Major advances in the study of human decision-making and problem-solving in the context of risk and complexity have resulted from collaboration between leading researchers in economics, finance, psychology, neuroscience and computer science. The doctoral program provides research training for innovative experimental research on decision-making at the level of individuals and markets.

Students will draw on interdisciplinary experimental methods and conceptual principles obtained in the initial two year coursework phase to deliver cutting-edge solutions to key research questions.

Training is provided by leading researchers from the Faculty of Business and Economics, the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, and the Melbourne School of Engineering.

After the coursework phase, students will conduct their research projects in a lab at the University of Melbourne, such as the Brain, Mind and Markets Lab, or elsewhere. Research projects can span multiple disciplines and labs.

**Scholarships**

- Generous scholarships (full fee waivers and a stipend of A$30,000 per year) are available for high-performing applicants through the Melbourne Business School and the University of Melbourne.
- Top-up funding of A$10,000 available for research, conferences, experiments and fieldwork.
Facilities
The program is located in Parkville, one of the largest precincts for biomedical research in the world, which provides access to cutting-edge research facilities, including state-of-the-art biomedical imaging platforms and the soon to be completed Melbourne Connect, Australia’s leading innovation precinct.

The Faculty of Business and Economics also has excellent relationships with industry and government, and the program encourages students to conduct research in collaboration with private and public sector partners.

Specialisations
Our key areas of study include:
› Artificial intelligence
› Financial markets
› Group decision-making
› Individual decision-making.

PhD candidates are expected to publish their research in leading peer-reviewed academic journals. Significant resources are allocated to support a wide range of research activities including conference travel, study abroad and fieldwork. Candidates have the opportunity to apply for teaching appointments as part of their research training.

Admissions
Include relevant supporting documents (previous academic transcripts, evidence of English language requirements, GMAT/GRE score sheets), a 100-word research proposal as part of CV and two academic referee reports.

Refer to https://study.unimelb.edu.au/find/courses/graduate/doctoral-program-in-decision-risk-and-financial-sciences/entry-requirements/

Applications close 31 March and entry to the program is for Semester 2 only (July).

Melbourne at a glance
- Population: 5 million people
- World’s Most Liveable City 2011–2017
- More cafes and restaurants per number of people than any other city in the world
- Dynamic arts and culture
- State capital of Victoria
- Easy to get around with a reliable public transport system

Living and studying in Melbourne
The University of Melbourne is located close to the heart of the city. Melbourne has been named the world’s most liveable city seven years in a row, boasting culturally diverse communities, one of the world’s best health care systems, a thriving arts scene and is the sporting capital of Australia.

Highlights include Australian Open Tennis, Formula 1 Australian Grand Prix and Australian Football League (AFL). Other major festivals include Melbourne International Comedy Festival, Melbourne International Film Festival, and Melbourne Writers Festival.

The Parkville campus is only a short stroll from famed cobblestone lanes, culinary delights, arts and culture and world-class shopping.

My PhD journey
“Today, research on decision-making draws on many different disciplines, including economics, finance, psychology, neuroscience and computer science. The coursework available in this program fills this gap and equips students with the necessary skills to become a top-tier researcher in an multifaceted field. The amount of resources available as a PhD student at the University of Melbourne is innumerable - I have the opportunity to do research in a truly interdisciplinary group from which I am always learning, I have had the chance to attend workshops on soft skills such as writing, presentation and leadership skills, as well as workshops on coding and interdisciplinary research. I have benefitted a great deal from these courses, yet I have learned the most from the close supervision I get when applying these skills to my academic career. Additionally, I have had the chance to present at conferences and write papers with close supervision. This has taught me the value of team-work and good feedback for both my personal and professional development, and these two elements are at the core of this program.”

Pablo Franco
Doctor of Philosophy (Decision, Risk and Financial Sciences) candidate

For more information
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