Conduct your HDR in Biomedical Sciences at UQ

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Higher Degrees by Research at UQ Program

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Make breakthrough discoveries with UQ's internationally recognised PhD program.

→

Master of Philosophy (MPhil)

Complete a significant research project (40,000 words) with guidance from an advisory team.

→

- A Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) is an internationally recognised graduate research program that will enable you to become an independent researcher.
- With guidance of an advisory team, you'll undertake a research project, produce a thesis and complete an oral examination.
- A PhD takes 3-4 years full-time. Under guidance, you'll develop advanced research skills and knowledge in your chosen field. MPhil will take you 1.5 to 2 years to complete full time
- About 1,000 PhD candidates join UQ each year researching a wide range of topics.
- The UQ Graduate Research School administers the HDR program

Before you apply (PhD)

Academic entry requirements

You have to prove you are prepared for PhD study.
You do this by showing you:

- **have completed some** research experience
- **have completed an** approved university degree **and**
- **can meet the** English language requirements.

English language requirements

There are a few ways you can meet our English language requirements. If you sit a test, the following scores are needed for PhD admission:

Test	Minimum overall score	Minimum additional scores
IELTS (clinical projects)	7.0	7.0 in every sub-band
IELTS (all other disciplines)	6.5	6.0 in every sub-band
TOEFL (paper-based)	570	5.0 in TWE (written), and 54 in reading & listening
TOEFL (internet-based)	87	21 in written, 19 in reading, listening & speaking

Many departments will have additional entry requirements and may request documents to support your application, such as a research proposal.
You should discuss these additional requirements with your potential advisor.

https://study.uq.edu.au/study-options/programs/doctor-philosophy-7501#entry-requirements

Before you apply

Find a supervisor or project

- A supervisor in your field who will support your proposed project.
- A project you can join that suits your interests.
- You'll need a supervision agreement before you apply – include details of your supervisor/s in your application.

Scholarships and fees

- See what scholarships are available, what they offer (fees and/or living stipend), eligibility requirements and how to apply.
- If you're successful for a UQ stipend scholarship you'll also receive a tuition fee scholarship (this means you don’t pay fees, but rather you get payed to do research!)

Visa requirements

- You should be aware of your visa requirements before you apply.
- Visit your preferred program to understand specific requirements

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What scholarships are available

There are several types of PhD scholarship:

- **tuition fee scholarship**: this covers the fees charged by UQ for PhD study
- **living stipend scholarship:** this is a fortnightly payment (or stipend) to support your daily expenses
- **top-up scholarship:** may be provided by external organisations, supervisors, or philanthropic donations. When awarded, they provide an additional payment on top of a living stipend scholarship. They cannot be held without a living stipend scholarship.

UQ awards >600 scholarships annually!

Most common scholarship is Graduate School Scholarships (UQGSS) – includes Research Training Program (RTP)

- Living stipend of $36,400 per annum tax free (2025 rate), indexed annually, Single Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for 3.5 years with the possibility of 1 extension in line with UQ and RTP Scholarship Policy
- In the school of Biomedical Sciences, you also receive a computer, and up to $4,000 for Researcher Development, Conference Travel, conducting research in an overseas lab, attending a course to learn a new research skill, etc.

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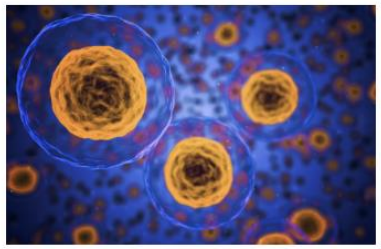
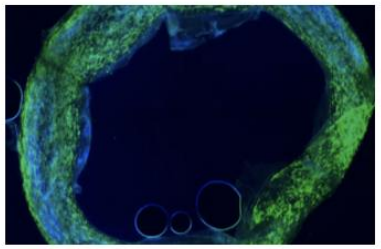
Finding your supervisor - SBMS research themes

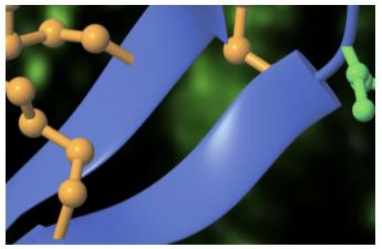
Diversity across the breadth of biomedical sciences



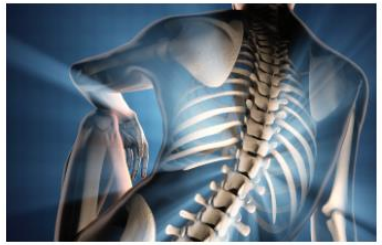
Cell architecture



Chronic diseases: cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, neurodegeneration



