Computer Science and Information Technology at RMIT

As an innovative, global university of technology, RMIT University has an international reputation for excellence in work-relevant education, high quality research, and engagement with the needs of industry and community. RMIT is a member of the Australian Technology Network of universities (ATN) and the Global U8 Consortium.

The School of Computer Science and Information Technology (CSIT) is recognised for its strength in research and currently supports more than 50 PhD candidates. RMIT was the only Australian university to receive funding through Microsoft's $US1 million ‘Beyond Search’ program. CSIT also engaged in national collaborative research centres, including the Advanced Manufacturing CRC, ensuring a vibrant research environment for staff and students.

Research

Research within the School is clustered around four broad disciplines:

- Distributed Software Engineering and Architecture
- Information Storage, Analysis and Retrieval
- Intelligent Systems
- Distributed Systems and Networking.

The School encourages cross-discipline collaboration on projects and also maintains strong links with RMIT's research institutes and with many industrial partnerships.

Industrial PhD

The Industrial PhD is an innovative program designed to meet the specific needs of industry. It aims to close the gap between applied and industry research, through projects aligned with organisational priorities.

The flexible program takes into account the demands of full time work and research. It is anticipated that a project timetable will enable candidates to alternate the time spent between RMIT and their employer. For a typical Industrial PhD, a significant component of the project will directly contribute to a solution addressing the employer's research problem. The Industrial PhD will usually be completed in four plus years.

Key features of the program include:

- The PhD is beneficial to both candidate and employer
- Only highly competent ICT candidates are admitted
- The candidate remains fully employed with intellectual property rights retained by the employer
- The candidate does their PhD in bursts, alternating between full-time PhD and industry work
- The project can be undertaken without the usual pressures of full time research
- The research is liberated from commercial development pressures.

Note: this study mode is not currently available to international students.

Degree structure

The degree demands a high standard of organisation and academic achievement. Candidates are expected to put forward original ideas and support these with evidence. A minimum period of independent research, during which original contributions are made to the discipline, is also required.

The Industrial PhD includes a coursework component in Research Methods. Other coursework may be included in certain situations.

Fees

Information on fee arrangements and costs is available only from the School of Computer Science and Information Technology.

There are a limited number of fee-waiver places available to local students applying for a place in a research program. Applicants who do not receive an offer of a fee-waiver place may be offered a fee-paying place in the program.

Program fees may vary according to the courses chosen, and fees are invoiced on a semester basis. RMIT reserves the right to adjust fees on an annual basis but no fee increases will exceed the annual increase cap of 7.5%.

All candidates are expected to complete their program within the maximum candidature time permitted for the program.

Further information is available from the relevant program contact or at www.rmit.edu.au/programs/fees
Entrance requirements

All applicants

Academic

There are minimum entry requirements for doctoral programs. However, there is strong competition for some places and preference may be given to applicants with more than the minimum requirements.

All applicants need to find a supervisor with similar research interests as themselves and discuss a research project proposal with them. The research proposal must be included in your application. Refer to contact details under each program or visit www.rmit.edu.au/research/supervisors

PhD

A degree of master by research at RMIT; or a degree of master by coursework at RMIT that includes a research program with a duration of at least one semester full-time (or part-time equivalent); or a bachelor degree at RMIT with first class honours or upper second class honours (or another award as deemed equivalent); and such qualifications or experience as RMIT considers appropriate.

Note: Some programs may require evidence of other qualifications or experience. Refer to the contact listed below before applying.

Application procedures

Apply any time

Application for candidature involves four steps. A brief outline is below. You should contact the Graduate Research Office for detailed information.

1. Application

You need to begin by discussing a possible research topic and the availability of suitable supervisors with the School of Computer Science and Information Technology and your employer or company. The School of Computer Science and Information Technology will work with candidates to refine the research program to ensure it meets the needs of the candidate and their employer while also satisfying academic requirements.

Refer to contact details under each program entry or visit www.rmit.edu.au/research/gro

2. Enrolment

Once an offer of enrolment has been made, you must complete the enrolment process as instructed in the offer letter.

3. Research proposal approval

Approval of the research proposal will take place for all commencing candidates by 31 May (Semester 1 commencements) and 31 October (Semester 2 commencements). A brief proposal indicating the direction the research will take must be completed by the candidate. Approval of the research proposal must then be given by the candidate’s senior supervisor and endorsed by the HDR Coordinator (or equivalent) of the School.

4. Confirmation of candidature

Confirmation of candidature for all doctoral candidates takes place within 12 calendar months after the census date closest to commencement.