

## PhD by Publication Program

*A structured pathway to transform your work into a doctorate*

### Why This Program?

Many professionals and academics already produce high-quality research, consultancy reports, or journal articles—but often, these efforts remain fragmented. A PhD by prior or publication provides the opportunity to weave your existing and future publications into a coherent doctoral thesis that earns global academic recognition.

This six-month coaching program is designed to guide you, step by step, from idea to submission. With personalised support and practical tools, you will learn how to transform your real-world contributions into a doctoral-level portfolio that meets international standards.

### What You Will Gain

- **Clarity and Direction** – Learn how to craft a strong problem statement, identify gaps, and write research questions that matter.
- **Publication-Ready Skills** – Develop literature reviews, methodologies, and results sections aligned with Scopus-indexed journal requirements.
- **Structured Outputs** – Produce tangible deliverables every two weeks, including a conceptual framework, data plan, draft chapters, and at least one journal-ready manuscript.
- **Navigating Academia** – Gain insider knowledge on authorship, ethics, journal selection, peer review, and revision strategies.
- **Doctoral Readiness** – Build a clear submission package that positions your work for PhD recognition through prior or publication.

### Program Structure

- **Duration:** 6 months
- **Format:** Bi-weekly coaching sessions (12 sessions total)
- **Method:** Hands-on guidance, real-time feedback, and practical exercises
- **Deliverables:** Research framework, analysis plan, journal-ready manuscript, and doctoral portfolio roadmap

### Who Should Join?

This program is ideal for:

- Academics with published or ongoing journal articles who want to consolidate them into a PhD.
- Industry professionals with research reports, case studies, or policy papers seeking doctoral recognition.
- Consultants and thought leaders aiming to elevate their work to international academic standards.

- Mid-career professionals who want to accelerate their academic credentials without pausing their careers.

### **Why This Program Works**

Unlike generic doctoral workshops, this program is **highly personalised and outcome-driven**. Each coaching session builds directly on your work. By the end, you will not just learn theory—you will hold in hand concrete outputs that move you closer to your PhD submission.

## Program Introduction

Earning a PhD through prior or publication is no longer just an alternative route—it is becoming the most practical way for working professionals, academics, and industry experts to turn their contributions into recognised scholarly achievement. Many researchers already have published works or are actively writing, yet struggle to connect those outputs into a coherent doctoral thesis. This program is designed to bridge that gap.

Over six months, with structured coaching every two weeks, participants will be guided step by step through the journey of transforming real-world problems, published work, or draft manuscripts into a doctoral-level submission. Each session builds progressively, from refining a problem statement and conducting a targeted literature review, to designing robust methods, managing data, and aligning analysis with international journal standards. The program also prepares participants for the final stretch: navigating the submission process, responding to peer reviews, and managing the ethical and authorship dimensions of academic publishing.

What makes this program attractive is its balance of academic rigour with practical application. Instead of abstract theory, participants will engage in hands-on exercises—constructing PRISMA flowcharts for their literature searches, drafting conceptual frameworks from existing gaps, setting up data management systems, and producing publication-ready manuscripts. Each coaching session allows participants to test ideas, receive tailored feedback, and immediately apply improvements to their own projects.

By the end of the six months, participants will not only have a structured pathway towards a PhD by publication but also a portfolio of tangible outputs: refined research questions, a coherent literature review, a solid methodology, an analysis plan, and at least one journal-ready manuscript. More importantly, they will gain the confidence to position themselves as thought leaders in their fields—whether in academia, policy, or industry.

This program is ideal for mid-career academics, consultants, professionals, or anyone with existing publications who wishes to elevate their work into doctoral recognition. With systematic coaching, guided tools, and a supportive scholarly community, the journey to a PhD by publication becomes clear, achievable, and rewarding.

## Program Outline

| Week | Coaching                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Assignment and Outcomes^                                                                                                                                                                |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1    | <p>Problem statement, gap, and research questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Turn a real-world issue into a precise research problem and show the gap.</li><li>• Write research questions and testable objectives that align with the gap.</li><li>• Define scope, variables, population, and setting to keep the study feasible.</li></ul> | <p>Draft a 1–2 page problem statement identifying the real-world issue, research gap, and 2–3 precise research questions. Submit a feasibility note (scope, population, variables).</p> |

