

Graduate Certificate in Research Studies (GCRS) Assessment of entry level criteria for HDR programs



This document sets out the proposed assessment of entry level into HDR program for Graduate Certificate in Research Studies students.

To qualify for the GCRS, the student must complete 40 CP:
20 CP Advanced Thesis Preparation
10 CP Business Research Studies
10 CP Elective topic

The course approval documentation states:

"For students to be permitted to move to the research program they would have to achieve an **acceptable satisfactory level** in the Graduate Certificate in Research Studies..... There are no course-wide assessment requirements, other than those specified in the individual units that students undertake, and the general requirements of the UWS *Policies and Procedures*. Students admitted to the course Graduate Certificate in Research Studies and complete three units; **their progression to the research degree is dependent upon the grade awarded:**

- Students who obtain a **Pass grade or better** in Advanced Thesis Preparation and **at least pass the subjects comprising the other twenty credit points** will qualify for the award of Graduate Certificate in Research Studies and progression to enrolment into a research degree subject to the approval of the College Research Committee.
- Those students whose performance is unsatisfactory will not qualify for the award of the Graduate Certificate in Research Studies. Students with a fail grade may be able to repeat the unit (or specific components of the unit) to be able to be awarded the Graduate Certificate Research Studies. Students following this pass will **not** qualify for progression to candidature in the research program."

From the above general criteria, we now need to specify the "acceptable satisfactory level" of achievement.

PROPOSED HDR ENTRY CRITERIA

To be eligible to enter a HDR, the student must be eligible to graduate from the Certificate in Research Studies without repeating any subjects or components of subjects.

In addition

To enter Masters (Hons):

- A statement of support from the GCRS proposal supervisor confirming the research capabilities of the applicant.

In summary, students who are eligible to graduate may be assessed for entry into Masters (Hons). Students need to submit:

(1) an application for HDR entry

<http://www.uws.edu.au/about/adminorg/devint/ors/degrees/prospective/applicationforms>

(2) a statement of support from GCRS proposal supervisor.

To enter PhD

Applicants should be aware that the demands of PhD research are much higher than the Research Masters in terms of the maturity of use of methodology, the significance of the research findings and the contribution of knowledge to the discipline.

- Advanced Thesis Preparation grade D (75%) or higher.
- A statement of support from the thesis supervisor confirming the research capabilities of the applicant.
- To demonstrate the project has the required depth and breadth for doctoral study, the Advanced Thesis Preparation assessment items (The Research Proposal and the Literature Review) are assessed according to the following criteria (adapted from “upgrade to doctoral study” policy):

(i) *The quality and originality of the research proposed is at PhD level*

General quality will be reflected in an original methodology or procedure of originality and merit and/or an original analysis of compelling significance.

(ii) *The scope and complexity of the project is at PhD level*

It must be shown that the scope and complexity of the project are beyond that which could be reasonably expected of a Research Masters degree. The complexity must be well thought out and the project must be shown to have a clear focus.

In summary, students who passed all units **and** who obtained a unit grade > 75% for 200361 Advanced Thesis Preparation, may be assessed for entry to PhD by the College of Business Research and Higher Degree Committee. For consideration of such entry, students must submit:

(1) an application for HDR entry

<http://www.uws.edu.au/about/adminorg/devint/ors/degrees/prospective/applicationforms>

(2) a statement of support from GCRS proposal supervisor,

(3) their research proposal document,

(4) their literature review document.

Applying for entry

Students, who undertook the GCRS as a *conditional entry* into HDR, must indicate their willingness to progress by letter to:

The College of Business Research Office Administration,
University of Western Sydney
Locked Bag 1797
PENRITH SOUTH DC 1797
Building 11, Campbelltown Campus

Students admitted into the GCRS via UAC or direct admission need to apply for entry into HDR via the University Office of Research Services:

<http://www.uws.edu.au/about/adminorg/devint/ors/degrees/prospective/applicationforms>

Appeals process

Students may appeal the decision via formal appeals process as per Office of Research Services policy.

References

College of Business Course documentation, Graduate Certificate in Research Studies (2004).
<http://www.uws.edu.au/about/adminorg/devint/ors/degrees/current/upgrade> (accessed 25 April, 2006).