with other criteria.

The following criteria are used to assess all applications:

- **Academic record:** Your Honours mark (or equivalent study) is read in relation to your undergraduate record and any other previous study you may have undertaken.
- **Research track record:** An indication of your ability to carry out research in the area. This is evidenced through exhibitions, publications, experience in field research, working as an assistant on projects etc. It is understood that students entering PG study straight from Honours may not have an established track record so balance is taken between referee reports and academic record.
- **Quality of project:** A clearly stated research intention that shows a contribution to knowledge appropriate for the level of study.
- **Referee reports:** The opinions of your referees are important; whether they believe you are capable of research at this level.
- **Potential** Attention is given to whether the student has potential to carry out research at a higher degree level. This is determined by looking at all of the above criteria.

What is the RTS?

The Research Training Scheme replaced the former Research Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS) Exemptions. It provides fee-waiver places for Commonwealth funded Higher Degree by Research (HDR) students up to a maximum period of four years' full time equivalent (FEC) study for a Doctorate by Research and two years' FEC study for a Masters by Research. Commonwealth funded students may be Australian and New Zealand citizens and Australian Permanent residents.

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HANDY HINTS

Consultation

The key to a good application lies in your ability to consult with others.

- You need in the first instance to talk to staff in your department about your intentions.
- You should also speak to the Honours Co-ordinator or the Postgraduate Studies Representative in your department either for further information or to assist you in developing your research intention.
- It is also useful to talk to students currently enrolled in Honours or Postgraduate study to gain a fuller understanding from a student's perspective what the course entails.
- If you require referees to support your application you should contact them early and discuss your work / ideas with them.

Preparation

You cannot expect an application that you have cobbled together the night before the closing date will be well received. A well-presented application with considered supporting documentation takes time to put together. **Start early.**

- Write a draft of your research intention and give it to staff in your discipline area and /or the Honours / Postgraduate Co-ordinator for feedback.
- Similarly seek feedback from colleagues and friends to ensure your application is clearly presented.
- Where appropriate have good quality visual documentation prepared and available
- Ensure your supporting material (Academic record, CV) is collated.

The Research Intention

A good Research Intention has the following characteristics:

- **Clarity** A clear statement that avoids excessive use of jargon /flowery language.
- **Focus** It presents a central theme and indicates what the research question is.
- **Coherency** There is a clear connection between the objectives of the project, the context from which it emerges and the way you plan to undertake the research
- **Doable** It provides a indication that the project is manageable in terms of time constraints, available resources, level of study

TIP: If your mother can't understand it, then rewrite it until she can.

The C.V.

A CV should always be appropriate for the job for which you are applying.

In this case your CV needs to be framed to show your ability to carry out further study / research at a higher level.

- Focus on aspects of your past that highlight your research potential in the field of study for which you are applying.
- Indicate major strengths like key exhibitions, professionally related activities
- Don't be content with just listing what you have done. Explain important aspects of the various activities. E.g.: *Radical Departures* Exhibition PICA 2000 - This was a major Internationally acclaimed exhibition that has toured Southeast Asia. I was the only Perth artist selected to exhibit with key figures like Louise Bourgeois, Annette Messanger and Sarah Lucas.