

Department of Defence**DEFGRAM 316/2017****Issue Date:** 14 July 2017**Expiry Date:** 22 December 2017

ENHANCING SENIOR LEADER CAPABILITY–PHD BY PORTFOLIO**Introduction**

1. The Defence Education and Training Board authorised Deakin University to offer a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) by Folio program to senior Defence leaders that focused on professional capability development, rather than general higher education per se in 2016. The program facilitates specialised, deep Defence-relevant academic research and exposition in the humanities and social sciences disciplines, followed by publication or classified internal advice. Deakin University provides the PhD by Folio qualification and its ancillary academic support services at no financial cost to candidates or Defence.

2. The program is designed for senior Defence leaders who wish to be recognised for professional practice and writing in order to achieve a higher level of mastery through further research and scholarship. It enables them to make a significant contribution to the theory and practice of the defence of Australia and its national interests. It is a scholarly research extension of each senior leader's career and writing. An inaugural cohort of candidates has enrolled and applications for the next cohort are now open.

Candidature

3. **Prerequisites.** There are three prerequisites for PhD by Folio candidature:
- a. rank-level mastery (minimum ADF 05 or APS Executive Level 1 accompanied by above average annual reports)
 - b. minimum of 15 years service
 - c. proven research abilities (a Masters by research qualification in a related area or completion of a research project which is equivalent to at least 25 per cent of a year's full-time study at Level 8 or 9 of the Australian Qualifications Framework, with achievement of a grade for the research project equivalent to a Deakin University grade of 70 per cent (Distinction)) or an equivalent workplace rating.
4. **Masters by Research Pathway.** Applicants whose post-graduate qualifications do not meet the prerequisites for the PhD by Folio may be eligible to enrol in a Masters by Research at Deakin University with their PhD by Folio dissertation topic and professional practice and writing component (see below). They can conduct research under supervision until their confirmatory colloquium (see below). Based on a colloquium assessment of excellent academic accomplishment and progress, these Masters candidates may be able to upgrade to PhD by Folio candidacy without any time detriment.

5. **Duration.** The duration of candidature depends on the quality of prior professional publications and academic qualifications, as well as an assessment of each candidate's progress at the time of their confirmatory colloquium (see below). Deakin University offers three options:

- a. a minimum of one-year full-time candidature for exceptional candidates, or
- b. one-year full-time and two years part-time candidature that can be taken in any order, or
- c. up to four years part-time.

Thesis

6. Candidates must demonstrate ability and capacity to conduct a substantial research program and to communicate research outcomes effectively. They must demonstrate a substantial original contribution to the knowledge and practice of the defence of Australia and its national interests.

7. The School of Humanities and Social Science and the School of Education in the Faculty of Arts and Education are offering the Defence PhD by Folio program. This confines the scope of the program to the humanities, social sciences and education disciplines, such as Australian studies, criminology, history, human rights and international law, humanitarian assistance, international and community development, international relations, language, Middle East studies, philosophy, politics and policy, sociology and studies of religions as well as applied learning and professional education and training, curriculum, pedagogy and professional learning and education policy, professionalism, leadership and internationalisation.

8. Award of the PhD by Folio qualification is by examination of a written thesis in the form of a folio that consists of two related components:

- a. a selection of candidate's reports, papers and publications in media appropriate for the professional context of the defence of Australia and its national interests as well as acquired learning through professional experience that is related to the dissertation
- b. a substantial 25–30 000 word dissertation including a literature review.

9. **Professional Practice and Writing Component.** Candidates must demonstrate a substantial original contribution to the knowledge and practice of the defence of Australia and its national interests through their professional practice (career performance) and writing. The professional practice and writing component should be a coherent selection of work carried out by the candidate, not simply a collection of unrelated pieces.

10. **Dissertation Component.** Candidates are required in their dissertation to present, develop and argue a position that they support by empirical study and locate in a clearly expressed understanding of the relevant literature and specific issues in theory, policy and professional practice of the defence of Australia and its national interests.

