National Industry PhD Program

Frequently Asked Questions

What is an Industry PhD?

An Industry PhD is a doctoral program designed with an industry application in mind.

Under academic and industry supervision, PhD candidates undertake a research project co-designed by a university and an eligible Australian business.

The National Industry PhD Program gives PhD candidates an opportunity to gain practical and research experience in both industry and university settings.

The program aims to create a flexible workforce of researchers who can transition between academia and industry and have multiple career pathways open to them after their PhD.

Who can apply for the National Industry PhD Program?

The program has two streams:

- **Industry Linked PhD stream**: For PhD candidates to undertake research projects co-designed by university and industry, with opportunities to be embedded in industry.
- **Industry Researcher PhD stream**: For industry professionals who are supported by their employers to undertake a PhD in partnership with a university while retaining their industry employment and salary benefits.

What is the difference between an Industry Researcher and an Industry Linked PhD?

- An Industry Linked PhD student is a university-based PhD scholar who will undertake a research project co-designed by their university and an eligible industry partner as part of their PhD. They will spend part of their PhD working on site with the industry partner.

- An Industry Researcher PhD student is an employee of a business that qualifies as an Industry Partner in this program and is supported by their employer to undertake a PhD Project in collaboration with a university.

Are international students eligible for the program?

Yes. International students can take part in the program.

I am currently in the first year of my PhD. Will I be able to join the program?

Yes. A PhD student who has started their first year of study is eligible to join this program, if their university approves and all eligibility requirements of the program have been met.

What if I'm coming back for a second PhD?

If you have previously completed a PhD, you are not eligible to apply for an Industry PhD.

Can I do my PhD part-time?

Yes - if your university and industry partner agree to the part-time arrangements. Part-time candidates do less than 75% of a full-time student load. A part-time PhD must be completed between six and eight years.

How long is the PhD program for a full-time student?

The program supports PhD candidates for up to four years. If the university and industry partner both agree, this may be extended to eight years. However, the funding will finish after four years.

As a PhD student, what stipend and other benefits will I receive under the program?

Industry Linked PhD:

- As well as your regular PhD stipend, Industry Linked PhD candidates will be paid a stipend top-up of $10,000 from the industry partner and $6,210 from the Australian Government.
- Recipients must be approved for, or be in receipt of, a Research Training Program (RTP) Stipend and Fees Offset Scholarship (or similar scholarship). You will receive a stipend top-up for up to four years as a full-time student and up to eight years as a part-time student.
- Your enrolling university may offer additional allowances for costs such as travel, conferences, relocation, and publication.
- You will be embedded in an industry setting during your PhD candidature and will be provided with a 12-week training course across the candidature to gain an understanding of industry engagement.

Industry Researcher PhD:

- Your employer will agree to allow you to undertake PhD study and work concurrently. You will continue to receive your salary and other employment benefits from your employer.
- Your employer receives a government subsidy to support your salary and other costs for the duration of your PhD studies (up to eight years for part-time employees and up to four years for full-time employees).

What leave can Industry PhD students access?

Leave entitlements for PhD candidates supported by the RTP are outlined on the Department of Education website. This includes recreation, sick and parental leave. PhD candidates can contact their university's graduate research office for advice on conditions and how to apply for leave.

Leave entitlements for PhD scholars in the Industry Linked stream of the Program must be at least equivalent to those under the RTP scheme. If their university provides more generous leave arrangements, they will be entitled to the higher standard.

Leave entitlements for Industry Researcher PhDs will be outlined in their employment agreement with their employer.

Does my university qualify for this program?

To qualify as a participating university, your organisation needs to be listed as a higher education provider under section 16-15 (Table A providers) or section 16-20 (Table B providers) in the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*.

Do I qualify as an eligible industry partner?

To qualify as an eligible industry partner, you must be:

- a business or organisation with an Australian Business Number (ABN) registered with the Australian Taxation Office or an Australian Company Number (ACN) registered with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, and
- undertake Research and Development (R&D) activities.

As an Industry Partner, what will I receive under this program?

Industry Linked PhD:

- You will host a PhD candidate working on a PhD project with an industry application, with opportunities to leverage collaborations with universities and their research capabilities and facilities.

