School of Graduate Studies

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
Welcome
Asia e University School of Graduate Studies

A PhD is the abbreviation of Doctor of Philosophy. It is the top academic degree representing a mastering of one’s field of study and entitles the person who earns it to be addressed with the honorific “Doctor”. Generally, a PhD graduate will find great opportunity globally in research and academic career which typically combines research, teaching, administrative and leadership responsibilities.

Do I Qualify to be a PhD Student?

If you have the curiosity to explore a subject in depth and the tenacity to do so for 3 or more years and if you have a good degree from a recognized university that shows potential for both advanced coursework and independent research in the field in which you plan, you may be a PhD student. Generally, you need a recognized Master Degree in the relevant field before applying to a PhD programme or a good degree holder to enroll into a Master degree first before seeking conversion of Master research to a PhD level.

What are the Important Skills for a PhD Student?

Display initiative: In a doctoral programme, it is learner-centred and students direct their research with the assistance of advisor or supervisor. Though the university may stipulate guidelines and expectations of research progress, it is the students’ responsibility to get the work done.

Be tenacious: As a PhD research programme and thesis may normally take 3 to 4 years, students must be committed to complete the programme.

Be effective in time management: Prioritize and manage your tasks and commitments effectively to ensure completion of one task before moving on to the next. Be focused and do not lose sight of your goals. You need to look after your physical and mental health to face the challenges of your research and thesis.

Adapt to challenges: During your research journey, you may face obstacles and challenges in completing your research, such as access to facilities and faculty or timeliness in getting feedback. How you adapt and work around the challenges will have an impact on your success.

Inter-personal skills: Be humble and friendly to others no matter how smart you may be, you'll need the help of others in your research, particularly the support staff. You also need to regularly keep your Supervisor and Dean of School of Graduate Studies (SGS) updated on your progress.

Communicate effectively: To earn recognition as a PhD student and a researcher, you need to present yourself well orally with confidence during your delivery of Research Proposal Defense and viva-voce in addition to your thesis writing.
The International Outlook of AeU

Studying in AeU gives you a personalized learning experience of doing things differently, think globally, dare to break new grounds and ready to make a real difference in oneself and the world.

AeU is an international university endorsed by 31 Asia Collaboration Dialogue (ACD) member countries.

AeU is committed to provide quality education of international reputation by capitalizing on the expertise and prestige of collaborating institutions not only within ACD countries but also a network of universities from the around the world. Such extensive collaborative network has enabled our PhD students to utilize facilities, resources and expertise from institutions of higher learning in Malaysia and international institutional partners.

Our faculty members are distinguished experts in their fields including senior professors and academicians from public and private universities in the region, corporate and professional expertise and leaders, and more than 100 experienced Research Associates with PhDs as our advisors or supervisors to our PhD students.

“It was a pleasure to come to Asia e University again, and I am proud to be an adjunct member of the Faculty”.

Professor Dr. Colin Brock
UNESCO Chair in Education and Senior Research Fellow
University of Oxford, UK
AeU’s Adjunct Professor

AeU Knowledge Centre (AKC)

The AeU Knowledge Centre (AKC) offers an excellent combination of traditional and electronic information resources in a well designed conducive “living library” ambience with the interface for the digital library in a virtual environment.

AeU is proud to possess one of the best e-library in the region. It provides 24/7 access to more than 40,000 titles of digital book (multi-disciplines), over 2 million of e-Thesis, databases, thousands of journals and publications. Our AKC also provides User Education & Information Skills training during the student orientation period as well as accessible online.
Programme Structure and Content

- This is a Level 8, non-credit fully by research programme.
- Students have to do 3 audit courses and choose a study discipline and research area to do an independent and original research for a thesis.
- The normal duration is 3 years for full-time and 4 years for part-time.

Audit Subjects

Research Methodology
Quantitative Analysis
Qualitative Analysis

Study Disciplines and Major Research Areas

**PhD (Business Administration)**
- Business and Management, Public Administration, Hospitality Management, Banking Management, Micro Credits, Macro Credits, International Management, Small Business, Economics, Educational Management, Public Policy, Public Management, International Relations, Islamic Banking and Finance, Islamic Insurance, and any other Business and Management related research areas

**PhD (Education)**
- Curriculum & Instruction, Educational Psychology, Instructional Technology, Language & Literary, Mathematics & Science Education, Educational Management & Leadership, and any other Education related research areas

**PhD (ICT)**

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The PhD Journey >>

1. Selection & Admission of Student
   - Only students who meet entry requirements will be admitted in selected areas of research where expertise is available to supervise the students.