11. The reports, papers and publications for this component may be papers delivered at conferences or published in academic or professional journals; they may be reports on discrete projects relevant to the dissertation; they may be exemplars, evaluation reports or critical policy documents; they may be produced collaboratively with others, providing due acknowledgement of the contributions of others is made.

12. The professional practice and writing component normally includes:
 - a. original evidence of performance and impact, e.g. annual report extracts, commendations etc
 - b. a critical account of the methodology that links the professional practice and writing component with the dissertation component
 - c. a selective and critical review of relevant published research, i.e. literature review
 - d. evidence of relevance to professional practice in the field, e.g. written testimony of learning and career experience that contributes evidence to the dissertation hypothesis.
13. The professional practice and writing component may consist of one document or several, consisting of a selection of the products of research/investigation that establish the candidate's claim to have carried out research/investigation at doctoral standard. The various parts of this component should be integrated through a commentary (either within the dissertation or as a separate document) that explains the relationship between the thesis components.
14. Candidates submit their thesis for examination to qualify. It is comprised of:
 - a. **Introduction.** A framework in which the theoretical and practical underpinnings of the thesis are explained (indicative 5–10 000 words).
 - b. **Dissertation Component.** (Indicative 25–30 000 words as well as a literature review).
 - c. **Professional Writing and Practice Component.** Consists of two to four pieces of writing that represent communications and/or actions that relate the candidate's dissertation research to their professional practice (indicative 20-30 000 words).
 - d. **Conclusion.** An outline of the theoretical and practical implications of the work (indicative 10 000 words).

Confirmatory Colloquium

15. Progress in the program is subject to completing successfully a confirmation colloquium. In this, each candidate is required to demonstrate that the initial phase of research 'apprenticeship' is complete and the candidacy should be confirmed. The colloquium allows candidates to show how far they have progressed and to confirm the duration of their candidacy based on this progress. For the Masters by Research pathway, the colloquium provides an opportunity for candidates who are making excellent progress to 'upgrade' to PhD by Folio candidacy with no detriment to the duration of their candidature.

16. The colloquium is a public presentation (including audience Q&A) followed by a private Colloquium Panel meeting. These public confirmation sessions are designed to provide PhD by Folio candidates and Masters by Research candidates aspiring to PhD by Folio candidature with an opportunity to present their work and respond to questions in a public setting akin to a seminar paper.

17. The dates for colloquia are based on an alignment to enrolment dates and are scheduled around the 9-month mark (full-time enrolment) after formal advice of candidature to ensure that confirmation is prior to the maximum time allowed of 12 months of candidature.

Essential Frameworks of Research Unit

18. All candidates are to complete an on-line AAE900–Essential Frameworks of Research unit that is interactive and customised to enable and optimise research for their selected thesis topic.

Security Aspects

19. Research for a PhD by Folio may require access to classified material. While classified sources may be consulted and attributed in footnotes, all written material comprising the PhD by Folio thesis that is discussed at the colloquium and submitted for examination must be unclassified.

Application for Candidature

20. The two-steps to attain candidature are as follows:

- a. Step 1. Complete an Expression of Interest (EOI) proforma and provide evidence of professional practice and writing that has achieved Level 9 AQF-aligned level of mastery. This step includes selection and definition of a dissertation topic that constitutes an extension of professional practice mastery through research, analysis and scholarly exposition.
- b. Step 2. After examination of the EOI and receipt of an invitation by e-mail, potential candidates apply for PhD by Folio candidature on-line, including provision of two referees. For some applicants, Deakin University may offer a Masters by Research pathway.

Point of Contact

21. The Deakin University point of contact for the PhD by Folio program is Associate Professor Bob Breen (details below). Candidature enquiries in the first instance should be directed to Associate Professor Breen.



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