

PhD in Hospitality and Tourism Management

Course Description

IFTM's Doctor of Philosophy in Hospitality and Tourism Management programme is purely research-based and designed for students who wish to pursue a career in the academia or a research-related field. Students enrolled in this programme must 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 school-wide research teams and departments. Graduates are expected to make positive contributions to the growth and enhancement of hospitality and tourism research and education.

Graduation requirements

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

1. 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 hospitality and tourism, and contributing to knowledge.

2. Two Publications

PhD students are required to successfully publish a minimum of two full papers within the duration of their study. One must be directly or closely related to the topic of their PhD Thesis, in an international journal ranked B or above on the Australian Business Deans Council list, as a lead author. This paper can only be submitted for publication after PhD Confirmation. 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 IFTM, or a paper published in journals recognized by IFTM, either directly or closely related to the topic of their PhD Thesis or in relevant areas in the broader hospitality and tourism field, as either lead or second author. The submission for this publication can be prior to or after PhD Confirmation.

** Application for oral defence will be granted only after the candidate has submitted evidence of the above publication requirements.*

Course Structure

Course module	Year of Study	Study Hours* [Classroom teaching hours included]	Structure	Purpose
Module 1: Literature Review and Confirmation	1 st to 2 nd year	90 hours [30 hours (regular meetings for the first 6 months x 1.5hrs)]	Phase I Supervision: Direction setting	This process takes the form of the student's defence of the first three thesis chapters including the introduction (e.g. problem statement, research objectives), the literature review and the methodology (e.g. research design, approach, sampling design, instrumentation, analysis plan, and validity/ trustworthiness etc.) as well as instrumentation. The student will defend his/her research design before an IFTM audience and a Confirmation Panel. This confirmation defense will be recorded in the form of minutes, and the student will need to address any recommendations made by the Confirmation Panel. In the event that a student is unable to demonstrate sufficient progress before the maximum time stipulated for the candidature confirmation, IFTM reserves the right to terminate the student's application.
Module 2: Topical Research and Discussion I	1 st to 2 nd year	90 hours [30 hours]	Supervisor(s) recommend the appropriate seminars, workshops or course(s) for the student + Phase II Supervision	In order to demonstrate its originality, innovative thinking, planning, and comprehensive ability, the entire doctoral programme should include at least two qualitative and/or quantitative independent studies.

Course module	Year of Study	Study Hours* [Classroom teaching hours included]	Structure	Purpose
Module 3: Topical Research and Discussion II	1 st to 2 nd year	90 hours [30 hours]	Supervisor(s) recommend the appropriate seminars, workshops or course(s) for the student + Phase III Supervision	In order to demonstrate its originality, innovative thinking, planning, and comprehensive ability, the entire doctoral programme should include at least two qualitative and/or quantitative independent studies.
Module 4: Project	2 nd to 3 rd year	90 hours [9 hours of attending academic conferences & events + 30 hours (regular meetings for the last 6 months x 1.5 hours)]	Attending academic conferences and events + Supervisory hours in preparation for publications and oral defence	All PhD students, in addition to the development of their PhD thesis, are required to successfully publish a minimum of two full papers within the duration of their study. The PhD student must provide the two publications before applying for the oral defence.
Thesis	3 rd year	—	—	Once the student fulfills all the requirements of the above modules (Please refer to the details of Module 1 to 4) and publication requirement, the student can submit the final thesis to the supervisory team online through the IFTM Thesis Submission System, based on the required format, with a Turnitin similarity level of no more than 15%. When the thesis is accepted, the student can apply for an oral defence.