

VU Research Candidature Budgets
2026 Commencing Higher Degree by Research Candidates

VU Research will provide resources and infrastructure to support higher degree by research candidates within the financial constraints of the University. The confirmed budget for 2026 commencing candidates is set out in Table 1 and recognises the differences in the nature of the research among the disciplines, such as the requirements for chemicals, reagents and equipment/infrastructure.

Candidature Support is not a direct payment to the candidate, rather provided by and managed via the candidate's enrolling Institute.

If additional funding is required, the candidate must discuss this matter with their principal supervisor and explore funding opportunities such as travel grants.

Approved candidature support is not an entitlement that must be used.

Table 1: VU Research Candidature Support

Disciplinary Area of Study and Degree Level	Maximum *Candidature Budget	Contributions to **Professional Development Activities/Conferences
Standard-cost Area of Study PhD- <i>Commercial Services Strategy, Management and Organisational Behaviour, Transportation, Logistics and Supply Chains, Tourism, Curriculum and Pedagogy, Education Systems, Policy and Administration, Specialist studies in Education.</i>	\$2600	\$1560
Standard-cost Area of Study PhD in the following disciplinary areas - <i>Applied Mathematics; Artificial Intelligence & Image Processing; Distributed Computing; Information Systems; Nursing; Social Work, Applied Economics</i>	\$5200	\$1550
High-cost Area of Study PhD- <i>Chemical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Building, Ecology, Food Science</i>	\$6230	\$1550
High-cost Area of Study PhD in the following disciplinary areas - <i>Biochemistry & Cell Biology; Human Movement and Sports Science Food Sciences; Medical Physiology; Psychology; Public Health & Health Services.</i>	\$12,460	\$1550
Standard-cost Area of Study Masters Research degrees	\$1300	\$885
Standard-cost Area of Study Masters Research degrees following disciplinary areas - <i>Applied Mathematics; Artificial Intelligence & Image Processing; Distributed Computing; Information Systems; Nursing; Social Work.</i>	\$2595	\$850
High-cost Area of Study Masters Research degrees- as per PhD	\$3120	\$850
High-cost Area of Study Masters Research degrees in the following disciplinary areas - <i>Biochemistry & Cell Biology; Human Movement and Sports Science Food Sciences; Medical Physiology; Psychology; Public Health & Health Services.</i>	\$6000	\$850

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<p>High Performance Computing (HPC)</p> <p>If a candidate is required to access HPC software during their candidature and is aware of this requirement at the time of Confirmation of Candidature:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rationale why and what it will be used for, including the number of hours 2. funds must be allocated in their candidature budget <p>If a candidate has had Confirmation of Candidature approved, the candidate will be required to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. rationale why and what it will be used for, including the number of hours 2. submit a variation to the budget to allocate funds to access this software 	<p>Subject to Institute Approval</p>	<p>NA</p>
<p>Process for accessing funding</p>	<p>Subject to approval via Application for Confirmation of Candidature</p>	<p>Subject to Institute approval on a merit basis</p>
<p>Availability of approved funds</p>	<p>Post Confirmation of Candidature and up until earlier of maximum degree duration or submission of thesis.</p>	<p>Post Confirmation of Candidature and up until earlier of maximum degree duration or submission of thesis.</p>
<p>Conditions</p>	<p>Subject to satisfactory achievement of Candidature.</p>	<p>Subject to satisfactory achievement in Candidature/Milestone Review(s).</p>

*Candidature budget includes a range of items such as: research materials or equipment, field work, transcription costs, participant reimbursement and skill development, special software purchases, access to external facilities (such as editing services, access to databases and purchasing secondary data)

**Professional Development Activities include: Conference attendance and/or presentation including travel, accommodation and registration; Specialist training: registration, and associated travel and accommodation.

For inquiries about Candidature Budgets, including variations to an approved budget (following approved Confirmation of Candidature) please email:

Institute of Health and Sport: ihes.hdr@vu.edu.au

Institute of Sustainable Industries and Liveable Cities: isilchdr@vu.edu.au