



# Higher Degree Research Supervision Policy

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This policy outlines the fundamental principles under which higher degree research (HDR) supervision is conducted at UNSW.

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The scope of this policy applies to HDR candidates, UNSW staff and affiliates, and HDR supervisors, who are acting in a supervisory capacity.

## Introduction

UNSW requires high quality supervision for HDR candidates to ensure good quality outcomes, including a positive candidate experience, a timely completion, and the development of a high quality research graduate.

### 1. Supervisory teams

All candidates, upon admission to a higher degree research program, must have a supervisory team of at least two supervisors appointed.

### 2. Qualifications, knowledge and skills

- 2.1. Supervisors must have the qualifications, knowledge and skills commensurate with their roles.
- 2.2. Supervisors must be actively engaged in the development of their professional practice in supervision.
- 2.3. Supervisors must also have an active and continuing participation in research at UNSW.
- 2.4. Role descriptions, qualifications and eligibility requirements are outlined in the [Higher Degree by Research Supervision Procedure](#)

### 3. Promotion of a culture of responsible conduct of research

UNSW has adopted the [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#) as outlined in the [Code of Conduct and Values](#). Supervisors are expected to lead a culture which fosters the responsible conduct of research. Candidates are expected to understand their obligations to conduct research responsibly and with integrity.

### 4. Respectful relationships

Supervisors should be mindful that the supervisory role is inherently hierarchical with an imbalance of power between supervisors and candidates. UNSW is committed to supporting the Universities Australia [Principles for Respectful Supervisory Relationships](#). Supervisors and candidates should be professional and uphold the conduct, integrity and ethical behaviour expected of students and staff as outlined in UNSW policies. UNSW staff and affiliates have an obligation to act in accordance with the [Code of Conduct and Values](#) at all times. Relationships of a sexual or romantic nature between supervisors and candidates are inappropriate.



- 8.3. Supervisors and candidates must understand and comply with relevant national standards and University policies, and proactively seek specialist advice where they are unsure.
- 8.4. Supervisors must promote training and education for candidates in the responsible conduct of research.
- 8.5. Supervisors and candidates must understand and comply with UNSW policy on research data management, including undergoing training, establishing what the data is, ownership and access, and recording and storing data.

## **9. Development of candidates as independent researchers capable of producing original research**

- 9.1. Supervisors must support candidates throughout the research degree to facilitate a successful completion within a reasonable timeframe.
- 9.2. There is a mutual responsibility for supervisors and candidates to work together to develop feasible research proposals.
- 9.3. Supervisors and candidates must work together to maintain consistent progress, engage in regular research progress reviews, and complete candidature in a timely manner as defined in the Conditions for Award Policy for the relevant Higher Degree.
- 9.4. Supervisors, Faculties and Schools must engage in consistent and proactive reporting and management of all aspects of candidature from admission, to confirmation of candidature, to progress reviews, to thesis examination.
- 9.5. Supervisors must support candidates in the preparation of an examinable thesis and undertaking the oral examination and advise the candidate on addressing feedback from examiners.

