

What are the key differences between PhD@Work candidates and a traditional HDR candidate?

PhD@Work is designed to reimagine the traditional PhD model by embedding research directly within organisations, enabling candidates to tackle real-world industry challenges while advancing academic inquiry.

Applied Research in the Workplace:

PhD@Work integrates research and academic rigour within the operational environment of an organisation, allowing candidates to apply their work to solve relevant, high-impact industry problems.

A “Learning Organisation” Model:

The program draws on the principles of continuous learning and innovation, building research capacity within organisations and aligning academic goals with strategic business needs.

Collaborative Trifecta Model:

Each candidate is supported by a three-way partnership between the candidate, JCU, and their employer (which may be a large organisation, SME, or startup). This structure fosters mutual benefit and a sustainable pipeline of research talent from industry.

Dual Supervision:

With over 97% of Queensland’s economy made up of SMEs, PhD@Work presents a valuable and accessible opportunity for businesses of all sizes to engage in research without the traditional barriers.

Talent Retention and Development:

Organisations benefit by matching internal talent with strategic challenges, supporting their professional development while boosting innovation and retention.

Attracting Top Talent:

PhD@Work enables employers to recruit and nurture high-potential candidates through a compelling value proposition, including access to R&D tax incentives and alignment with national initiatives like the National Industry PhD Program (Campus+).

Flexible Study Options:

Tailored for experienced professionals, the program offers flexibility to accommodate full-time employment, maintaining career progression and income stability while pursuing research.

Building a Braintrust:

Industry Advisors contribute valuable mentorship to JCU's research community, strengthening university-industry connections and helping to cultivate the next generation of innovation leaders.