

## HIGHER DEGREE RESEARCH CONFIRMATION OF CANDIDATURE GUIDE

**This guide sets out to help you achieve your first formal Higher Degree Research Program Milestone:  
Confirmation of Candidature**

Your Confirmation of Candidature seminar should occur within the first 12-18 months (full time) or within the first 2 years (part time). The seminar is compulsory, you cannot progress in the program without taking this step.

- **Have you mapped the timeline for your Confirmation seminar into your Research Plan and discussed this with your Supervisors and updated in your progress reports to the Graduate School?**

While you are accepted and enrolled into the program when you receive an offer to enrol you are not confirmed as a Higher Degree Research Program Candidate until this Milestone is met. You cannot progress to Ethics or undertake any work on data collecting without first achieving your Confirmation of Candidature.

- **Who are the Panel Members for my Confirmation of Candidature Seminar?**

Graduate School staff, you and your supervisors discuss which two external academic and/or industry experts could be invited to form a panel with one of your Supervisors, and a Chair and Secretariat from Graduate School. The panel of five includes a minimum of two but usually at least three First Nations academics and or industry experts and the Panel Chair. Graduate School manages the nomination, selection and invitation of external panellists and coordinates the seminar.

Apart from the panel members, you can determine who else is invited to the seminar, and in discussion with Graduate School, whereabouts it is held and whether the recording of the seminar is shared within the Graduate School Candidate Peer Teams page to the cohort after the event.

- **What do I need to produce before the Seminar?**

You will need to provide Graduate School with a written submission at least two weeks prior to the seminar, and have prepared a powerpoint [or similar format] to present on the day.

You will be assessed on the written submission, the visual and oral presentation elements. The panel is seeking to establish that you 'benchmark' against skills, thinking, ideas, approach and planning - in other words that you are ready to do the research and succeed in your research training journey.

Written elements:        8,000 to 10,000 words PhD  
                                     5,000 to 8,000 words MA

Presentation elements:        PowerPoint or similar presentation which extends the written submission  
   20 minute length plus 10 minute audience questions/discussion

Project Abstract:        At least two weeks prior to submitting the written work, please send the Abstract for your proposal through to Graduate School. The Abstract limit is 3000 characters (roughly 500 words). The Abstract will be sent to potential panelists to assist them to nominate for the panel.

## HIGHER DEGREE RESEARCH CONFIRMATION OF CANDIDATURE GUIDELINES

**This guide sets out to help you achieve your first formal Higher Degree Research Program Milestone:  
Confirmation of Candidature Seminar [CoC]**

### **What do I need to include in the written, oral, and presentation elements of my proposal ?**

The way you describe your proposed research to your panel should be communicated in an accessible way – the panel is there to provide useful feedback and so the better they understand your work - the challenges, approach, theoretical influences and the practice you intend to use in a research project, then the more useful their feedback can be. You should include the following information:

#### **Research Project Title.**

What is it called? [you can include a description about why if that suits your approach or motivation]

#### **Description of the field/s of research that your work sits in.**

This is a technical requirement and you need to understand where your work sits within the larger structures of the academe. In addition you will need to include an understanding of your research standpoint; and indicate the work of the thinkers/practitioners who inspire or motivate you so far and how you sit along side or intersect with their ideas or experiences.

#### **Research question or issue and type and reasoning for the research output you have selected.**

What question, practice, exploration or inquiry frames your research? Will you produce a Thesis OR Project and Exegesis OR Creative with Exegesis; and why?

#### **How will you investigate? What structure do you anticipate using to organise your examinable research output**

A list with some or all known key headings within chapters or sections will help the panel to establish whether the key elements you need are included in your planning and thinking. Some of these will be 'placeholders' requiring work before being able to be determined.

#### **The depth and detail of the work and what it will contribute and to whom**

Scope and scale are indicators of whether the proposed research is achievable within the time frame and resources available. Details here could include EG a number and type of key artefacts or events OR the amounts of data and sources of data you intend to collect or include OR the specifications of the project being designed or made [or both].

#### **Anticipated ethical considerations**

The type/s of ethical practice and protocols that will be required and how you will aim to achieve them. Are there any risks? To whom and to what degree? Also include who the work intends to benefit and how it will contribute its benefit to those or others.

#### **Draft chapter of Thesis or section of Exegesis**

The more significant part of the proposal will include a written draft for a chapter. This might be a Literature review, Background, or Introduction. It is expected that this section demonstrates that you have a comprehensive understanding to the field of research and the particular issue you are researching. If you are working in one of the Project and Exegesis formats, then you would include an example/s of the creative work or the project developing.

#### **Research Activity Budget**

When you present a budget as part of your Confirmation of Candidature, the final approval for the budget is not given then, but it is given by Research Committee after CoC is awarded. Record any research activity related expenses you will need covered to complete your research, and whether any external funding will be sought. If external funding is being sought, what risk does the lack of that funding pose to your project being viable? How will you manage this risk?