Drug design and development

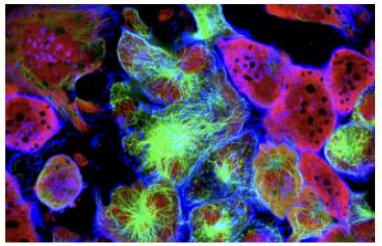


Musculoskeletal and motor control

Neurobiology and brain function

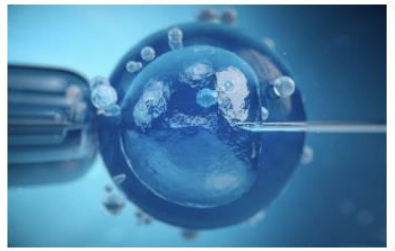
Receptors and signalling

Functional and comparative anatomy



Injury and repair

Innovation in biomedical education



Reproduction

Have a look at our theme videos…
https://biomedical-sciences.uq.edu.au/research-videos

How do I know if I even like research?

You don't know until you try – research feels different from coursework, so give it a go before deciding.

Join a research-related program or project – summer research programs, volunteering in a lab, or even helping with data collection can give you a taste…even before you embark on an honours

Talk to your lecturers and tutors – even if their research isn't your passion, they can connect you with opportunities or people

Reflect on your coursework – what classes or assessments made you lose track of time, dive deeper? That could be a clue to your research interests.

Look for patterns in what excites you – problem-solving, experiments, coding, people, or theory? That can guide you toward the type of research you'll enjoy.

Ask questions, talk to current PhD students, stay curious – research is about chasing questions you don't yet know the answer to, gather insights into what day-to-day research feels like.

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If I do a PhD, do I have to become a Professor?

Not at all! A PhD is training in problem-solving, independence, and expertise in a field that you are (ideally) passionate about.

A PhD is not a career path on rails — it's a toolkit you can take almost anywhere.

Industry R&D – tech, biotech, medical devices, pharmaceuticals, biomed engineering.

Government & policy – science advisors, health departments, regulatory agencies.

Clinical & healthcare innovation – hospitals, rehabilitation, medical technology.

Consulting & data science – applying analytical skills in business or technology.

Science communication – writing, journalism, public engagement, education.

Entrepreneurship – start-ups, spin-offs, and innovation hubs.

Non-profits & NGOs – global health, environment, community programs.

What does a career in research look like? …. Apply your toolkit in a career that is fulfilling, impactful, and aligned with your passions.

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Neuromuscular Biomechanics Laboratory

Our goal is to understand the neuromuscular and biomechanical mechanisms that underpin locomotion

Group Leader: A/Prof Taylor Dick

[combining *in vivo* and *in silico* tools]

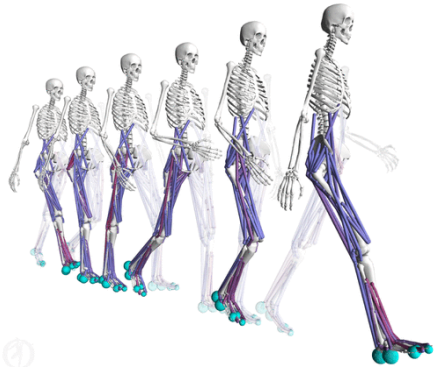
Unravel mechanisms of muscle-tendon function using experiments and computational models/simulations

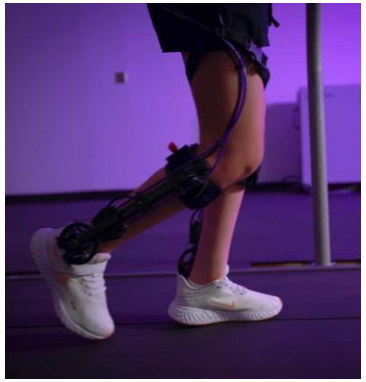
[links between form and function]

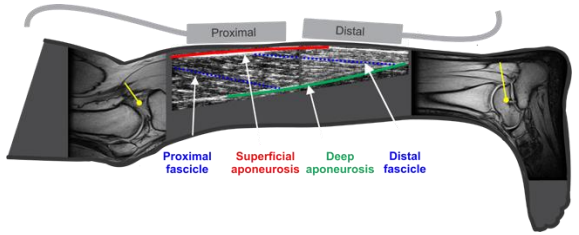
Explore how anatomy, neural control, and biomechanics integrate and adapt to challenges such as size, age, and disease

[bio-inspiration for technology]

Design, apply and interrogate how wearable assistive devices and biology interact to augment or restore movement







https://biomedical-sciences.uq.edu.au/research/groups/neuromuscular-biomechanics