

The University of Newcastle
School of Education

Research Higher Degree
**Guide to Confirmation
Of Candidature
School of Education**

This brief guide outlines the specific expectations of RHD students in the School of Education and should be read alongside the Confirmation Year Guidelines available at:

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/Resources/Divisions/Research/Office%20of%20Graduate%20Studies/Research%20Higher%20Degrees/docs/Confirmation%20Year%20Guidelines.pdf>

Further information is available on the Research Higher Degree website
<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/students/research-higher-degree/current-students/confirmation-year.html>

Your developed research proposal presentation to the School Confirmation will typically be no more than 10,000 words, and will combine all of these elements:

- research questions (or statements that indicate the direction of your research);
- a working knowledge of the key terms and concepts in your field;
- a rationale for undertaking the research that is informed by a critical review of recent work in the field;
- a research plan that demonstrates sound understanding of appropriate approaches or methods and their use;
- a workable timetable or timeline for your project, as well as some idea of what the chapter structure of your thesis will look like; and
- a comprehensive statement of the resources required to complete the project within the funded period.

Why is formal 'presentation' necessary?

The need for a sound proposal is clear. One way to ensure your project's soundness is to give several experienced academics the chance to read and discuss your work, identify its strengths and weaknesses, ask you questions, and provide constructive feedback. It is also important that you should be able to engage with them, and have the opportunity to provide extra information to facilitate their judgement. This might include you articulating the driving research problem and questions, and theoretical inspirations, of your research project.

Academic and collegial exchange is central to the activity of research. Ultimately your research thesis will be judged by national and international experts. If you have a strong project at this stage it will support the future development of your research project toward a timely completion.

The Candidate Cover Sheet (Document 3.2) is attached and available at:

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/Resources/Divisions/Research/Office%20of%20Graduate%20Studies/Research%20Higher%20Degrees/rhdforms/Confirmation%20Year%20Candidate%20Cover%20sheet.doc>