



Course Brief

Doctor of Business Administration [DBA] (AQF 10)

1. AQF Qualification Type

Level 10 Doctoral Degree (Professional)

2. Duration

Minimum	3 years (full-time)
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Maximum	6 years (part-time)
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3. Indicative candidate workload/volume of learning

240 credit points

<p>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.</p>

4. Delivery modes

Online only

5. Admission requirements

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.
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Work Experience	It is desirable that applicants have access to a workplace for their assignments and research.
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English Language	See Appendix A – English Language Requirements .
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6. Course rationale

<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>
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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.

7. 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

8. Course rules

<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 Research Thesis (DBA).
<i>Other Protocols</i>	<p>The AIB Research Orientation Module is mandatory and must be completed within 4 weeks from the commencement of the course.</p> <p>All subjects in the course are compulsory, that is 'core'.</p> <p>The 1002TDBA Research Thesis (DBA) will be 50,000 to 80,000 words in length (excluding references and appendices).</p> <p>The 1002TDBA 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 Proposal 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. <p>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.</p> <p>The 1002TDBA Research Thesis (DBA) contains subcodes used to operationally represent administrative, financial and academic progression milestones within this subject [1002TDBA_A, 1002TDBA_B, 1002TDBA_C, 1002TDBA_D]; further details are provided for Candidates in the HDR Candidate Handbook.</p>
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9. Course structure

<i>Course Content</i>		<i>Subject Code</i>	<i>AQF Level</i>	<i>Credit Points</i>
Core 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
Core Research subjects	Draft Proposal (DBA)	9904DPRDBA	9	20
	Research Proposal (DBA)	9906RPRDBA	9	20
	Research Thesis (DBA)	1002TDBA	10	160

<i>Proportion of research</i>	200 of 240 credit points = 83%
<i>Nature of research</i>	Complete 9904DPRDBA Draft Proposal (DBA), 9906RPRDBA Research Proposal (DBA), conduct research, write a substantial Research Thesis (DBA) 1002TDBA.

10. Pre-requisites or Assumed Knowledge

<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	Research Thesis (DBA)	9904DPRDBA Draft Proposal (DBA), 9906RPRDBA Research Proposal to be completed or be enrolled in concurrently

11. 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.

12. Exit points, articulation arrangements and pathways

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 first and second core and all elective subjects at Credit level or above; (ii) completed 9905DPRMMgt Draft Proposal and 9907PPRMMgt Project Proposal at Credit level or above.

13. Constructive alignment

Graduate Qualities¹	Course Learning Outcomes as per section 6 of this Course Brief					
	CLO1	CLO2	CLO3	CLO4	CLO5	CLO6
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.

	<i>Postgraduate (GradCert, MBA, MMgt)</i>	<i>Postgraduate Research (DBA, PhD)</i>
<i>Academic IELTS</i>	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>
<i>TOEFL</i>	575 or better	600 or better
<i>TOEFL IBT</i>	91 or better	94 or better
<i>TOEFL CBT</i>	235 or better	250 or better
<i>PTE</i>	56 or better	66 or better
<i>Cambridge English CAE and CPE (from 2015)</i>	176 or better	185 or better
<i>CTC General Certificate of Education (GCE)</i>	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:

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.*