

Completion Times

The Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) and UWS have strict time limits for research candidature, so time management is critically important. It is recommended that candidates should aim to complete in minimum time but if that is not possible candidates must be guided by the range of minimum and maximum times. Candidates who were enrolled before 2001 have a different set of time limits to those who enrolled in 2001 or later. These new time limits have been set by DEST.

The University counts enrolment in load (EFTSL - equivalent full time student load) and this is determined by the candidate's enrolment pattern. This method of counting time takes into account periods of full and part time enrolment and periods of leave. The EFTSL clock stops during periods of leave. Load (EFTSL) is accrued at 0.25 per part time session and 0.50 per full time session.

Candidature Time Limits in EFTSL

The below tables sets out the minimum and maximum completion times for the different enrolment periods.

2001 or later

M (Hons)				PHD, Professional Doctorate			
Minimum		Maximum		Minimum		Maximum	
EFTSL	1	EFTSL	2	EFTSL	3	EFTSL	4
Full time Years	1	Full time Years	2	Full time Years	3	Full time Years	4
Full time Sessions	2	Full time Sessions	4	Full time Sessions	6	Full time Sessions	8
Part time Years	2	Part time Years	4	Part time Years	6	Part time Years	8
Part Time Sessions	4	Part Time Sessions	8	Part Time Sessions	12	Part Time Sessions	16

Pre 2001

M (Hons)				PHD, Professional Doctorate			
Minimum		Maximum		Minimum		Maximum	
EFTSL	1	EFTSL	3	EFTSL	3	EFTSL	5
Full time Years	1	Full time Years	3	Full time Years	3	Full time Years	5
Full time Sessions	2	Full time Sessions	6	Full time Sessions	6	Full time Sessions	10
Part time Years	2	Part time Years	6	Part time Years	6	Part time Years	10
Part Time Sessions	4	Part Time Sessions	12	Part Time Sessions	12	Part Time Sessions	20

Note:

- PhD and Professional Doctorate candidates who hold a research masters degree may complete within two years.
- The maximum periods of candidature are different to the tenures of scholarships. Holders of scholarships with stipend should consult their award conditions for more information on scholarship duration.
- DEST requires that candidates who transfer between universities must take their "time" with them. Thus a candidate who commences at UWS after having completed a year of full time study in a PhD at another university will have their completion time at UWS reduced by the amount of time spent at the first institution.