

Higher Degree by Research (HDR)

College of Business and Law

Join a research community where you can drive positive change in policy and practice.

RMIT's College of Business and Law (CoBL) is internationally recognised for leading applied research at the intersection of business, law and technology.

We provide a supportive research environment that enables high quality doctoral education, training and research to solve real-world problems in industry, government, not-for-profit and the community.

Our PhD and Masters by Research candidates graduate with broader capabilities, skills and expertise to be leaders in their field of research. Students also widen their networks and contacts to thrive in industry environments.

What the HDR journey looks like



Three milestone presentations: formal assessments on research progress.



External engagement with industry and internship opportunities.



Coursework to build skillsets in research design and methodology feedback.



Supervision by expert academics and mentorship throughout research degree.

PhDs

Access world-class facilities, interdisciplinary research opportunities and pathways to academic, policy, industry or leadership careers.

Masters by Research

Develop advanced research skills and deepen your disciplinary knowledge through a focused research project under the guidance of an academic supervisor.

Our research

We offer degrees across a range of disciplines.

- AI research, emerging technologies and data analytics
- Behavioural and experimental research
- Business and human rights
- Consumer culture and brand management
- Cybersecurity and digital threats
- Diversity and inclusion in organisations
- Financial markets and innovation
- International economics and development
- Law and society
- Sustainability and responsible business



Learn more about research at RMIT
rmit.edu.au/research/research-degrees

Why RMIT?

RMIT is a global university of technology, design and enterprise. Established in 1887, we are a top ranking institution in Australia and globally.



in QS World University Ratings in research, teaching, facilities and innovation¹

#1

globally in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings for reducing inequality and supporting economic growth¹

#1

for graduate employment rates in Australia, 74th globally¹

#4

in Australia for our partnerships with employers¹

#4

globally in Webometrics Ranking of World Universities¹

Alex Anh Thu Pham

PhD (Economics, Finance & Marketing)



I came to RMIT looking for a program that would allow me to explore innovative research across disciplinary boundaries. The research community here has challenged me to think critically and creatively, helping me grow as an independent researcher while providing the support along the way.

I've built skills and connections that have led to conference opportunities, industry engagement and a sense of direction for my academic career. Winning the CoBL Three Minute Thesis competition is a personal highlight, a testament to how much the program has developed not just my research, but my ability to communicate it with clarity and impact.

Work with industry

CoBL's HDR programs enable candidates to work with expert supervisors on academic or applied research projects across business and law.

Candidates can pursue investigator-led or collaborative research, including opportunities to partner with industry, while gaining advanced skills that create meaningful real-world impact.

Tech-focused research

RMIT integrates advanced technologies into every stage of the research journey. Across Business and Law, candidates use digital tools, data analytics and innovative platforms to explore complex real-world problems.

Our researchers draw on state-of-the-art facilities including the Behavioural Business Lab, RMIT Trading Room and other tools to generate high-quality, data-driven insights.

RMIT's digital research ecosystem enhances the speed, quality and global reach of HDR research – empowering candidates to produce impactful outcomes for industry, government and the community.



Life in Melbourne

A diverse, vibrant and welcoming city, Melbourne is full of exciting possibilities home to students from 194 countries. Experience life in the bustling city while obtaining a world-class qualification.

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¹All ranking information on this page is sourced from rmit.edu.au/about/facts-figures/reputation-and-rankings