2. Research Proposal Defense
   - Students are not required to submit a research proposal for admission purpose.
   - However, the student will be under the guidance of the supervisor or advisor to prepare and present the research proposal in a forum attended by faculty members and 2 External Assessors to ensure the research is current and adequate as a PhD programme.
   - This is normally held within 12 months after the registration date.
   - On the basis of the Research Proposal Defense, the student’s performance is evaluated and a decision is taken about continuing the programme.

3. Capability of Students
   - Capability of students in doing research is closely monitored by the supervisor and SGS. Both students and supervisors are required to submit a progress report every 6 months.
   - Research data are collected, results produced and analyzed during a fieldwork period of one to two years.
   - This phase of the programme consists of intensive thinking and writing in consultation with the student’s supervisor(s).

4. Examination of Thesis
   - International benchmarking is being applied in the evaluation of PhD thesis. These include examination of thesis by 1 internal examiner and 2 external examiners, followed by Wiva Voce and the examiners’ reports to be approved by the University Senate.
Objectives

To produce knowledgeable and competent researchers in the chosen field that could contribute effectively towards the body of knowledge and nation building.

In general, AeU’s PhD programmes promote critical enquiry, develop problem solving, decision making, and analytical thinking skills, as well as encourage students to take active responsibilities for their independent learning, and prepares them for lifelong learning.

Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of the programme, graduates will be able:

1. To produce original research or advanced program at doctoral level.
2. To conceptualise, design and implement projects for the generation of significant new knowledge and/or understanding.
3. To create, interpret & disseminate knowledge which extends the forefront of the chosen discipline.
4. To make informed judgments on complex issues in specialised fields, and create innovations in tackling and solving problems.
5. To appreciate research implications and effectively convey research findings according to needs.
6. To disseminate the research findings by publishing, conducting and participating in academic journals, forum and seminars, etc.

Language of Programme Delivery

All learning materials, text books and references for the audit modules are written in English. The face-to-face seminars/workshops will also be conducted by facilitators in English. Learners from different countries can participate.

Students should have English skills equivalent to IELTS 6.5 or TOEFL 550. For thesis submitted in languages other than English, it is required to include an Extended Executive Summary (EES) of the thesis, usually not exceeding 10,000 words in English. In general, the EES is a concise description of each chapter of the thesis.

Award

A PhD degree will be awarded to students who have passed the thesis examination, viva voce examination and have fulfilled other requirements as specified by the University.
Admission Requirements for International Students

As PhD programmes are based on research in a selected field of study, students are expected to begin with a thorough investigation of the existing body of knowledge on a subject to define specific questions that can be answered through original research. Therefore, you may be required to submit the following:

1. Master degree of relevant field
2. A curriculum vitae (CV) or resume
3. A statement of research intent, describing what you have already done and what you hope to accomplish in your doctoral research. This is your preliminary research intent or research proposal
4. You may be required to attend an interview in some cases
5. For thesis to be written in English, there will be an English language competency requirement equivalent to IELTS 6.5 or TOEFL 550.
6. Application fee is 100 US dollar. This amount of money will be deducted when the students are accepted to the course; otherwise it is not refundable
7. Application documents required include:
   1. Completed application forms
   2. Scanned copies of your degrees and academic transcripts with certified translation in English
   3. One scanned copy of your photo (jpeg, color, 150x150 pixels)
   4. Proof of English proficiency

Accreditation

PhD programmes in AeU are approved by the Malaysian Ministry of Higher Education with accreditation granted by the Quality Assurance authority of Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA). AeU is also working towards national recognitions in the countries of operation via the ACD network.

The full accreditation of your doctorate is a remarkable achievement and a tribute to your university's unswerving commitment to rigorous academic standards. In my experience, new universities often take short cuts and compromise standards in the rush to build enrolments and graduate students. This is not the case here. Well done.”

The Late Emeritus Professor Dr John Milton-Smith, PhD (Cambridge)
School of Management
Curtin University of Technology, Perth, Australia
AeU’s Adjunct Professor &
External Examiner to AeU’s PhD(BA) &
PhD supervisor

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## Stages of Research

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1. Preparation of intent of research
2. Appointment of supervisor
3. Preparation of research proposal
4. Proposal defence
5. Research / data collection
6. Thesis report writing
7. Thesis submission
8. Nomination and appointment of thesis examiners
9. Thesis evaluation by examiners and supervisors and their recommendations
10. Thesis examination / viva voce
11. Graduation

## Guidance and Monitoring of Research Progress

Students are required to have frequent consultations with their supervisor(s) for guidance and advice. In addition, SGS will organize colloquia, seminars, research clinics and course works are made available to students improve their knowledge and research skills.