|   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 | <p>Literature search strategy and reference management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Build search strings for Scopus and refine with filters and citation chasing.</li> <li>● Record inclusion and exclusion decisions in a simple log or PRISMA-style sheet.</li> <li>● Set up a reference manager and a shared library; deduplicate and standardize styles.</li> </ul> | <p>Conduct a structured Scopus search using defined strings. Record inclusion/exclusion in PRISMA log. Upload a shared reference manager library (e.g., Mendeley/Zotero) with at least 30 key articles.</p>       |
| 3 | <p>Writing an effective literature review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Organize by themes or mechanisms rather than chronology.</li> <li>● Synthesize and critique, showing what is known, what is uncertain, and why it matters.</li> <li>● Propose a conceptual or theoretical frame that will guide methods and discussion.</li> </ul>                               | <p>Write a 1,500–2,000 word thematic literature review (not chronological). Identify knowledge clusters, uncertainties, and propose a conceptual framework figure.</p>                                            |
| 4 | <p>Study design and methodology section</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Choose the design, sampling approach, and sample size logic or power cues.</li> <li>● Specify measurements, instruments, protocols, and ethical approvals.</li> <li>● Write methods for reproducibility, including analysis software and quality control.</li> </ul>                               | <p>Submit a complete methodology section draft: design, sampling, sample size justification, instruments, protocols, and ethics application draft.</p>                                                            |
| 5 | <p>Data management and analysis plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Create a data dictionary, cleaning workflow, and folder structure.</li> <li>● Predefine statistical tests or models, effect sizes, and assumptions checks.</li> <li>● Plan tables and figures that answer each research question directly.</li> </ul>                                                 | <p>Create a structured data dictionary (variables, definitions, coding). Develop folder structure and cleaning workflow. Submit a one-page analysis plan linking tests/models directly to research questions.</p> |
| 6 | <p>Writing the Results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Present findings in a logical order with clear tables and figures.</li> <li>● Report estimates with confidence intervals and exact P-values where relevant.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                              | <p>Using mock or preliminary data (or secondary dataset), prepare 2–3 planned tables and 1–2 figures in journal-ready format. Report results in</p>                                                               |

|    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                      |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep interpretation out of Results and follow journal reporting checklists.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | neutral style without interpretation.                                                                                                                                |
| 7  | <p>Writing the Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interpret findings against the literature and your framework.</li> <li>State strengths, limitations, and potential biases with balance.</li> <li>Explain implications for theory, practice, or policy and propose next studies.</li> </ul>                                                                              | Draft the complete Results section (tables, figures, statistical outputs). Follow journal reporting guidelines (confidence intervals, exact p-values, effect sizes). |
| 8  | <p>Title, abstract, keywords, and highlights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft a structured abstract covering purpose, methods, key results, and conclusion.</li> <li>Craft a precise title and select indexing-friendly keywords.</li> <li>Prepare short highlights or key points if the journal requests them.</li> </ul>                                                   | Write 1,500–2,000 word Discussion section covering interpretation, comparison with literature, strengths, limitations, and policy/practice implications.             |
| 9  | <p>Ethics, authorship, and research integrity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Define author roles using a contribution taxonomy and agree on order.</li> <li>Prepare ethics statements, consent language, and approvals where needed.</li> <li>Run plagiarism checks, image and data integrity checks, and add data availability notes.</li> </ul>                                | Draft title options (3 versions), structured abstract (250–300 words), 5–6 keywords, and journal highlights if required.                                             |
| 10 | <p>Getting started and picking the right Scopus journal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Map the publication path from idea to submission and acceptance.</li> <li>Shortlist three target journals by fit with aims and scope, audience, and typical article types.</li> <li>Check indexing, recent turnaround times, open-access options, and formatting requirements.</li> </ul> | Shortlist 3 Scopus-indexed journals (fit, aims/scope, turnaround time). Choose one. Adjust manuscript formatting to fit target journal template.                     |

|    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11 | <p>Submission package and cover letter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Format the manuscript and supplementary files to the guide for authors.</li> <li>• Write a one-page cover letter that states novelty, fit, and key contributions.</li> <li>• Suggest suitable reviewers and declare conflicts of interest clearly.</li> </ul>                                                 | Finalise full manuscript (6,000–8,000 words). Draft a one-page cover letter highlighting novelty, fit, and contributions. Suggest 3 reviewers with credentials and declare conflicts of interest.                                      |
| 12 | <p>Peer review, revision, and post-acceptance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build a point-by-point response matrix and revise with tracked changes.</li> <li>• Decide when to rebut, when to run additional analyses, and when to pivot journals.</li> <li>• Manage proofs, share accepted manuscripts where allowed, update ORCID and repositories, and plan outreach.</li> </ul> | Submit the full journal package to the selected journal. Prepare a point-by-point revision template in anticipation of peer review. Update ORCID, deposit data availability statement, and share accepted manuscript (once confirmed). |

 **End Deliverable (12<sup>th</sup> Session):** One complete manuscript submitted to a Scopus-indexed journal, with tracking in place for acceptance. Participants should also be equipped with tools to handle peer review and resubmission cycles.

### Call to Action

If you are ready to transform your research, consultancy, or professional contributions into a doctoral qualification, this program provides the clarity, tools, and structured support you need.

 *Spaces are limited to ensure individual attention.*

 Register today and take your first step towards a **PhD by Publication**.