

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Cultural Studies

Programme Description

The Doctor of Philosophy in Cultural Studies programme is research-based and designed for students who wish to pursue a career in the academia. It combines theories, practical methods, and concrete case studies in cultural field. Students enrolled in this programme must take and pass four taught courses, publish a minimum of two full papers, complete a doctoral thesis, and successfully pass the thesis examination for graduation. Each student will work closely with a supervisor or a supervisory team, with the support from university-wide research teams and departments. In addition to regular meetings with the supervisor(s), students are also encouraged to participate in research workshops organised by UTM or other institutions. The duration of this PhD programme is normally 3 years and can be extended to maximum 6 years. Graduates are expected to make positive contributions to the growth and enhancement of cultural field research and education.

Graduation Requirements

Students must complete the following major academic components for the doctoral degree.

1. Taught Courses*

Students need to take and pass the following four courses.

- Theories and Concepts in Cultural Studies
- Qualitative Research Methods
- Quantitative Research Methods
- Seminars in Cultural Research

2. Confirmation

Students are required to defend the first three thesis chapters including the introduction, the literature review and the methodology. The students will defend their research design before a Confirmation Panel. This confirmation defence will be recorded in the form of minutes, and the student will need to address any recommendations made by the Confirmation Panel. If a student is unable to demonstrate sufficient progress before the maximum time stipulated for the candidature confirmation, UTM reserves the right to terminate the student's application.

3. Two Publications

Students are required to successfully publish a minimum of two full papers within the duration of their study. Both publications can be submitted anytime during the PhD study period and should be peer-reviewed. UTM must be listed as the primary affiliation for the publications.

- One must be related to the topic of their PhD Thesis, in an international journal ranked B or above on the Australian Business Deans Council list, as lead author.
- The other publication can alternatively be either a paper which is accepted for full-length publication by, as well as presented at, an international conference approved by UTM, or a paper published in journals recognized by UTM, either related to the topic of their PhD Thesis or in relevant areas in the broader hospitality, tourism and cultural field, as either lead or second author.

4. Doctoral Thesis and Oral Defence*

PhD candidates must produce a meaningful and original research (40,000 to 80,000 words) showcasing innovative ideas as well as planning, synthesising and analytical abilities. The research must be able to demonstrate competence in critical analysis, evaluation of a phenomenon in the field of cultural studies, and contributing to knowledge.

**Application for oral defence will be granted only after the candidate has passed the taught courses component and submitted evidence of the above two publications requirements.*

Modules and Courses

The table below summarises the programme structure design of the PhD in Cultural Studies.

Course Category	Credit (Total: 30 credits)
Courses (3 credits / course, all are compulsory) <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Theories and Concepts in Cultural Studies▪ Qualitative Research Methods▪ Quantitative Research Methods▪ Seminars in Cultural Research	12
Thesis <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Confirmation▪ Doctoral thesis and oral defence	18

Course Description

Module	Course Title	Course Description
Core	Theories and Concepts in Cultural Studies	<p>Adopting interdisciplinary and sometimes anti-disciplinary approaches to the study of culture, this course provides students with theoretical foundations that are conducive to students' understanding of the cultural studies, as well as to embark their academic enquiries via research investigations. It covers conceptual concepts, theories and located practices, which provide an understanding of political, societal, managerial and strategic aspects of the cultural field. Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get familiar with the classic literature in cultural studies. • Be able to define and develop concepts and demonstrate an understanding of the existing terms used in cultural field. • Be able to identify and analyse the political, societal, managerial and strategic elements of the cultural industry and their impacts on stakeholders. • Build up the competencies in critical thinking and conversations which will aid their independent research work in cultural field.
	Qualitative Research Methods	<p>This course is intended to provide theoretical knowledge and practical skills in qualitative research, with the following specific learning outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand different approaches to qualitative research. • Be able to undertake critical reading and evaluation of published scholarly work with a qualitative approach. • Demonstrate the skills of conducting, analysing, and interpreting the research in a qualitative approach. • Be able to illustrate the ethical considerations and issues in the qualitative approach.
	Quantitative Research Methods	<p>This is intended to provide students with knowledge and skills to do primary research in both the academic setting and in the practical world, with the following specific learning outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be able to undertake critical reading and evaluation of published scholarly work with quantitative approach as the main method. • Understand the principles and methods of quantitative research design and the skills to apply them. • Be able to use scientific and statistical thinking and analysis to make intelligent and fact-based decisions • Be able to use relevant statistical technique for data analysis and interpret the result.

	Seminars in Cultural Research	<p>This is intended to familiarize students with the contemporary research issues in cultural field, as well as the various research methodologies applied in cultural research. Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be able to critically evaluate and apply theories and concepts of cultural field. • Be able to identify the emerging trends and respond to them. • Understand a broad range of advanced research methods of cultural concentration and apply suitable ones in students' selected topic area. • Be able to critically evaluate research work in cultural-related field.
Thesis	Confirmation, Doctoral Thesis and Oral Defence	<p>To complete this PhD programme, students are required to undertake an independent research study, which addresses a significant question or topic relevant to cultural studies. Based on the research proposal approved by the Confirmation Panel, students will conduct the research, collect data, analyse data, and submit the final thesis. Afterwards, it will be subject to examination by a committee in an oral defence.</p>