As part of the formative assessment, capability of students in doing research is closely monitored by the supervisor and the Dean of SGS. Both students and supervisors are required to submit progress reports every 6 months. This will assess students’ knowledge, critical thinking, practical, technical, professional, scientific and problem solving skills.
Selection and Roles of Supervisor

Supervisors are carefully selected to meet the requirements in terms of expertise, academic qualifications, research background and publications in the relevant field. The appointment of supervisors also requires approval from the Postgraduate Studies Committee and the University Senate.

The Roles of the Supervisor include:

1. Guides the student in the selection and planning of an original research topic that can be successfully completed.
2. Establishes with the student a realistic timetable for completion of the various phases of the research.
3. Provides the student with a realistic time schedule for provision of feedback and to ensure that the student adheres to the timetable.
4. Ensures that student has an understanding of the relevant theories and the methodological and technical skills necessary for the research, including provision of information through an ethical review process where applicable.
5. Makes arrangements to ensure continuity of supervision during leaves or an extended period of absence.
6. Submits a Progress Report on the student’s research work progress twice yearly, by first week of January, and first week of July to SGS.
7. Attends the student’s research proposal defense and decides whether the proposal is acceptable for the student to proceed to the next stage of the research.
8. Proposes suitable Reader(s) for proposal defense.
9. Continues to guide and advise the student after the research proposal defense.
10. Decides and recommends to SGS for the submission of the student’s thesis.
11. Proposes suitable Examiner(s) to examine the thesis.
12. Attends the student’s Viva Voce examination; however the Supervisor does not take part in the decision making.
13. Ensures that conduct all activities with academic integrity and in compliance with Code of Conduct, relevant laws, rules and regulations.
About Asia e University

Asia e University (AeU) is a dual mode (residential full-time or online distance learning) international university by Asians for Asia, supported by 31 member countries under the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD).

Through collective expertise from educational partners, AeU delivers a comprehensive spectrum of programmes ranging from Degree, Master and Doctorate levels in Management, ICT, Education and Arts, Humanity and Social Sciences focusing on quality, flexibility, affordability, accessibility relevance and personalized learning.

AeU is recognized in Malaysia as its establishment is initiated by the Malaysian government. All academic programmes in AeU are approved by the Malaysian Ministry of Higher Education and accredited by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA). MQA’s accreditation is being used by many countries for recognition.

AeU is also a member of Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), through which is also used as a basis of Universities Grant Commission (UGC) recognition in countries such as Sri-Lanka. In addition, AeU is also a member of European Foundation for Quality in E-Learning (EFQUEL), International Council for Open and Distance Education (ICDE) and Asia Association of Open Universities (AAOU). Foreign government recognition of AeU often involves the government to government authorities to select appropriate universities for mutual recognition such as the case between China and Malaysia. AeU is working towards multiple national recognition via multiple channels including dual award partnership with local universities as well as using ACD government’s network.

AeU is also a facilitator for the mutual accreditation and recognition of degrees among Asian Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). Through the AeU platform, HEIs in Asia will be able to leverage on each other’s resources and facilities including sharing of academic and professional programmes. ACD member countries have recognized AeU as an instrument for greater Asia-wide cooperation and a catalyst in narrowing the digital divide among communities and nations.

The ‘e’ in Asia e University reflects not only applying e-learning technology to compliment learning, but also define the empowering, enhancing, exploratory, experiential, effective and expanding learning experience in AeU.

Within a few years, AeU has established its reputation as an acclaimed dual-mode institution providing quality education programme to almost 10,000 students coming from 30 different countries.

Who are our Students?

AeU is the university of choice for PhD in the region with students coming from 20 different countries from Asia, Africa and Middle East, pursuing mainly in Business Administration (60%), Education (30%) and ICT (10%). Our students come from a diverse background from fresh university graduates who aspire to pursue research and academic careers; teachers of educational institutions seeking higher academic qualification appropriate to their career advancement; and professionals with a passion for research to contribute to the advancement of knowledge.
By virtue of the authority vested therein, the University Senate hereby certifies that

ABDUL HAMID BIN ABDULLAH

having fulfilled all the requirements prescribed by the University has this day been conferred the

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

with all the honours and rights pertaining thereto.

17 April 2011

Prof. Dato' Dr. Ansary Ahmed
President & Chief Executive Officer
Asia e University

Meilina Puteh AMN
Registrar
Asia e University