Industry Researcher PhD:

- You will receive a financial contribution to the salary of the PhD candidate, industry co-supervisor/mentor and other relevant costs incurred. For full-time PhD candidates, you will receive $41,400 per candidate, per year for up to four years. For part-time candidates, you will receive $20,700 per candidate, per year for up to eight years.

How much funding and resources will I have to commit as an Industry Partner?

Industry Linked PhD:

- Industry Partners who take on a university PhD student to work on a research challenge in their company through the program will have access to great research talent. In return, companies will need to contribute a minimum of $10,000 a year to top-up the PhD stipend to assist with living costs during the program.
- Industry Partners will also need to demonstrate a commitment to provide resources to the PhD student such as access to equipment, materials, travel and conference costs.

Industry Researcher PhD:

- For companies that employ a researcher in the Industry Researcher PhD stream, the business will need to commit to supporting their employee to undertake PhD study and work concurrently, while paying their full salary and benefits for the full length of their PhD.

- In both streams, the Industry Partner needs to nominate a supervisor with extensive experience in the industry.

How long is the funding for?

- For **Industry Linked PhDs**, the funding is for a minimum of three years and a maximum of four years for full-time PhD candidates. For part-time candidates, funding is for a maximum of eight years.
- For **Industry Researcher PhDs**, the funding period is four years, and up to eight years part-time.

When will the program commence and when can I start applying?

- Applications will open in early 2023 with the PhD candidates commencing from 1 July 2023.
- Further details, including the application process and application form, will be made available in early 2023.

What are the selection criteria for assessing my application?

Your application will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- Engagement between the university and industry partner
- Research feasibility & strategic alignment i.e. with Australian Government priority areas
- Project impact
- Capacity, capability and resources to support the development of PhD Candidates.

For more information, please refer to the National Industry PhD Program Guidelines.

Are there any restrictions on what fields of research will be supported under the program?

- There are no restrictions on the field of research for the project.
- However, the academic and industrial experience of the supervisory team, and their relevant standing in the field of research, will be assessed as part of the application.

I have a project idea but have not yet found a PhD candidate. Can I still submit an application?

Yes, you can. If the project is awarded funding under the program, a PhD candidate can be recruited afterwards.

I am a prospective PhD candidate, where do I submit my application?

Applications need to be submitted by an Australian university. If you are enrolled, or about to be enrolled, as a PhD candidate at a university, please contact your prospective supervisor or Graduate Research Office and ask about being included in an application or Industry PhD funded project. If you have not yet been offered a PhD place at a university, please submit an enquiry and the service provider of the program will attempt to find a suitable project for you.

I am a prospective supervisor, where do I submit my application?

Applications need to be submitted through the university (and not by a supervisor).

Who can I nominate for an Industry Researcher PhD project?

- Employees of your organisation — both full-time and part-time — are eligible to apply for an Industry Researcher PhD project. Contractors and subcontractors are not eligible for funding through the Industry Researcher PhD stream of this program.
- Other eligibility criteria related to the PhD candidate (i.e., citizenship, completion of previous PhDs, etc.) will also be considered as part of the selection process.

Can I download the Guidelines?

Yes, click here to go to the Program Guidelines download page.

What happens to my details entered on the mailing list?

Only your name and email address will be stored on our secure servers. The contact details you enter will only be used for communications about the program.

What is the difference between the CSIRO Industry PhD Program and the National Industry PhD Program?

CSIRO Industry PhD Program

The CSIRO Industry PhD (iPhD) program consists of one stream which is run through an industry partner, a university researcher and a CSIRO researcher working closely together to deliver a training experience for domestic PhD students on a project that has been developed by, or with, industry.

Under the CSIRO iPhD candidates receive a scholarship package of $45,000 a year consisting of:

- $12,000 a year from the industry partner towards the student's scholarship, and
- $33,000 a year base scholarship from the CSIRO iPhD program office to the host university.

Candidates will also receive 3-5 days of training each year to support the development of their applied research and industry relevant skills.

An Industry PhD scholarship will be funded for a maximum of four years, including a minimum three-month industry engagement component, where the candidate will undertake research under the guidance of their industry partner. The CSIRO iPhD program office will reimburse operating expenses to the organisation where the candidate is primarily located of up to $13,000 a year to be used for the student's project.

More information on the CSIRO iPhD can be found on CSIRO's Industry PhD Program website.